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<http://www.uis-speleo.org/>



<http://www.vulcanospeleology.org/>

The Commission on Volcanic Caves Newsletter has been published regularly since December 22, 1993. The Newsletter is available free of charge to all members of the commission, and to others who are interested in Volcanic caves.



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MISSION STATEMENT

The UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves encourages exploration and scientific investigation of volcanic caves, and hosts the International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology about every two years



COVER PHOTO

Shenyang Cave, China

By I. Ermakova

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Editorial

It has been seven months since Newsletter No.73, largely concerned with the events of the 18th Symposium on Volcanic Caves, was published. Although this has been a long time, I am very hopeful that the wait has been worthwhile for No.74 which by any standards is a bumper issue.

The bulk of the content is made up of four articles covering exploration and study of lava tube caves on three continents. Two from Asia reporting on work in China and Vietnam, one from South America and one from the Canary Islands which are geographically part of Africa and politically part of Europe. I am sure that everyone interested in Volcanic Caves will find something of interest in these substantial works. In addition, there is news of an important academic study on Vulcanospelogenesis in another journal, an abstract of that work is included here along with links so that those interested can access this most interesting and substantial work.

Since the last newsletter there has been a significant change in the working of the Commission. Historically the Newsletter editor has also effectively administrated the membership of the commission and its communications. For some time, it has been recognised that this was not an ideal situation, not only due to the level of workload applied to one officer, but that the roles required different interests and skills. As such I am delighted that Roberto Conti has taken on this thankless task which allows me to concentrate on editing the newsletter.

I will finally state that between Newsletters No.73 and No.74 I have had a change of computer (and email address). I THINK that all of the material submitted was transferred, and apologise unreservedly if anything was missed. If that has happened please let me know and I will include it in the next issue. It only remains to pass my thanks to all contributors, and to ask everyone to think about contributions for Newsletter No.75 towards the end of 2019.

Ed Waters, 27th May 2019

Message from the Chairman

Hello fellow Vulcanospeleologists

It has been quite a few months since the last issue of the Commission's e-Newsletter and I hope you will agree that this issue was worth waiting for.

There are substantial reports on investigatory and research work in volcanic areas in Vietnam, the Canary Islands (Lanzarote) and China. I am impressed with the diverse range of activities covered in these articles.

This newsletter is an important medium for disseminating news and information about caves in volcanic areas to interested people all around the world. Another initiative of the UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves, and arguably its most important activity, is to convene International Symposiums (Symposia, if you prefer) on Vulcanospeleology (ISV). The ISVs are held every second year, with the next being the 19th ISV, which will take place in 2020.

I am pleased to advise that the First Circular for the 19th ISV has just been published.

As I am sure many of you are aware, the symposium will take place from 29 August to 5 September 2020 in the city of Catania on the east coast of Sicily.

The 19th ISV organising committee, comprising members of the Gruppo Grotte Catania (GGC) and the



Figure 1. Etna's summit craters seen Barbagallo craters - ph. G. Piolo

DATES

The 19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology (ISV) will be held in Catania, on the island of Sicily in Italy from Saturday August 29 to Saturday September 5, 2020.

LOCATION

The 19th ISV will take place in the prestigious setting of the University of Catania, in the centre of the city. The town is only 35 kilometres from the top of Mt. Etna. The big draw for cavers will be the lava tubes, numbering over 300, on Mt. Etna. This mountain is a composite strato-volcano that reaches 3.325 m a.s.l. Its pyroclasts cover a large area (8100 hectares/ 20,000 acres).

ORGANIZING TEAM

The symposium will be organized jointly by Gruppo Grotte Catania (GGC) and University of Catania. The GGC caving group is affiliated with the Catania section of the Club Alpino Italiano (CAI). The University of Catania¹ is one of the oldest in Italy.

¹ Founded in 1434 AD

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University of Catania, has developed a comprehensive program of presentation sessions, caving trips, geological, cultural and heritage excursions and social activities. The committee is also planning a partners program - for those who consider there are more important things in life than visiting, or talking about, lava caves.

The 28-page First Circular contains:

- the indicative symposium program;
- brief descriptions on some of the caves proposed to be visited;
- an outline of various excursion options;
- notes for intending presenters;
- preliminary information on accommodation options (detailed information will follow in the Second Circular, to be published later this year);
- registration information; and
- what is included in the registration fee.

The circular also has important information about White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats. It requests that participants do not bring any gear from WNS areas and that participants decontaminate all gear that has previously been used in areas where WNS has not been identified. As addition precautions, GGC will set up a free gear decontamination area at the start of the symposium and will also have a number of sets of basic caving gear available for rent. I urge all intending participants to do everything they can to minimise the risk of spreading WNS.

I wish to acknowledge the time and effort that Dr Carmelo (Mel) Bucolo and other members of the 19th ISV organising committee have devoted to making preliminary arrangements for the symposium and developing the program outline. That some much has been sorted out so far in advance of the event is commendable and augers well for a well organised, comprehensive and enjoyable symposium.

The First Circular is available on the ISV19 Website: <http://www.19isvetna.com/index.php>.

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It can be downloaded from the Symposium/ Indicative Program page. Please click on the pdf icon at the foot of the page - or go to: http://www.19isvetna.com/docs/IVS19_First_Circular.pdf

A link to the Circular has also been added on the Commission's home page: <http://www.vulcanospeleology.org/menu.html>

The Proceedings of the most recent International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology (18th ISV), held at Lava Beds California in July 2018 are now available on the Commission's Website. They were first published on Peter Bosted's Website as an interim measure. As many of you would be aware, Peter and Ann Bosted were the key organisers of the 17th ISV, held at Ocean View, Hawaii in February 2016 and more recently, Peter organised the presentations program for the 18th ISV.

Individual papers (abstracts in some cases) from the 18th ISV can be downloaded in pdf format from:

<http://www.vulcanospeleology.org/sym18/Proceedings/Proceedings.html>
(ISV18 (Lava Beds))

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for responding to the request by Roberto Conti, the Commission's membership officer, to update your contact details for the Commission's Google Groups email list. While the Commission did lose a number of members as a result of the updating exercise, either because they could not be contacted or because they chose not to respond, the high level of positive responses indicates a pleasing level of continuing interest in the Commission's activities. Roberto and I will, of course, welcome any new applications to join (or rejoin) the Commission. The membership application form is available on the Commission's home page. Just click on "Become a member of the Commission".

John Brush

Chairman

UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves

The Volcanic Cave Inventory Project of Lanzarote

**Speleo
Nederland**

In 2011 I went to Lanzarote for the first time.

My wife was looking at that time for a place nearby and having sun all year round.

Well, at 4 hours flight distance from The Netherlands there was this Island, Lanzarote: dusty, dry, warm, no trees, in fact a bit like a desert.



You like it or you don't, nothing in between. I got (caving) friends who have visited the island and said, never again. Yes, it is probably one of the most boring places around. You could visit all tourist attractions on the island in one day. There is a lot of dust and before the climate change it could have a lack of rain for 4 years. Black and yellow form the natural view, and sometimes a bit of green.

So, we went there, spent some time at the beach, did some running and immediately loved the island. In the meantime, I was wondering what to do to pass my time.

As a caver since 1974 I had heard about lava caves from former Chairman Jan Paul van der Pas, who had visited the Canaries several times. I believe there even has been an attempt to have a post symposium trip into the caves over there which in the end had to be cancelled because of permit problems.

Publications are rare and not very descriptive. Most of the exact locations are not published (kind of secret) and you have to find everything yourself. Then there is this problem that most of the island is under natural protection law so it is even forbidden to visit most of the caves.

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From 2012 I struggled finding caves on my own, visiting them with my family and trying to understand them and their source. We did some exploring, did a lot of data research at home and got a bit more of understanding how the caving scene worked on this island.

It took several years to get to know to the right people who are willing to help you, are willing to trust you and to do more than only visiting caves. People that can help you to get into the caves and give you a hand while exploring or surveying.

