Editorial

The current issue of *Studia Quaternaria* contains the articles that were presented during the 25th Conference on Pleistocene Stratigraphy of Poland in Huta Szklana in the Holy Cross Mountains in central Poland, on 3–7th September 2018 (Fig. 1). It is dominated by topics consistent with the guiding idea of this annual conference which is to present and unify regional and national solutions to research problems in the field of the Pleistocene stratigraphy and to verify the usefulness of the spectrum of research methods applied to study the Quaternary and their integration into interdisciplinary stratigraphy.

The 25th Conference took place in the Holy Cross Mountains which are distinguished not only by the complex geological structure of the Palaeozoic bedrock and polygenic structural relief, but also by "*... another type of Quaternary development, definitely different from the lowland one, and similar to the type which was formed in medium high mountain areas*" (Różycki 1972: 67). It seems, however, that the assumed specificity of the Quaternary of the Holy Cross Mountains has not been fully documented. This may be due to the fact that the Holy Cross Mountains have been perceived so far mainly as "place" on the way of the Pleistocene ice sheet and their integrity towards the Quaternary climate change has not been emphasised enough.

In this volume of *Studia Quaternaria*, four articles refer to the issues of palaeogeography and the Pleistocene stratigraphy of the Holy Cross Mountains. They document successive stages in the history of solving regional problems of the Quaternary, from research summaries conducted mainly in the second half of the 20th century and partly continued at the beginning of the 21st century, to their verification and a new approach characterised by using the already modern spectrum of Quaternary sediments testing methods. These articles encompass palaeogeographic and environmental reconstructions and stratigraphic interpretations of the Quaternary of the Holy Cross Mountains, based on the anal-

Fig. 1. Participants of the 25st Conference *Stratigraphy of the Pleistocene*, Huta Szklana, Holy Cross Mountains, Poland, 3–7th September 2018 (photo: Bolesław Krzyszkowski).

ysis of (a) polygenic Quaternary sediments and features of fluvial relief in the western part of the mountains, (b) cave sediments in the karst areas (sites: Kozi Grzbiet, Chelosiowa Cave, Jaworznicka Cave, Raj Cave and Kadzielnia) and (c) biogenic and mineral sediments of the Białe Ługi mire in the southern part of the region. It seems that the key to document the specificity of the Quaternary of the Holy Cross Mountains is the use of the full spectrum of research methods currently available for studying Quaternary sediments, while simultaneously taking into account the local lithological, structural, tectonic, hydrogeological and morphological conditions of the sub-Quaternary bedrock.

The two subsequent articles included in the present volume of *Studia Quaternaria* already concern the Pleistocene of central Poland. One of them analysed a record of climate changes accompanying the Vistulian decline in various sedimentary environments of the Łódź Region and correlated their age with the age of the last Scandinavian Ice Sheet limits in northern Poland. The other paper presents verification and reinterpretion of the origin of glaciotectonic structures discernible in the Middle Vistula River escarpment in the western part of the Płock Basin.

The luminescence dating of the Quaternary sediments was another particularly important issue discussed during the conference and covered by the next article that included an overview of several practical aspects of this method. It is crucial in getting reliable research results, starting from of sampling to determination and interpretation of the sediments age. It seems that this issue is particularly important in studying the age of the Quaternary sediments in the highlands and mountains, where it is necessary to take into account weathering of shallow, older sub-Quaternary bedrock.

Małgorzata Ludwikowska-Kędzia

Różycki, S.Z., 1972. Pleistocene of central Poland in regard with the past of upper Tertiary. 316 pp. Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warszawa.