

ABSTRACT
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Petrography of Lithified Cave Sediments

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Lithified cave sediments occur in palaeokarst deposits, relict caves and "caves without roofs". Lithification and diagenesis can transform the whole range of cave deposits into indurated rocks. These often contain fossils and are frequently misidentified as flowstone. In vadose conditions meniscus cement forms in coarse clastics. Water seeping through entrance facies emplaces spar and flushes out fines, forming pelletal and caliche-like textures. Speleothem recrystallises, losing depositional texture. In phreatic conditions acicular cements form, which change by neomorphism to blocky spar. Carbonate sands and muds, deposited in caves flooded by the sea, resemble marine limestones. Lithified lime muds from caves resemble marine mudstones.