So somewhere in 2016 I became a kind of member of Vulcan Vertical, a caving and canyoning club in Arrecife.

El Presidente is Gustavo David Santana Gomez, who is a walking library about the caves and canyons on Lanzarote. The clubs in fact do not do a lot of exploring but only visit and enjoy the caves.

From then on, I had some companions who could help me to realise my fanatic idea to explore and survey all Volcanic caves on Lanzarote.

There are some well-known caves on the island which have been studied thoroughly. There are even secret caves of more than 17km length no one knows about, only 1 page in a magazine and some rumours. There are lost cave systems, which were visited in the 80s but due to the lack of entrance coordinates they could never be found again.

The first object of my project was that I wanted to collect all surveys like a kind of inventory, so you know what there is and what you should protect. To put all caves in a register so they will not be lost for future (again) And also to produce an accurate survey (plan plus elevation) of each cave which then shows most of the content of the passages.

Secondly, I wanted to interest scientists like geologists and biologists in the underground scenery. Based on the inventory and remarks we make at every survey they could try to resolve the questions which we mentioned and had been left open.

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Thirdly, I wanted to explore the caves. There is no better way to find new passages than while surveying. It appeared that most data from caves were based on rumours and inaccurate measurements. I assume this is caused by all this secrecy on caves, the so-called protection thing, which in fact doesn't work as people still visit the caves and leave rubbish. When you don't know where a cave is situated you cannot protect it.

So, it appeared that the knowledge of most caves (except for the 4 famous ones) was based on presumptions. A cave which had been known as 110m. deep for 20 years appeared to be 70m. deep. Caves which had been known for 30 years to be 900m. long appeared to be 1500m long.

Caves known as Cueva Grande were just 8m. long and caves which went in on one side of the island and had according to rumours a connection to the other side of the island were just 50m. long.

So, time to clear all these rumours, secrets and just unknown, incorrect knowledge.

The Author Using Methods to Overcome Magnetic Errors in Surveys; Photo: Laurens Smets



In July 2017 we had our first cave fully explored and surveyed. Surveying was done with a Leica Disto X laser, data forwarded in the cave to a Samsung note, based on Topodroid. Then at home it was exported to a window machine into Compass date software which did all the calculation. Then exported through a Vector convertor called SVG exporter into Adobe illustrator where all the further rendering was done.

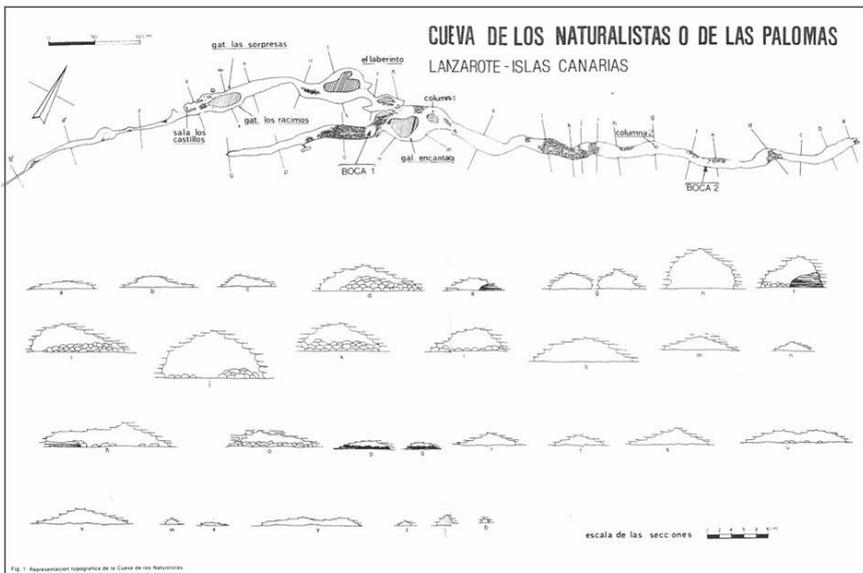
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With Cueva de los Naturalistas we had the first start of our project called: *“Estudios y Topografías para el Cuidado y Conservación de nuestros Tubos Volcánicos”* (study and surveying for the Care and Conservation of our Volcanic Tubes)

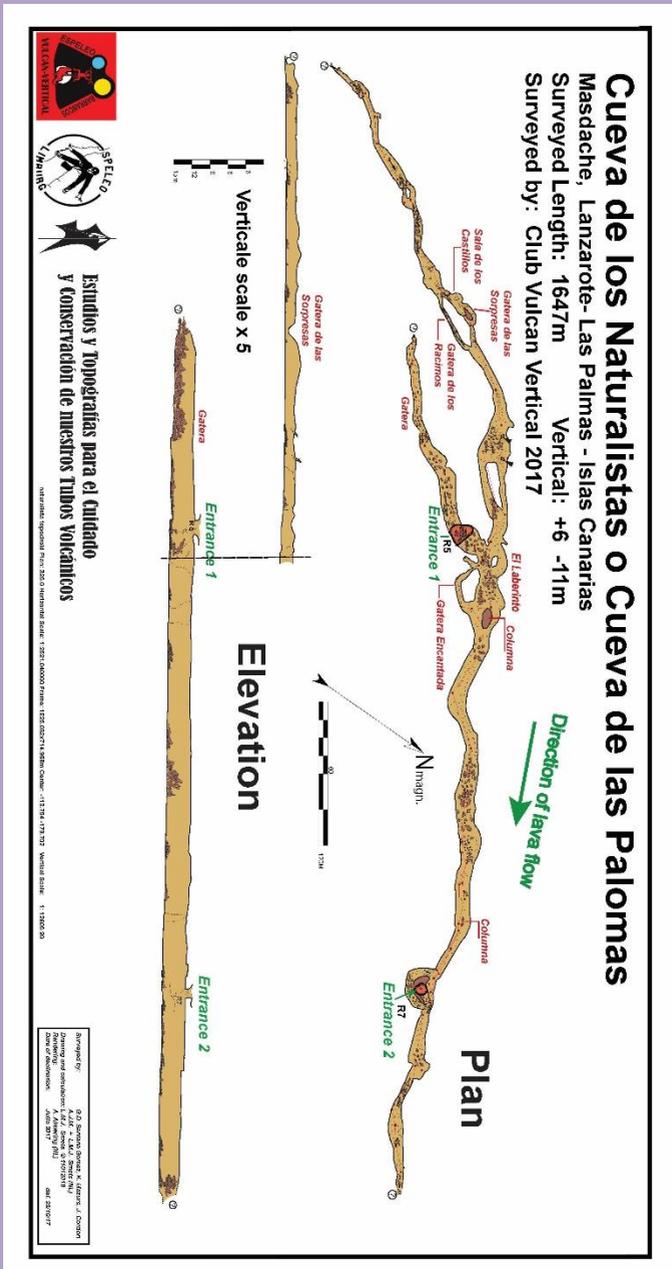
A mutual project of a few members from Vulcan Vertical and from Speleo Nederland.



Below you will find a comparison of the existing black and white survey of Cueva de Los Naturalistas in 1984 and our survey from 2017 on the following page.



Survey from Martin Diaz 1984



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Exact figures are not known about the number of caves on the Island. There must be more than 120 according to, yes..... again rumours.

There are loads of small ones, probably innumerable, as in the lava fields all around there are holes and fissures, at the sea side there are hundreds of by wind and sea eroded holes but What we are looking for are Lava-flow-tubes, Pyroclastic caves, volcanic vent shafts, eruption shafts and perhaps former geysers. So that's making the number a bit smaller.

Sima de Tinguatón

Sima de Tinguaton was explored by us from January 2018 to January 2019. This cave, also called Sima del Diablo, is one of the deepest Volcanic shafts in Europe. The system is in fact one volcanic fissure consisting of 7 depressions of which 6 are real shafts, as you can see on the survey below. Some are now connected. Others are only theoretically connected as you can tell from the strong wind inside.

