

SUMMARY

Papilė geological and geomorphological environment /PAPILĖ I

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Papilė and its surroundings have an exceptional importance in Lithuania. The Venta River rock exposures with the Jurassic strata are declared to be geological monuments. The fossil fauna found in them are kept and protected in various European palaeontological geological museums. The geological research history lasts for more than 175 years. The research results are generalized in the paper.

The oldest Jurassic and Triassic strata are overlaid by the Quaternary glacial sediments. The Nemunas glacial Grūda and Baltic stages moraines and their phase morainic strata that form the Venta middle reaches plain relief are widespread in the environs of Papilė. The drumlinization signs observed in it were linked with initial phases of the Baltic stage: East Lithuanian and South Lithuanian phase glacial morainal alluvial deposits overlaid the primary drumlinized surface. The collected geological material shows that the Nemunas glaciation Baltic stage glaciers came creeping to the Venta middle reaches from north-east forming an independent glacial tongue isolated from Middle Lithuania glacial "lobe".

The surroundings of Papilė are adjacent to a mining region. Clay is excavated for Akmenė cement plant in the Triassic widespread area, the quarry of Šaltiškiai. Iron sphaerosiderites and unique fossils, ammonites, are found in the Jurassic deposits. Sphaerosiderite ores are poor in iron and don't fit for metallurgy.