

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

Non-Meteoric Speleogenesis: Evidence from Eastern Australia

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Many caves in Palaeozoic limestones of eastern Australia have morphological, hydrological and mineralogical features indicating a non-meteoric, hydrothermal or artesian origin. Some caves decrease in volume with depth. Structurally guided cavities frequently terminate in blind ends. Cupolas, spongework, pockets and blades are common. Many caves intersect palaeokarst. Caves are often poorly related to the surrounding hydrology. Some caves and whole karsts lack streamsinks, springs or both. Cave streams postdate the main phase of excavation. Palaeokarst and less-soluble bedrock is altered, with pyrite and dolomite emplaced. These weather to form aragonite, huntite and gypsum. Etched walls, spar coatings and boxwork are common. Some caves contain remnants of iron-rich carbonate fills.