The system has been described as 99m. deep, (ref. Diego Serantes Vergara, Gota a Gota 2, 2013) but this could not be confirmed despite our hard efforts in the small squeezes although in one place there is a continuation of about 20cm width and about 20 m- 30m. estimated depth. So still something to do!!

Sima 3 is the most visited shaft and is about 50m.deep, not too small. After that it becomes tight, nasty and dry warm. You can view a short film about the tight squeezes on our website <https://www.lanzarotecaves.com/sima-de-tinguatón-sima-del-diablo/>

Although we renewed some bolts (there are just a few) take some rope protectors and some M10 hangers + screws. Due to the salty rock and wind the bolts do not last very long in there!! The other shafts are less visited as there are really dangerous rockfall and just few or no bolts in some of them.

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Cueva de las Breñas

Cueva de las Breñas or Túnel del Viento is a very special cave with very special phenomena inside. It's one of the rare real tube systems with real junctions in it leading down to the sea on several levels. In some places real labyrinthic.

Most of the cave is low, sometimes you have to crawl for 20 or 30 meters.

Not a good cave when you got backaches. The cave has been known for years as a low crawling cave about 900m long.

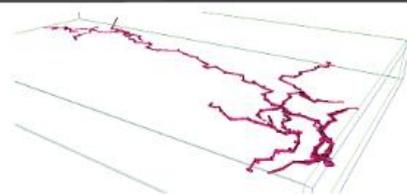
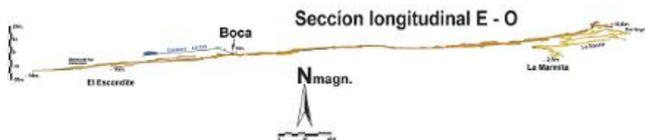
Just surveying all side passages, all levels and just going into each corner and tube resulted now in almost 1500m. length and still some exploring to do (see surveys on following page).

The cave is a real mystery. In several parts there is quite some calcite on the volcanic rock, as if there has been flowing water. There are several calcite-like phenomena which you can find in calcite caves, like some big disks, calcified stalagmites, calcified riverbeds. In one place deep in the cave you will find caracoles, the snail shells which possibly were thrown away by natives in the past.

The tubes look like coming from nowhere. Normally the caves on Lanzarote are quite young, as the Volcanoes are. But this one leads upwards into one of the oldest volcanic regions of the Canaries. Somewhere between 13,5Ma and 14,5Ma. In the Miocene period, the Los Ajaches Volcanoes erupted and the oldest mountains from the Canaries were formed.

I am not a geologist, but even so I cannot imagine that this cave is from that age, but..... Who knows, perhaps we found a very special volcanic cave on Lanzarote. And you have to imagine that we are now in an exploring stage so entering tubes from 13,5Miljon years old where a human being has never been before... well unlikely, but for the time being we keep dreaming.

Cueva de las Breñas o Túnel del Viento

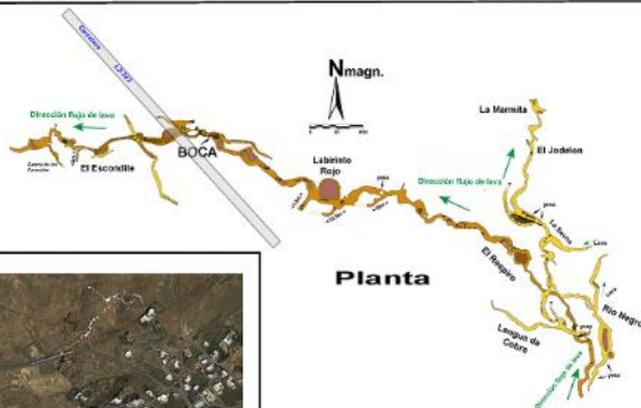


EXPLORACIÓN EN PROGRESO

Cueva de las Breñas o Túnel del Viento

Las Breñas, Yuba, Lorzoteo- Las Peñas- Itzas Canales
 20°35'16.5"N 107°40'31.5"W
 Desnivel: > 1470m. Desnivel: -14m. +22m.
 Tipo declinación: 26/20/18 del 11/01/2019
 Topografía: U.I.C. (Unidad de Investigación y Cartografía de Cuevas)
 U.I.C. (Unidad de Investigación y Cartografía de Cuevas)
 U.I.C. (Unidad de Investigación y Cartografía de Cuevas)
 U.I.C. (Unidad de Investigación y Cartografía de Cuevas)

Cueva de las Breñas o Túnel del Viento



Cueva de las Breñas o Túnel del Viento

Las Breñas, Yuba, Lorzoteo- Las Peñas- Itzas Canales

Desnivel: > 1470m. Desnivel: -14m. +22m.
 Tipo declinación: 26/20/18 del 11/01/2019
 Topografía: U.I.C. (Unidad de Investigación y Cartografía de Cuevas)
 U.I.C. (Unidad de Investigación y Cartografía de Cuevas)
 U.I.C. (Unidad de Investigación y Cartografía de Cuevas)

- ! Agua corriente
- Y Y Catastrales
- L L Catastrales
- G Geología
- A Alamo, Lora
- V Vaso
- P Pijón de Lava
- A Arena



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Calcite Pillar



Typical Galleries Cueva de las Breñas;

Photos: Laurens Smets

Calcite Floor



Disk



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Corona Lava Tube System

“Coming from far abroad” according to the “conijeros” (rabbit hunters) as the island inhabitants are called, I had a kind of easier way to get into contact with responsible persons

I got into contact with the ESA (European Space Agency) which takes through their Pangaea training program a special interest in caves and geology on Lanzarote.

This group do their training for geology and caves on Lanzarote and their goal is in the end to get into the volcanic caves on the Moon and on Mars.

So the first contact with their professors and other VIP’s on Geology and Biology made things easier for me on Lanzarote and in the end I got into contact with managers from the tourist caves and the director of Geoparque Lanzarote y Archipiélago Chinijo.

In 2018 we started to do a survey of a part of the longest Anchialine Cave system in the Canaries: the lowest part of the more than 9km. long Corona lava tube system in the north-east of the island. This anchialine system consists of Cueva de Siete Lagos, Jameos del Agua and Tunél de la Atlántido. Together nearly 3km. long. The Tunél de la Atlántido is with 1,6km. length the longest flooded lava tunnel in the world.

Some members of the Pangaea team surveyed at that time with a LIDAR machine most parts of the Corona system. As they carry valuable irreplaceable precision instruments they asked us to survey the wet and vertical sections as we did.

At this moment the vertical Jameos on top of the mountain and the Corona cave tunnels at Maguéz are still lacking, but we plan to do them 2019/2020. (The latest issue of the survey can be found overleaf – Ed.).

The lakes in Cueva de los Siete Lagos



The Corona System;

Photos: Laurens Smets



The lakes in Cueva de los Siete Lagos



One of the entrances into the 9km. long Corona Lava Tube system

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Look out for more news

I could fill up a complete booklet on what has been done, what we do and what we still have to do in our inventory and exploring project on Lanzarote. For this reason, we started up a special website only about the caves on Lanzarote. You can find this at www.lanzarotecaves.com

In this inventory you can find for each surveyed cave the map, some pictures and a copy of all publications which have been made on a certain cave.

We invite cavers who got information, old surveys, descriptions or publications which cannot yet be found on our website to share them with us. We then can put them on this website for you, share them with scientists, learn from them and in that way get more and more knowledge about where and what needs to be protected. Without knowledge and without publications investigations have to be done over and over again which is a waste of time.

You have to imagine that all we discover, all known caves we survey and describe, all phenomena which we put on paper are mostly new for scientists and even for old cavers that have lived on the Island all their lives.

I believe that especially on Lanzarote the time of secrecy and rumours is over and we should work on sharing knowledge so this knowledge is preserved, does not get lost and can be used by scientists in their nature protections programs.

