

ABSTRACT
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Weathering of Cave Walls in Martinska Jama, SW Slovenia

Nadja Zupan HAJNA

Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU, Postojna, SLOVENIA

Martinska Jama is a cave situated in karst area of Matarsko Podolje in the south-west part of Slovenia. The cave was formed in transition between Lower and Upper Cretaceous carbonate beds. In some parts of the cave limestone walls are extremely weathered specially in side passage Boeganov Rov. Limestone beds are weathered from few millimetres to some centimetres in depth, depend on freshness of breakdowns and presence of fissures. The weathered zone of carbonate rock is almost identical to parent rock in its mineral and chemical composition yet it is much more porous. It is very unusual that the weathered remain is not insoluble rest but purified calcite. Weathered zone of limestone bedrock has "spongy" like texture. The main reason of limestone weathering in this part of the cave is probably corrosive moisture which has it origin in percolation water from the surface above the cave.