

GUARDIANS OF BABY DRAGONS

Photo story from Postojna Cave

Photography: Iztok Medja



*First olm egg laid against the glass in Postojna Cave aquarium in January 2016

I FEEL
SLOVENIA

THE UNDERGROUND

* Postojna cave, "Russian bridge"





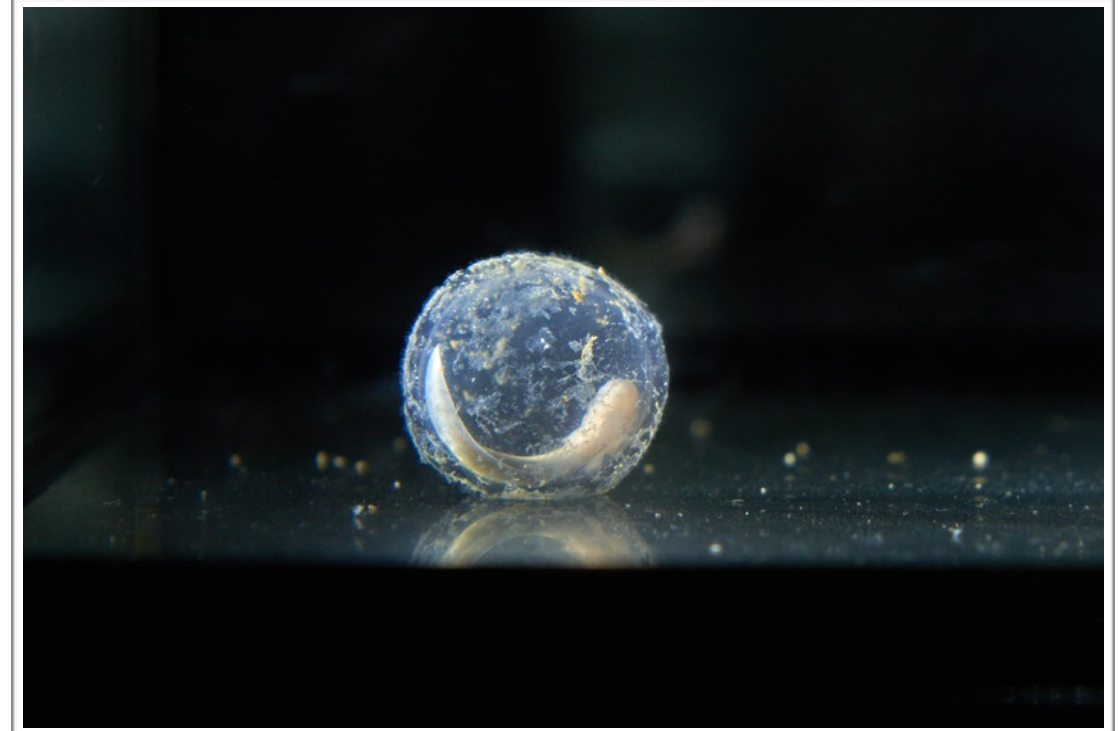
The impact of climate change and pollution takes many different forms. At first glance Postojna Cave appears undisturbed; as calm and peaceful as it has been for millions of years. Look closer and discover that the cave actually contains layers of history in its magnificent walls and rock formations. Stalagmites record weather data over millions of years!

There is evidence, too, of human encounters in the cave. A century-old railway runs alongside the Pivka River and there are many marvellous stories of emperors dancing and awe-struck presidents visiting.

While the cave walls tell stories of ancient animals fossilised in stone, the Pivka River tells the story of the cave's rare and mysterious olm or 'baby dragons' which keep their secrets safe deep in the darkness.

Very little is known about these creatures and how they reproduce. In January 2016, however, one female olm decided to reveal her secrets by laying an egg to an audience of visitors.

The birth of this 'little galaxy' amazed cave biologists, excited fans across the globe and started a new chapter of the cave's history. For the first time, the olm allowed humans to witness how the 'baby dragons' come to life.



THE MIRACLE

* 10-months old Baby-dragon (*Proteus anguinus* - symbol of Slovenia's national identity)



THE FUTURE

* Pivka cave, biologist at work





An egg so special, so rare,
revealing a galaxy in itself,
reminds us of the
connection between every
single creature, action and
reaction in the world. What
we do “upstairs” touches
the cave which “feeds” itself
from drops permeating
through the slits of the
ground we walk upon. What
we do to our planet “up
there” touches every
mysterious and delicate
creature, every marvellous
Earth's karsty sculpture
“downstairs”. It takes
special knowledge, skill and
courage to fight the battle of
preserving the cave from
ourselves.
This is the story of the
people and animals behind
this fight...
And we would like to share
it with the world.

Click type to enter text THE FUTURE

OUR COMMITMENT

* Pivka river. Not only olms but millions of people rely on clean drinking water

