

ABSTRACT  
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## **Preliminary Results of the Glacio-Speleological Expedition on Tyndall Glacier**

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In the months February and March 2000 the "Associazione La Venta" organized a speleo-glaciological mission on the Tyndall Glacier (Patagonia, Chile). In the ablation zone a well-developed surface drainage network occurs and supraglacial streams plunge down into moulins. The major streams have a wide catchment area and experience a discharge of some  $m^3 s^{-1}$ ; these streams feed huge moulins located about 7 km upstream the front of the glacier. The two largest moulins experience 24 hours cyclic phenomena of rising and decreasing of the internal water level. Probably this kind of behaviour cannot be explained only by the input discharge changes, and we presume that the deformation of the englacial conduit plays also a relevant role. Along the East margin of the glacier we discovered also three large glacier caves formed at the contact between ice and lateral moraines or basal bedrock.