Laurens Smets

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LIST OF MOST IMPORTANT CAVES LANZAROTE

Name	Location	Type	Length /m	Depth /m	Info
Corona Lava Tube System:	Malpaís de la Corona/Haría	Lava tube	8960	-227 ??	Confirmed by Santagata /Smets/ Santana Gómez
1. Jameos de Arriba (Los Escaladores)			??		
2. Jameo de Prendes			2-		
3. Jameo de la Gente			3=1340		
4. Jameo de Puente Roca		6=1534			
5. Jameo Cumplido		Anchialine cave	6-	-46	
6. Jameo de la Puerta Falsa			7=3090		
7. Cueva de los Verdes					
8. Cueva de los Siete Lagos		Anchialine	730	-64	
9. Jameos del Agua			540		
10. Túnel de la Atlántida	1726				
Cuevas de Máguez	Malpaís de la Corona/Haría	Lava tube	>100		En Estudio
Cueva Escondido o Tubo Perdido	Timanfaya	Lava tube	17000		Not published/ not confirmed
Cueva Covón/Chifletera	Timanfaya	Lava tube	600		Not confirmed
Cueva Esqueleto/Paso	Timanfaya	Lava tube	600		Not confirmed
Cueva de Los Pescadores	Timanfaya	Lava tube	900		Not confirmed
Cueva del Lago de Lava	Timanfaya	Lava tube	520		Not confirmed
Cueva la Pedrera	Timanfaya	Lava tube	320		Not confirmed
Cueva Montaña Rajada	Timanfaya	Lava tube	168		Not confirmed
Cueva Pequeña Montaña Rajada	Timanfaya		50		Not confirmed
Sima de Pedro Perico	Timanfaya	Volcanic Vent / lavatube	201	-31	
C. Sendero de Mtna. Hernández	Timanfaya	Lava tube?	157		Not confirmed
Cueva de Caldera Escondida	Timanfaya	Lava tube?	150		Not confirmed
Cueva de las Plumas	Timanfaya		86		Not confirmed
Cueva del Alpendre	Timanfaya		80		Not confirmed
Hornitos de ls Clacas	Timanfaya	Hornitos	35	-14	Not confirmed
Hornito de La Perola	Timanfaya	Hornitos	18	-21	Not confirmed

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Name	Location	Type	Length /m	Depth /m	Info
Simas de Tinguaton /del Diablo	Tinajo	Geyser Vent	298	-70	
Cueva Canal de Pico Partido 1/2	Tinajo	Lava tube	99	-9/+13	
Cuevas/Sima's de las Nueces/ Santa Catalina	Tinajo	Volcanic Vent / Lava Tube	44/39/24 /25/32	-4/-9/-11/-9/-15	
Cueva Montaña Bermeja	El Golfo	In Pyroclasts / Lava Tube	75	-7/ +5	
Cueva Choco	El Golfo	Lava tube	680		Not confirmed
Cueva de Carmelo	El Golfo		122		Not confirmed
Cuevas de Mozaga	Mozaga	Lava tube	77	-2	200m not confirmed
Cueva de Los Naturalistas / Las Palomas	Masdache	Lava tube	1640	-11/+6	
Cuevas de Tizalaya 1/2	Masdache	Lava tube	43/21	-3/-3	
Tizalaya 3	Masdache	Lava tube	250		Not confirmed
Gateras de Sory	Masdache	Lava Tube	80	-2	
Cueva de Nazaret	Nazaret	Lava Tube	150		Not confirmed
Cueva de Playa Blanca / Cueva de Rubicon	Playa Blanca	Lava Tube	125	-16/+5	
Cueva Las Breñas / Túnel del Viento	Las Breñas	Lava tube	1470	-14/+22	
C. de San Bartolomé o de las Cucas	San Bartolomé		105		Not confirmed
Cueva de Ajey	San Bartolomé		120		Not confirmed
Cuevas de La Atalaya	Las Cuevas (Maguez)	In pyroclasts	900		Artificial mines
Cueva de la Mora	Tequise		70		Not confirmed
Cuevas de Tahiche/ Cueva del camion	Tahiche	In Pyroclasts /Lava tube	198	-21	

* All data compiled by Laurens Smets and confirmed on www.lanzarotecaves.com except data mentioned in info Column.

Una Nueva Cavidad en Lavas Pahoehoe en el Extremo Norte de la Payunia, Provincia de Mendoza, Nor-Patagonia, Argentina

Resumen

Se expone brevemente el primer relevamiento espeleológico de la Cueva Agua del León, en el extremo norte de la región de Payunia, provincia de Mendoza; es la segunda cavidad de ese tipo relevada en dicha zona; la primera es la Cueva de la Barda. Se hace una breve descripción de ambas cavidades; llama la atención, respecto de ambas cuevas, la presencia de espeleotemas de carbonato de calcio como formaciones que muestran una actividad hidrológica secundaria muy intensa en el pasado reciente, teniendo en cuenta que la zona vive una sequía generalizada de casi una década. Se incluyen las topografías de las dos cavidades y fotos de la cueva Agua del León.

Abstract

The first speleological survey of the Cueva Agua del León, in the extreme north of the Payunia region, province of Mendoza, is briefly exposed; it is the second cavity of that type surveyed in said area; the first is the Cueva de la Barda. A brief description of both cavities is made; calls attention, with respect to both caves, the presence of calcium carbonate speleothems as formations that show a very intense secondary hydrological activity in the recent past, taking into account that the area experiences a generalized drought of almost a decade. The topographies of the two cavities and photos of the Agua del León cave are included.

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Introducción

Tal como venimos diciendo en trabajos anteriores (Benedetto, 2008), la Payunia (o Payenia) es una región a la que podríamos considerar un “diamante en bruto” para la espeleología argentina y mundial, en tanto todavía está pendiente de hacer una exploración sistemática de la colada basáltica más extensa del planeta (Pasquaré et al, 2008), que nace en el cerro Payún y se extiende por casi 200 kilómetros hasta la provincia de La Pampa.

Los 800 volcanes del distrito volcánico Payunia se encuentran en su casi totalidad en Malargüe, Municipio del extremo sur de Mendoza, que políticamente pertenece a la región de Cuyo de esa provincia, pero que geográficamente es Nor-Patagonia.

El sur de Mendoza y Neuquén forman parte, geológicamente, de la Cuenca Neuquina, donde se concentra el 90% del patrimonio espeleológico de todo el país. Las lavas pahoehoe derraman la Payunia mendocina desde el extremo sur de la provincia hacia el norte de Neuquén y hacia la provincia de La Pampa.

De hecho, y tal como muestra el mapa, la mayor parte de las cuevas catastradas hasta el momento se encuentra en la zona de influencia del Volcán Payún y sólo una de ellas, hasta el momento, en la del Volcán Nevado, ubicado en la “triple frontera” entre los Municipios de General Alvear, San Rafael y Malargüe.

La Cueva de La Barda, relevada en 2002 por el Centro Argentino de Espeleología (Catastro Espeleológico Argentino – Ces, cueva M.43) y la cueva Agua del León, relevada y registrada por la Federación Argentina de Espeleología (FAde) el 29 de abril de este año. Según las comunicaciones personales de Pablo Puig (CAE), La Barda. a pesar de la sequedad y de su espeleogénesis no kárstica, fue una cueva hidrológicamente muy activa. Características parecidas encontramos en la cueva Agua del León.

En la actualidad debe tenerse en cuenta que la zona viene sufriendo de una sequía que ya lleva una década. Pero sus espeleotemas siguen siendo muy atractivos, producto de la salinidad de las aguas que penetran por las grietas.

