

ABSTRACT
SPELEO BRAZIL 2001
Brasília DF, 15-22 de julho de 2001

13th International Congress of Speleology
4th Speleological Congress of Latin América and Caribbean
26th Brazilian Congress of Speleology

Cenozoic History of the Moravian Karst Cave Systems, Czech Republic

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The Moravian Karst (MK) is an example of a fluviokarst area, which is usually subdivided into three segments – each with a separate drainage pattern. Cave systems were formed by subsurface streams during the Cenozoic. These cave systems, the length of which exceeds 30 km, always consist of lower and upper cave levels. The lower levels are genetically linked with the bottom of the karst valley and were formed in the Early Miocene whereas large upper levels have been formed by subsurface rivers since the Late Miocene after blocking the springs of lower levels by sediments. The MK cave systems underwent several stages of cave sediment deposition and erosion. A reconstruction of hydrological processes during the Early, Middle and Late Pleistocene was based on radiometric and paleomagnetic datings of preserved cave deposits.