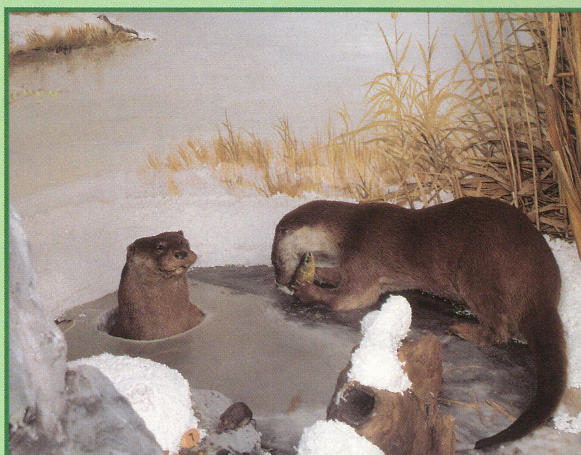


Entering the **third room** we can see small mammals in their typical places of living in four dioramas: the insectivorous hedgehog, the mole, the various kinds of shrew species, the bats, the squirrels representing the rodents, the various dormouse, mouse and hamster species and the small predators (weasel species, etc.). Some rarely observable species were also given room here, for example the dormouse, the otter and the wild cat.

On the other side of the room the big mushrooms of the mountains are arranged according to the four seasons in three dioramas. The mushrooms are genuine. The preparations exhibited were made by the so called freeze-dry method. The mushrooms prepared this way keep their genuine shape and colour since their cells do not collapse. The most typical representatives of the



spring mushrooms are the numerous morels and turban-tops. The summer and autumn mushroom flora cannot be separated so sharply. The boletus can often be found on limeless rocks e.g. on basalt. The summer glass-case shows some of these mushrooms. The signs placed next to the names warn us to the mushrooms being poisonous or inedible. In the **fourth room** we can enjoy above all the minerals of the Carpathian basin. From the minerals of the Bakony the azurite and rhodochrosite excel with their interesting colour in the first showcase. The barite originating from red sandstone and the calcite found in rock hollows are rarities. The gypsum which developed near coal and bauxite quarries turns up much more frequently. In the second showcase we can view the variegated calcite. Next to it we exhibit the minerals connected to the volcanic activity of the Balaton highlands. These minerals crystallized in basalt hollows which came into existence following the solidification of the lava. In the third showcase the minerals of Transdanubia obtain room. Besides the various formations of the Velence Mountain we can have a look at some quartz from the Mecsek Mountain, chalcedony in petrified wood from Várpalota and huge botryoidal stalactites from Dorog. A special kind of ivy, the so called ajkaite (petrified pine resin) is the mineral of the Ajka coal quarry. The next scene is Northern Hungary: the barite excels with its huge crystals while the chalcedony and jasper cuts with their beautiful colours. The various types of ore also have room here: the galena (lead ore), sphalerite (zinc ore), chalcopryrite (copper ore) and the native copper. The malachit and the azurite are concomitant minerals of the Rudabánya iron ore quarry.

Only a few valuable pieces represent the rich world of the minerals of Slovakia, e.g. the hematite (iron ore) and the cinnabar (mercury ore). The major part of the exhibition is made up by minerals from Transylvania, e.g. the beautiful rhodochrosite, amethyst and stibnite. Besides these the often gigantic quartz crystals are not rarities either. The showcase placed in the middle shows the abundance of shape and colour of the minerals coming from various other parts of the world.

Zirc, 1998

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Publishing were supported by:  
National Cultural Foundation and Touristic Foundation

We hope you enjoyed  
our exhibition – please,  
call your friends' attention to it, too.

We are expecting our  
guests every day  
from 9 to 17.00 all year.