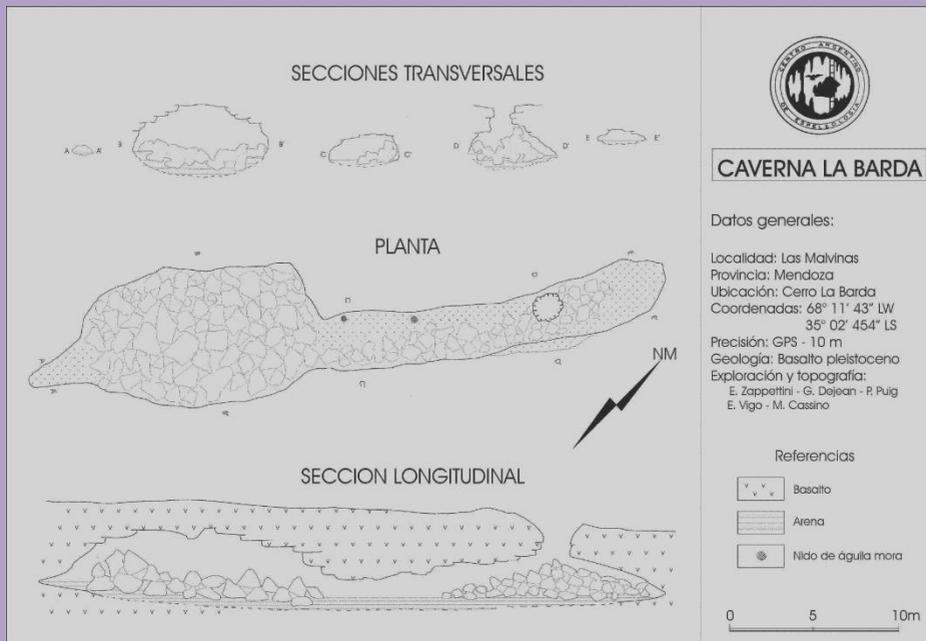
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El mapa de nuestra publicación de 2008, está modificado con el agregado de esta nueva cavidad con una cruz roja:



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Cueva Puesto La Barda



Según nos lo comunicaron los colegas del Centro Argentino de Espeleología “la caverna Puesto La Barda está ubicada en la ladera nororiental del Cerro Negro, localizado 10 km al SSE de la localidad Las Malvinas, Departamento San Rafael, Mendoza. Las coordenadas geográficas de la boca de acceso fueron medidas con GPS. La Caverna Puesto de la Barda, constituye un túnel lávico de orientación general N 45° E, formado por el vaciado de un conducto de alimentación de las coladas del volcán Cerro Negro. En su morfología se destaca una sala, formada en su extremo sudoccidental, y originada por un ensanche del túnel lávico, cuya morfología original se ha visto modificada por el derrumbe de parte de la bóveda original, a favor de un conspicuo diaclasamiento con separación entre diaclasa de 30 a 50 cm y favorecido por niveles aglomerádicos menos consolidados intercalados en la lava; la boca de acceso se ha formado por desplome de un sector del techo de la galería, originando un parcial cierre de la galería hacia el noreste.

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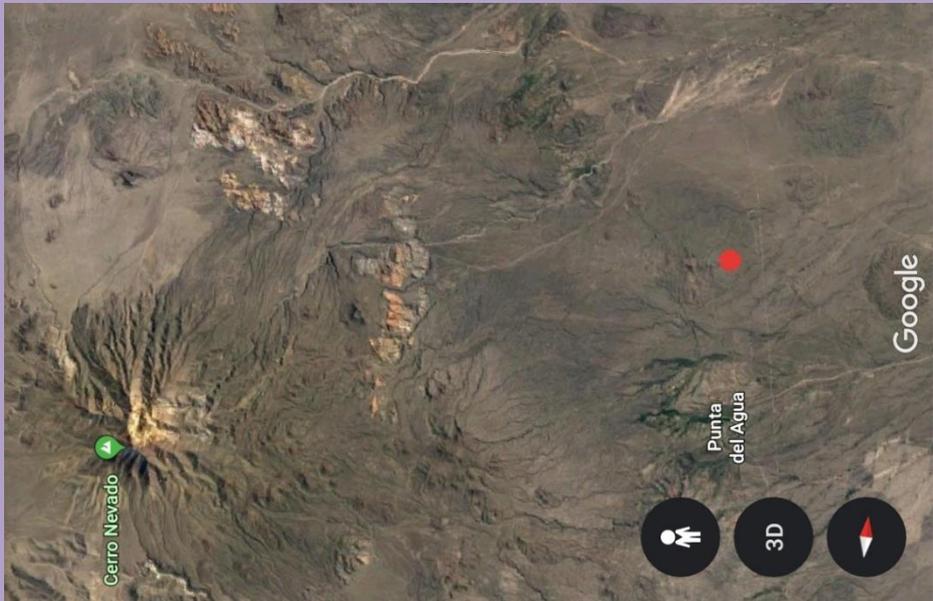
En los sectores sin derrumbes se observa que el piso de la caverna está cubierto por material arenoso externo probablemente aportado por torrentes de agua temporarios. Este material ha producido la colmatación y cierre de ambos extremos de la galería. Debe su nombre por su cercanía al Puesto La Barda. El Cerro Negro forma parte de un conjunto de centros efusivos dispuestos siguiendo líneas de fracturación NNO-SSE. Estos volcanes están constituidos por tobas, brechas y coladas de basalto de edad pleistocena y asignados a la Formación Maipo. Las coladas basálticas tienen color negro-azulado y localmente presentan coloración marrón por oxidación de minerales ferromagnesianos. Presentan disyunción columnar y localmente lajosa. Presentan poros producidos por escapes gaseosos y es común su relleno por material calcáreo” (Puig, Pablo, com. pers.).

La Cueva de La Barda fue topografiada en sólo 25 metros de su extensión, pero en sus dos extremos presenta un descenso del techo y obturamiento por arena que ingresa por sedimentación eólica, que hace pensar que, removiendo tal obstáculo, podría tratarse de una cavidad de mayor magnitud. Lo mismo puede decirse de la cueva Cueva Agua del León, de la se hizo una topografía muy rudimentaria, pero que en principio arroja un desarrollo de aproximadamente 80-90 metros.

Cueva Agua del León

Esta cavidad fue visitada muchas veces por los propios lugareños, pero el primer relevamiento espeleológico, con levantamiento de datos de georreferenciación y una topografía rudimentaria, fue llevado a cabo el 29 de abril de 2019, ocasión en que además se tomaron abundantes fotografías. Participaron: Tobías Etienne-Greenwood (Universidad de Pau, Francia /FAdE), Carlos Pía (Director de Protección Ambiental del Municipio de Gral. Alvear), su hijo Agustín (fotógrafo) y el autor de esta comunicación. El punto rojo de esta foto indica la ubicación de la cavidad respecto del Volcán Nevado y de la localidad de Punta de Agua.

Desde la ciudad de General Alvear, se accede a la cueva yendo por la ruta provincial 190, luego la ruta Provincial 179, pasando la localidad de Punta de Agua y el Arroyo Agua del León.



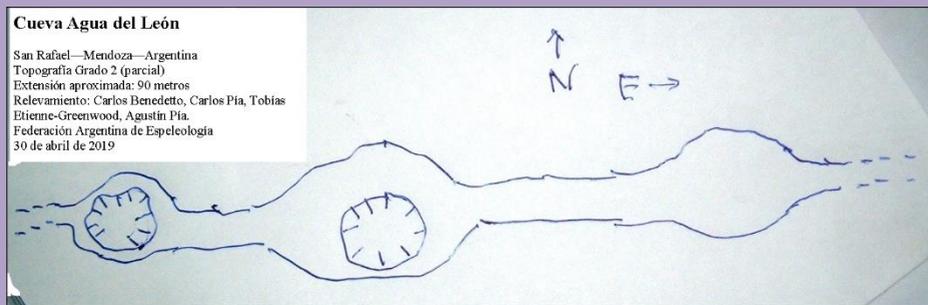
La cueva presenta dos bocas de acceso, distantes una de otra unos 27 metros, a ras del piso ambas, georreferenciadas por GPS en 35°27´09.1” S y 68°04´28.8” W. La primera de ellas permite un recorrido de no más de 5 o 6 metros en dirección a la segunda, pero esa ruta se encuentra bloqueada por derrumbes. La segunda boca es una pequeña sima de unos 5 metros, producto del colapso del techo.

