

ABSTRACT  
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## **Quantitative Assessment of the Potential for Karst Features to Lead to Caves in a Topographically Subdued Karst Landscape**

**George VENI**

George Veni & Associates, 11304 Candle Park, San Antonio, Texas 78249-4421 USA

The environmental impacts of urban developments in topographically subdued karst areas are often difficult to predict. The small karst features typical of such areas are seldom visible on aerial photographs and topographic maps and are hard to find and assess in the field. Carefully designed grid searches are needed to find the features. At least some excavation is critical to accurately describe them. If local karst development is adequately understood, a model can be developed to quantitatively assess the descriptions of the karst features and accurately estimate their potential to lead to caves, which are the sites of highest hydrologic significance and environmental vulnerability. This information can be applied to guide urban development away from the most sensitive areas. However, we must keep the perspective that karst areas as a whole are vulnerable, and karst features represent only the most visible and sensitive features within a highly sensitive and permeable terrain.