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Responsible publication: János Futó director of museum  
Printed by Prospektus Nyomda, Veszprém

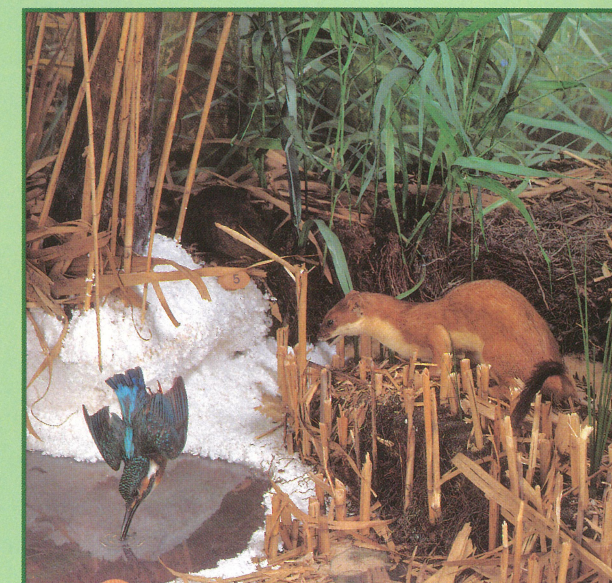


## The Natural View of the Bakony

### EXHIBITION GUIDE

The Bakony Natural History Museum – the first provincial natural museum in Hungary – was established in 1972, but its collections date back to earlier centuries. The scientific examination of the mountains has been carried out since 1962 with the help of outside contributors and members of the permanent staff of the museum. This program is called: "The Natural View of the Bakony". The achievements, that is all the geological, botanic and zoological materials collected during the past decades are displayed in our permanent exhibition. Unfortunately, for lack of space we can offer only a mosaic-like picture of this variegated terrain of 4000 km<sup>2</sup> reaching from Hévíz to the Mór-Ditch.

In the corridor of the exhibition hall representatives of the mountains' major forest-types can be seen. The karst scrub forests of the





southern slopes of the Balaton highlands are characterised by numerous sub-Mediterranean botanical rarities e.g. smoke trees and the slender *Sternbergia* which turns bright red in autumn. The second diorama – containing the amazing lady orchid – shows a sessile oak-Turkey oak forest and some spring pictures of the outskirts of a forest. Extensive beech groves characterise the area. By displaying late winter and early spring pictures of these woods we wish to call attention to the wood laurel which can be found on the higher parts of the Bakony and which goes only at few places beyond the bounds of the mountains in north-eastern direction. In the glass-case between the three dioramas we exhibit the typical species of the beech and oak woods with the help of the coloured watercolour replicas of Vera Csapody. At the end of the corridor, on both sides, we can study the native and planted tree species of the mountains on trunk segments.

On the right-hand side of the corridor we are allowed to inspect the insect fauna of the beech and oak forests. Some of the insects developing in oak trees, for example the stag-beetle, the great capricorn beetle and the rhinoceros beetle are outstanding in their size. A typical species of the Bakony beeches is the fascinating *Rosalia alpina*. The ground beetles, such as the forest caterpillar-hunter, the *Carabus coriaceus* and the *Carabus cancellatus* are useful predators. We can admire specimens of our protected butterflies e.g. peacock butterflies, the colourful swallowtails and kite swallowtails. (A special edition on the butterflies of the Bakony is available in the shop of the museum). As for the moths, the ostentatious patterns of the tiger moths warn us that their body fluids are poisonous. The praying mantid is a characteristic species of the arid, grassy areas.

At the entrance of the **first room** we can find two unique botanical rarities. In the first diorama we gain insight into the hidden world of a raised bog. An island made up of reed, sedge, peat, various kinds of moss and smaller trees is floating on the surface of the pond. Underneath the island some water-insects are shown. The water scorpion, in contrast with its name, belongs to the order of bugs. Our greatest water-insect, the great silver beetle can also be seen here. The next glass-case acquaints us with the world of the Fenyő-fő virgin pinewood. The genuineness of the pinewood had long been questioned. Scientists were helped by historic documents to decide the issue.