A partir de allí, y por unos 50 metros más, se desarrolla el resto de la cavidad en dirección Este-Oeste. Como anticipamos antes, este tubo lávico estaba muy seco y con abundante guano de distintos animales, especialmente pequeños roedores. En algunos pasajes se puede caminar, pero en otros es necesario arrastrarse y en todos los casos es intensa la cantidad de polvo en suspensión, por lo que se hace aconsejable explorarla con, más tiempo y con barbijos.

Como en La Barda, en el paisaje hipogeo se aprecian vestigios de pequeños cursos de agua hoy secos, producto de las infiltraciones desde la superficie, como asimismo espeleotemas de material calcáreo en el techo y hasta columnas de singular belleza.

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En ambos extremos de la cavidad hay taponamientos de arena, indicadores de que la cavidad, si fuera posible drenar esas arenas, puede ser mucho más extensa que los escasos 90 metros explorados.



Hemos recibido datos de otras cavidades en la región, lo que indicaría que el sur-sureste de la región de Payunia no es el único “imán” para atraer a los espeleólogos especializados en tubos lávicos

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Cueva Agua del León;

Photos: Carlos Benedetto



OUTSTANDING PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE OF LAVA CAVES IN Krongno DISTRICT, DAK NONG PROVINCE, VIETNAM

1. Introduction

The year 2007 was considered as the important milestone in the history of lava cave studying in Vietnam, when La The Phuc first time discovered and recognized lava cave in Krongno area as a geological heritage, in the frame of the project “Investigation and research of geological heritage to build a geopark and environmental protection in the Trinh Nu waterfall area, CuJut district, Dak Nong province, Vietnam”, funded by UNESCO (2007-2008) [3;4;5;6;10]. The results of scientific research cooperation projects between Vietnamese scientists – leading by La The Phuc - and the members of the NPO Vulcano Speleological Society of Japan – leading by H. Tachihara and T. Honda - have discovered and surveyed 45 lava caves, in which 20 caves have been mapped. The Krongno lava cave system has been evaluated and recognized as the largest and most unique volcanic cave system in Southeast Asia. The initial research results on the volcanic caves in the studied area show that their heritage potential is very large in three fields: geology, biology and culture – archaeology [2;8;13;14;15;16].

Geologically, all of the volcanic caves have endogenous origin, meanwhile almost cave entrances are secondary formations, created by their roof collapse. The interior formations of the volcanic caves are rich and diverse in types. They are scientific evidences for the cave formation mechanism, reflect the processes of lava flowing in the tube caves, interaction between different lava flows, between earlier lava flows and the later ones, between lava flows and lava cave environment as well [8].

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Some illustration images for lava caves in Krongno area



Chu B'Luck volcano – the origin of the Krongno lava cave system. Photo: Luong Thi Tuat



Interior of the C7 cave – the longest lava cave of SE Asia (1066.5m). Source: TN17/T06 project



The secondary entrance of the C7 lava cave created by a roof collapsed area. Photo: Luong Thi Tuat



A big lava tree mold in the C3 lava cave. Photo: T. Honda



Complicated ropy lava flows in the upstream of the C7 lava cave. Photo: Luong Thi Tuat



The A1 cave was named "Beehive Cave" because of its unique structure. Photo: Luong Thi Tuat

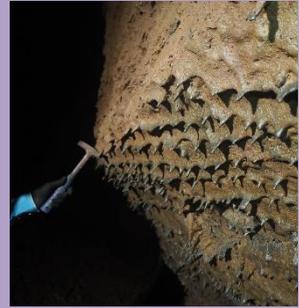
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Splash stalactite in the C6.1 cave. Photo: Luong Thi Tuat



Lava level marks on the wall of the C7 lava cave. Photo: La The Phuc



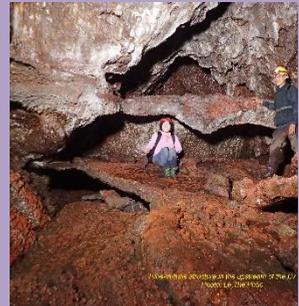
Saw blade stalactites in the C0 lava cave. Photo: Luong Thi Tuat



Lava glaze in the upstream of the C6.1 lava cave. Photo: Luong Thi Tuat



Ship bow structure formed by two lava flows in the C2 lava cave. Photo: Luong Thi Tuat



Tube-in-tube structure in the upstream of the C7 lava cave. Photo: La The Phuc

Biologically, there are many species of bat, snake, frog, insect and micro-organism found living in these caves. Of these, some new and endemic species are only found in the Krongno volcanic cave system.

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Several animals, such as bats, snakes, frogs, scorpions, spiders and snails, including new and endemic species, have been found in lava caves in Krongno. Source: TN17/T06 project.



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2. Outstanding prehistoric archaeological value of lava cave in Krongno area

In term of culture - archaeology, the Krongno volcanic caves were investigated in 2017, in the frame of the institution-level scientific projects of the Vietnam National Museum of Nature and urgent task of Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology. It was the first time, many valuable prehistoric archaeological remains have been revealed in the lava caves in Krongno. The artefacts collected from the cave floor and in a shallow and small pit in C6.1 are quite plenty and diverse, including: stone tools, pottery, animal bones and teeth, shells of different mollusc types, but human bone/skeleton and marine mollusc shells have not been discovered yet [7;9;11;12].

Pottery pieces and stone tools collected in C6.1 lava cave floor and in the excavated test pit in 2017. Source: TN17/T06 project



In the beginning of 2018, also in the frame of the TN17/T06 project, the Vietnam National Museum of Nature's scientists - leading by La The Phuc - in collaboration with Vietnamese archaeologists - leading by Nguyen Khac Su - have successfully excavated the prehistoric archaeological sites at C6' and C6-1 caves.

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The results of the excavations have revealed many unique archaeological structures such as kitchen, kitchen waste pit, rounded stone structure, etc. Also, dozens of thousands of artefacts have been collected, including stone tools, bones and teeth of many different animal species. Especially, three skeletons of prehistoric men have been excavated at the NE entrance of the C6.1 lava cave. The new discovery makes most scientists feel surprised and shocked because animal bones and human skeletons haven't ever been found in hundreds of the archaeological sites, those excavated before due to very thick weathering layer in The Central Highlands [1;17].

Preliminary excavation results were successful beyond expectation: the culture layer in the excavation pit (1.85m deep) is thickest of all archaeological sites excavated in The Central Highlands. Dozens of thousands of artefacts in the diverse archaeological relics have been collected, reflecting the long-term residence and temporary hunting sites of prehistoric people there. The three human skeletons in the C6.1 lava cave excavation pit have proved the burial relics (the way of burying the dead) of prehistoric people. Five ground marine mollusc shells have been collected, proved the interaction between local prehistoric people with the prehistoric marine ones. The results of the radiocarbon dating of the 14 charcoal samples collected from the excavation pit in the C6.1 lava cave show around 7,000 to 3,000 BP, equivalent to the Early Neolithic to the Early Metal [9;17].

In the most recent excavation of the project TN17/T06, conducted in March 2019, the earlier C6.1 excavation pit has been expanded wider and deeper. Besides many other important artefacts, another two ancient human skeletons have been excavated. They all are continuing to be researched in many fields, with traditional as well as modern methods to clarify the relationship between prehistoric residents in the past and modern people in the Central Highlands, Vietnam and Southeast Asia as well.

