

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

**Updating the Caves Distribution of Arcos-Pains-Doresópolis
Speleologic-Carbonatic Province**

[**Atualização da Distribuição de Cavidades Significativas da Província Carbonática
Espeleológica de Arcos-Pains-Doresópolis**]

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The Arcos – Pains - Doresópolis Speleologic-Carbonatic Province (APDSCP) is situated on the Southwest São Francisco River Basin, including the following towns: Arcos, Pains, Doresópolis, Córrego Fundo and Bambuí.

The increasing of the explorations, mapping and studies in the APDSCP, since 1980 decade, was made and executed by several speleological groups like ESPAM (Espeleogrupo Aníbel Matos), GBPE (Grupo Bambuí de Pesquisas Espeleológicas), NAE (Núcleo de Atividades Espeleológicas) e GAPE (Grupo Agster de Pesquisas Espeleológicas). The last one (GAPE) has emphasized importance attributed due to the continuous region exploration, which allowed this group to publish two reports at the XXI Congresso Brasileiro de Espeleologia – Curitiba (PR), 1991. They are: “A gruta do Éden” e “A Província Arcos-Pains”, this last one adding up to a total of 38 caves.

Since the 1990 decade, a significant increasing in the caves collection of APDSCP was detected. This fact is attributed to a several academic reports realized in the region added to Environments Reports Licences made by consultants of calcareous and dolomites mining. It has become possible due to a greater inspection by Governmental Environments Departments, who implemented the following laws:

- Resolução nº 005/87 – CONAMA, determinating the speleological studies enclosing to Environments Impact Reports;
- Portaria nº 887, 15/06/90 – IBAMA;
- Decreto Governamental nº 99556 – 01/09/90, referring to brazilian caves protection.

At the XXIII Brazilian Speleology Congress realized in the city of Monte Sião (MG), Guano Speleo IGC-UFMG members presented an article titled “Novos Dados de Cavernas da Província Arcos-Pains”, showing a table and map with 88 caves. In 1998, at the XL Brazilian Geology Congress in Belo Horizonte city (MG), under title “Distribuição das Cavernas da Província Espeleológica Arcos-Pains”, a total of 110 caves was showed in a table containing the main characters, beyond a map with respective localizations. Even in this event, it was presented another academic studies about this region.

In the last three years, a considerable increasing rate occurred in the universe of explored and mapped caves, mainly by the continuous acting of Environment Consultancies that produced karstic-speleological reports including caves characterizations and maps with respective localizations. Guano Speleo IGC-UFMG activities had the same importance in developing “Projeto Pains – Desenvolvimento Sustentável da Província Arcos-Pains-Doresópolis”, working with the ancient collection recovery and complementing as well as new data acquisition at the speleological sector.

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It will be intended to be presented in this event the Speleological Province Databank Updating in a table with explored and mapped significant caves. It will contain eleven columns with numerical data about linear length, horizontal projection, depths, toponimy, UTM and exploring date, beyond the caves names and its town localization, the data source, detailments (if it is mapped or not) and even the appearance of water stream inside.

The table above presents the whole explored significant caves, distributed according with linear lenghts:

2 caves with linear lenghts over 1000 meters;
128c aves with linear lenghts over 50 meters;
2 caves with linear lenghts over 500 meters;
103 caves with linear lenghts over 30 meters;
110 caves with linear lenghts over 100 meters;
89 caves with linear lenghts over 15 meters.