Early documents about Fenyőfő and the pinewood support the genuineness of the wood in which various rare and protected insect



species live, such as the timbermann, the *Ergates faber* and the *Chalcophora mariana*.

Right of the door a picture of living plants welcomes the guests. Only frequently found, not protected species are exhibited here. In the glass-case underneath we can see the species of the water-marshlands (Marsh frog, European tree-frog, Dice and Grass snake), the moist woods (Agile frog, European toad, Blind-worm and Aesculapian snake) and the arid dolomit land (Wall lizard, Smooth snake and Green lizard) in their typical places of living. In the terrarium we can have a look at the everyday life of the frogs, lizards and grass snakes.

On the other side of the door the typical fish species of the lakes and rivers of the Bakony are swimming in an aquarium of more hundreds of litres. Those interested can obtain a detailed description of the mountains' rich fish fauna – containing 34 species – with the help of our booklet titled "The Fish of the Bakony" (it is available in the shop of the museum).

109 molluscs species out of the 240 known ones in Hungary were found in the Bakony. The species of the mountains living in water are placed on a blue, while those living on the land are put on a green background in the glass-case. The common river snail is "viviparous", that is its eggs develop in the mother's body so the hatching offsprings are able to live an independent life right after their birth. The prickly snail lives in the forests under the dry, fallen leaves or pieces of trees. One of our rare species is the round-mouthed snail which closes the mouth of its shell with a shell lid. They are protected just like the Roman snail. Their estimated value is 2000 Ft. Painters used to use the shell of the painter's mussel for mixing colours. Their inner nacre layer was used for making buttons. The zebra mussel often settles down in great amounts on the objects under water.

The most popular vertebrate class is that of the birds. 365 bird species have been registered up today in Hungary. The number of the species observed in the mountains reaches 250. We can find both frequently occurring species which have been native here for long (robins, house sparrows and buzzards) and also species at the edge of becoming extinct. There are also some species whose expansion can be observed nowadays (crows and mute swans). Almost all bird species are protected in Hungary. We are introduced one of the forms of "traditional" protection, that is winter bird-feeding at the entrance of the first room. Looking out of the window on the right we can see some birds gathered for the food at the bird-

tables. Species indigenous in the Bakony e.g. nuthatch, great tit, blue and marsh tit are found among them together with some winter "guest" species which turn up here only from autumn to spring (fieldfare, brambling and siskin). In the diorama of the living places another type of the "traditional" bird protection, the settlement of birds into nestholes is displayed. The guests are allowed to peep into the nests of various bird species. The old, hollow trees of the pasture woodlands provide home for numerous birds e.g. the hoopoe. The red-backed shrike can often be observed on the top of the bushes and the stonechat which builds its nest on the ground can also be seen frequently. Predator birds hunt the typical small mammal of the area, the ground squirrel. The exotic feathered bee-eaters often settle in the loess-walls of the deeper cartroads. Crows are the earliest brooding birds of the ravine woodlands. It frequently happens that the motherbird warms its eggs in the middle of February. We can meet the ring ouzel in March and April when they are passing through here. A characteristic turtle-dove species of the rocky beech-groves is the blue dove which lays its eggs in hollows. We gave room for those bird species in the red glass-case which have become extinct in the mountains during the last few decades or their number has decreased so sharply that their existence is endangered today. Such species are the eagle and falcon species, owls, white pelicans and curlews, etc.

It is much harder to observe most of the mammals than for example the birds because of their hidden night life. According to the latest research results 84 mammal species can be found in Hungary, most of them living in the Bakony. In the **second room** we exhibit settled fair game such as the fallow-deer and the mouflon. Besides them there are, of course, the native species like the deer, the roe-deer and the wild boar as well. The rabbit, the pheasant, the grey partridge and the snipe are some of the most important small game. The one hundred-year-old trophies decorating the walls were in some cases worn by the famous red-deer stags of the High-Bakony.