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The C6.1 lava cave pit and some typical artefacts excavated in 2018 and 2019



Eight cultural stratigraphical layers divided in the C6.1 excavation pit in 2018. Source: TN17/T06 project



Cultural stratigraphical layer has not found in the South entrance of the C6.1. Photo: Luong Thi Tuat

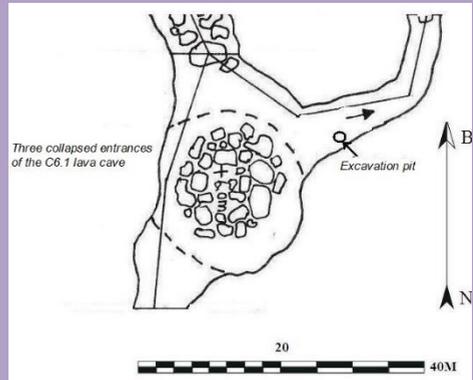


The prehistoric people chose the NE entrance of the C6.1 as their best home to live approx. 7,000-3,000 years BP. Photo: Luong Thi Tuat

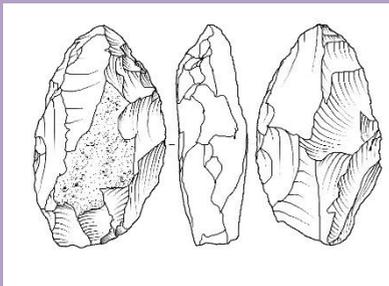
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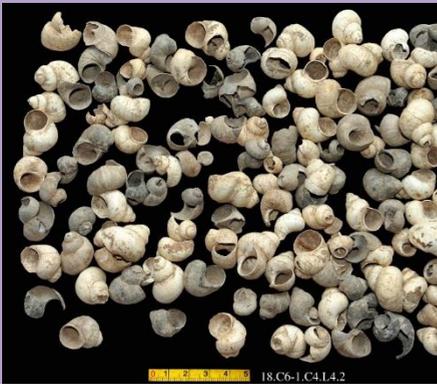
Lava shelf *suspended on the wall of the NW entrance of the C6.1 lava cave.* Photo: Luong Thi Tuat



The C6.1 excavation pit in the NE entrance of the C6.1 lava cave. Source: TN17/T06 project



Biface hand axe in the C6.1 excavation pit in 2018. Source: TN17/T06



Fresh-water snail shells in the C6.1 excavation pit in 2018. Source: TN17/T06 project



Five ground marine snail shells have been found in the C6.1 excavation pit in 2018. Source: TN17/T06 project.



Fish backbone in the excavation pit in the C6.1 lava cave in 2018. Source: TN17/T06 project



Bivalve shells in the C6.1 excavation pit in 2018. Source: TN17/T06 project

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The M1 skeleton first revealed in the C6.1 excavation pit in 2018. Source: TN17/T06 project



The entire M1 skeleton revealed in the C6.1 excavation pit in 2019. Photo: Luong Thi Tuat



The M2 skeleton of a 4-year girl dating back 6,100BP, revealed in the C6.1 excavation pit in 2018. Photo: Le Xuan Hung



The skull of M2 skeleton has been restored after the 2018 excavation. Photo: Nguyen Lan Cuong

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The M3 skeleton revealed in the C6.1 excavation pit in 2018. Photo: Le Xuan Hung



The M4 skeleton just revealed in the C6.1 excavation pit in 2019. Photo: Luong Thi Tuat

3. Conclusion

As the most important and key/pillar heritage of Krongno Volcano Geopark, that now has been renamed Dak Nong Geopark, lava caves in Krongno area contain both natural and cultural heritage values: geological heritage, biological diversity as well as archaeological values.

Archaeological sites in the Krongno lava caves contain residence evidences of prehistoric people lived there. Especially, their skeletons firstly have been discovered in right the lava cave. The important discovery has recognized a new form of residence and ways of adaptation of the ancient people in The Central Highlands of Vietnam. The results of the C6.1 excavation clearly show the living of people, who occupied and owned the Krongno volcanic region, dated back to around 7,000 – 4,000 BP. These results make great contributions to understanding of regional history, exhibitions, conservation and tourism. In order to use these values efficiently, excavation and in-situ conservation should be considered as the best possible/optimal method, which might be applied to other sites as well.

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Keywords: lava cave, geological heritage, artefact, prehistoric, skeleton.

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Lava caves in Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces (NE China)



The Jingpohu Global Geopark; Photo: Michael Laumanns

The Jingpohu Global Geopark in Heilongjiang province is formed by volcanic rocks and is situated about 110 km south of Mudanjiang city. The volcanic zone is situated along the important NE-striking Dunhua-Mishan fault at the eastern margin of the Eurasian Plate. Approximately 500 km² of lava were emitted in several Pliocene-Holocene eruptive phases between 780,000 and 2,500 years ago by 16 local craters, 4 of which are accessible to visitors in the Crater National Forest Park at an elevation of about 1,070 m a.s.l. in the NW corner of the park, also known as the “Underground Forest”. The latter craters are the source of the lava that has travelled down a 60 km long tributary valley towards the Mudanjiang river in the SE and has finally blocked the river forming the famous Diaosuilou waterfall, now being part of the touristic attractions of the Geopark.

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Wood & Zhang (2010) have briefly described the geological settings as well as seven caves from the afore-mentioned lava flow:

- Weihuting Cave, upflow about 5.2 km from the Geopark's entrance gate;
- Longyandongtian Cave (Dragon Rock Cave), 9.2 km from the entrance gate;
- Shenshui Cave (Driven Water Cave), 200 m SE of Longyandongtian Cave;
- Gubindong Cave (Ancient Ice Cave), 15 km from the entrance gate (3 roof collapses leading down into one cave);
- Jimei Cave (Sisters Cave), 13.3 km from the entrance gate (small roof collapse separating 2 cave segments);
- Kanlianmiying Cave (Anti-Japan Allied Army Secret Camp), 19 km from the entrance gate (has Chinese army remains).
- A short cave (nowadays called "Lion Cave") connecting two of the lava emitting craters of the "Underground forest".

Since 2010, a number of the afore-mentioned caves, as well as other cave sites, were made accessible to tourists by wooden walkways from the main road between the entrance of the Geopark and the "Underground Forest" craters. These tourist caves were visited by Russian, Dutch and German cavers in January 2019 and are described below in their order from SE to NW along the main road towards the craters. Regrettably, our team had no permission to do any surveying work. A proper cave documentation was suggested to the Geopark management though.

Shenyang (Sheep) Cave is the first lava cave signposted on the main road to the craters. The cave is accessible by a wooden plankway with stairs. It is situated only 20 m from the road. The main (NW) entrance leads into a passage about 4 m wide and high which winds in southerly direction. After about 50 m another walkable roof collapse is reached and the cave bends towards the SE, passes a small daylight in the roof and finally ends in an ice plug. The cave is a cold-air trap and probably the ice remains during the entire year. Temperatures in the whole cave were well below the freezing point during our visit. There is beautiful aa rope lava on the floor as well as lava ledges along both walls. This cave does not match any of the descriptions provided by Wood & Zhang (2010). The length of the cave is estimated to be 150 m.



Shenyang Cave; Photo: I. Ermakova.



Ice in Shenyang Cave; Photo: I. Ermakova.

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Nested Caves is a succession of short lava caves and signposted very close to the main road. The ensemble has short tube segments as well as a lava bridge. A nice lava fall is visible in one of the segments where liquid lava from a narrow side passage (leading to another entrance) flew down a ledge. Due to the instability of some of the cave segments, the Geopark has erected some artificial columns to support the roof of the cave. This site hasn't been described by Wood & Zhang (2010).

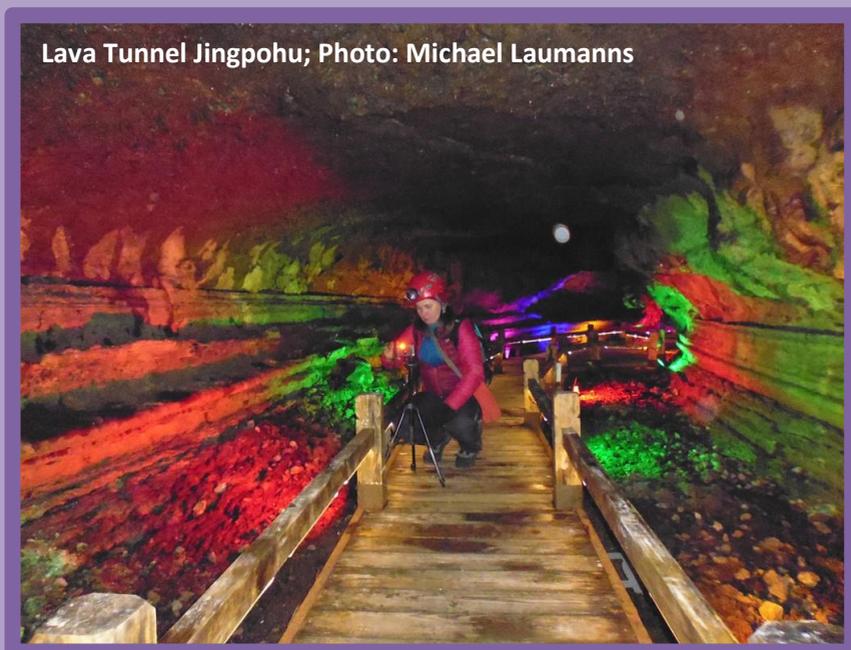
Nested Cave; Photo: I. Ermakova.



Weihuting Lava Tunnel was described by Wood & Zhang (2010) as follows: "This cave can be found 100 m north of the 5.2 km point from the entrance gate to the crater forest park highway. The cave entrance is 7 m wide and 1.7 m high, although the passage height increases to 2.0 m farther into the cave. The ceiling is densely packed with conical lava stalactites. The wall surface is smooth and there are layers of protruding glaze. The floor is patterned pahoehoe. There are also floor driplets of different sizes. It is a spacious cavern, like a large hall." During our visit in January 2019 we found the far reaching parts of the 50 m long cave free of frost and hosting a few hibernating bats. One Hilgendorf's Tube-nosed Bat (*Murinus hilgendorfi*) was seen as well as three unidentified small Vespertilionid bats.

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Lava Tunnel lies immediately left of the main road. It is a touristic show cave with a ticket office, visitor facilities, typical colourful electric lighting, and a wooden walkway throughout the whole SE (downstream) segment of the cave, which is about 200 m long. The small entrance pit is fitted with stairs and leads into a passage 4-7 m in width and 1.5-4 m in height. The SE cave segment branches around two lava columns and leads to another entrance fitted with a staircase and a metal door. There are several beautiful lava ledges along both walls and aa rope lava on the floor in places. The temperatures in the cave are moderate and the site appears to be one of the most important bat hibernation places in the Geopark. At least 20 *Murinus hilgendorfi*, party in clusters, were noted. There were also 3 individuals of a *Plecotus* species, probably Ognev's long-eared bat (*Plecotus ognevi*). Also, the same small Vespertilionid species like in Weihuting Lava Tunnel was seen. The NW (upstream) cave segment starts somewhat smaller (2 m wide and high) but the staff from the Geopark did not wish us to enter this gallery, which is not open to tourists. It is unclear whether "Lava Tunnel" has already been described by Wood & Zhang (2010) - possibly it is identical with Longyandongtian Cave (Dragon Rock Cave) or Jiemei Cave (Sisters Cave).



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Ancient Ice Cave (Gubingdong Cave) was described by Wood & Zhang (2010) under the name Gubingdong Cave (Ancient Ice Cave) as follows: “Access to this cave lies about 15 km up-flow from the entrance gate of the crater forest park highway. There are 3 collapse pits overlying a cave that branches in two, the northern branch being known as Gubingdong. This cave has a passage diameter of about 8 m. In summer surface water seeps into the cave through ceiling cracks and runs to the low-lying places in the cave, where it freezes in winter. The ice remains frozen through the summer.” Nowadays the large main roof collapse of this cave is made accessible by a wooden pathway from the main road towards the craters. The collapse is situated about 200 m from the road. The main (northern) segment of the Cave (called “Foggy Cave”) is about 200 m long and was the most spacious lava cave seen by us during our visit in January 2019 (8-10 m wide and 6-8 m high). The floor of Foggy Cave is entirely covered with partly large boulders. The cave segment leads to another entrance further north. The fog inside the cave, mentioned on a display, was not noticed by us during our visit in winter. Beside the aforementioned ice lake in the short southern cave segment there is a short section of subsidiary narrow lava tunnels at the SW side of the main roof collapse (called “Fairy Cave”).

Central Roof Collapse of Ancient Ice Cave with Wooden Walkways; Photo: H. Steiner.



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Underground Lava Fall hasn't been described by Wood & Zhang (2010). It is situated about 200 m from the main road towards the "Underground forest" and resembles a short lava cave segment (6-8 m wide and 4-6 m high) of only 20 m length. However, it has a beautiful lava fall over a 3 m high step that is worth a visit.

Lion Cave is located in the "Underground forest" crater IV has been mentioned by Wood & Zhang (2010), who state that it is possible to walk from one crater (crater IV) to another (crater III) through the cave. However, the cave is merely a large rock-shelter that can be entered from crater IV, with no connection to crater III. There are steps and a wooden walkway.

About 150 km further SW from the Jingpohu Geopark and 80 km east of Baishan city the active Tianchi (Baitoushan) volcano in Changbaishan (Jilin province) forms part of the border to North Korea. It features a scenic summit caldera, about 5 km in diameter, filled with a 9.8 km² lake at 2.189 m a.s.l. The lake is up to 384 m deep. The area is a popular touristic site for Chinese but the local authorities are still reluctant to receive foreigners close to the border. On the north slope of the volcano, in an area restricted to visitors, Chinese geologists have surveyed a 560 m long lava tube, called Silidong. Their article (Zhengquan et al. 2015) has a detailed cave map and describes the cave insofar as special, as recent pyroclastic flows have entered the cave through one or more entrances leaving unique ash deposits inside the cave. Apart from Silidong no other lava tubes became known from the Tianchi volcano.

The afore-mentioned brief article of Wood & Zhang (2010) provides the best available guidance on volcanic caves in China so far. Generally speaking, the state of documentation of China's volcanic caves is entirely insufficient. This is partly a result of the fact that Chinese key institutions exclusively deal with karst caves and have not yet developed any interest in volcanic caves. The longest Chinese lava tube known today is 729 m long Djin Fu Dong in Yunnan province, close to the Myanmar border (Zhalov 2011, profile). In consequence, it is expected that important discoveries related to volcanic caves in China are possible in the future.

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Installation of pāhoehoe by lava tubes and tunnels: concept and volcano-geomorphological signatures

This article, authored by Michel Detay and Björn Hróarsson has recently been published in *Géomorphologie* Vol 24 No.4. It contains much that will be of interest to members of the commission, and the English abstract is included below. The full article, in French, can be found at <https://journals.openedition.org/geomorphologie/12557>. (Ed.).

English Abstract

Pāhoehoe and 'a'ā basaltic lava flows are common on volcanic islands such as Hawaii, Reunion Island and Iceland. They are present in all LIP and giant lava flows identified in planetary volcanology. In terms of both areal coverage and total volume, pāhoehoe flows dominate basaltic lavas in subaerial and submarine environments on Earth. Several processes for pāhoehoe lava flow emplacement have been identified, at different scales, from the extrusion of small lobes to the formation of giant flows.

Thanks to the dynamics of geological fluids, we put forward a new paradigm to explain the emplacement of pāhoehoe lavas. The kinematics of the fluid mechanics is expressed through (immaterial) steam tubes that go on to become lava tubes and then lava tunnels (TTL). Lava tunnels, once considered a speleological curiosity, have been established to play a central role in the dynamics of geological fluids. The anastomosing network of TTL is integral to the pāhoehoe's placement dynamics, both in open channel flows and pipe flows (inflation). The pāhoehoe fluid is considered to be a reactor in its own right. This fluid harbours numerous physicochemical reactions (including fractional crystallization, exsolution, segregation, coalescence and buoyancy), and is characterized by various interfaces and transition zones between the different constantly changing states of matter (number of phases, Newtonian fluid, Bingham and Herschel-Bulkley complex fluids). Various volcano-geomorphological indicators, at various observation scales on the surface and underground, reveal the dynamics of emplacement and make it possible to identify them in current and ancient flows. The paradigm of emplacement by TTL is crucial to both pāhoehoes and constituting LIP.