

# Glossary of Speleological and Caving Terms

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## Introduction

The first Australian caving glossary was written in 1960 by Joseph N Jennings. Over the years this has appeared in a few publications and has been updated. It most recently appeared as:

**JENNINGS Joe N**, 1985, *CAVE AND KARST TERMINOLOGY*, in **Matthews P G (ed)**, *Australian Karst Index 1985*, ASF Broadway, pp 14.1-13

This *Glossary of Speleological and Caving Terms* on Internet is a follow up to an article:

**METH Max G**, 1998, *CAVING DEFINITIONS*, in *AUSTRALIAN CAVER*, No. 143, February 1998, ASF Broadway, pp 7-8.

Following the definition of each term in the glossary is the **THEME** and the **REFERENCE**. The **REFERENCE** is the source of the term. This is for the first recorded listing of the term in an Australian caving glossary, or in some other publication. It does not reflect the authorship of the **CURRENT** definition of the term. Max G. Meth

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## A

- AA** A type of lava surface in which the surface was too stiff to flow well, and so broke up into fragments. It is characterised by broken material which can vary from simple lumps to very sharp prickly fragments. It grades to pahoehoe.  
*Lava Cave term. Ref KG*
- ABNEY LEVEL** A type of clinometer, having a bubble tube.

*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ

- ABSEIL** Controlled descent on a rope using friction obtained by passing the rope through any of various devices, eg rack, descender, karabiners. Safety considerations in caving would preclude abseiling without a mechanical device.  
*Climbing and SRT.* Ref JJ
- ACCIDENTAL** An animal accidentally living in a cave, and not a normal resident. Usually fallen or washed into cave. Could be drawn in by cave breathing. cf Cavernicole, Troglobite.  
*Cave - Biota.* Ref JJ
- ACETYLENE** A flammable gas C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, produced by water reacting with Calcium Carbide and burnt to yield light. See Carbide.  
*Miscellaneous terms.* Ref JJ
- ACTIVE CAVE** A cave with a stream flowing in it. cf Live cave.  
*Cave - Kinds of.* Ref JJ
- ADAPTATION** An inherited characteristic of an organism in structure, function or behaviour which makes it better able to survive and reproduce. Visible examples of adaptations to cave life are: lengthening of appendages, loss of pigments, modification of eyes.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna.* Ref JJ
- ADVENTIVE** Introduced accidentally, as most weeds are.  
*Flora.* Ref MM
- AEOLIAN**  
**CALCARENITE** A limestone formed on land by solution and redeposition of calcium carbonate in coastal dune sands that contain calcareous sand from mollusc shells and other organic remains. Also as Eolian. Syn Dune limestone, Aeolianite.  
*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref JJ
- AEOLIAN** Pertaining to the wind. Used for landforms generated by the wind, or sediments transported by the wind. Also as Eolian.  
*Geology.* Ref KG
- AEOLIANITE** Also as Eolianite. A rock formed on land by cementation of calcareous dune sands. syn Dune calcarenite, Dune limestone, Aeolian calcarenite. See Calcarenite.  
*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref KG
- AFFINITY** In biology, a similar but distinct species, closely related to the given species. Also applies to interrelated minerals etc.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna.* Ref MM
- AGGRESSIVE** A measure of the relative capacity of water to dissolve rock material. In karst, this usually involves the dissolution of limestone or dolomite by the action of dissolved carbon dioxide. Although other acids may be present.  
*Hydrology terms.* Ref JJ
- AIR POCKET** An enclosed air space above a lake water surface in a cave. Only accessible by diving.  
*Cave - Parts of.* Ref WM
- ALCOVE** A side passage that is relatively short (or appears to be so) and does not have an obvious continuation.  
*Cave - Parts of.* Ref MM
- ALGAE** Photosynthetic plants with a range of pigments in addition to chlorophyll. No root, stem

or leaves.

*Flora. RefMM*

- ALLOGENIC DRAINAGE** Underground karst drainage that is derived entirely from surface run off from adjacent non karstic and generally impermeable rocks. Cf Autogenic drainage.  
*Karst - Miscellaneous features of. RefDL*
- ALLUVIUM** Sandy or silty matter deposited by rivers or floods.  
*Geology. RefMM*
- AMPHIBIOUS** Living on land and in water. cf Terrestrial, Aquatic, Arboreal.  
*Fauna. RefMM*
- ANASTOMOSIS** A mesh of small hollow tubes (the result of solution in the phreatic zone) in solid rock, or half tubes when exposed in a fractured rock surface. Typically 1 to 4cm in diameter. The holes are not the 'preserved' tunnels of worm-like animals.  
*Cave - Erosional & Solutional Features. RefJJ*
- ANCHOR** A fixed object used to secure a ladder, rope or safety line used for climbing.  
*Climbing and SRT. RefJJ*
- ANEMOLITE** A speleothem (eg Helictite, stalagmite) with a preferred orientation caused by air currents. Seen in some Nullarbor caves.  
*Cave - Depositional Features. RefWM*
- ANTENNAE** The feelers on the head of an insect, crustacean or other invertebrates that function as sensory organs.  
*Fauna. RefAC*
- ANTHODITE** Speleothem similar to Helictites, composed of quill-like or feathery crystal clusters of long needlelike crystals of aragonite or gypsum. Each crystal has a central canal.  
*Cave - Depositional Features. RefKG*
- AQUATIC** Living in water. cf Terrestrial, Amphibious, Arboreal.  
*Fauna. RefAC*
- AQUIFER** A body of rock saturated with water, that is capable of allowing the subterranean water to be stored, transmitted and is capable of absorbing recharge water. It can yield water through a well or a spring.  
*Hydrology terms. RefAC*
- ARAGONITE** A less common crystalline form of calcium carbonate  $\text{CaCO}_3$  than calcite, being denser and orthorhombic. Typically occurring as many small acicular needles. See Anthodite.  
*Mineral, Rock and Chemical terms. RefJJ*
- ARBOREAL** Living in trees. cf Terrestrial, Aquatic, Amphibious.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna. RefMM*
- ARETE KARST** Tropical landscape of near vertical sided spires. Also as Pinnacle Karst.  
*Karst - Kinds of. RefWM*
- ARKOSE** A sandstone which contains 25% or more feldspar grains, derived from granitic sources. Arkosic is the adjective.  
*Geology. RefKG*
- ARMCHAIR** An experienced caver who now rarely if ever goes caving, but who may offer advice to

<b>CAVER</b>	those that do. <i>Miscellaneous terms.</i> RefMM
<b>ARTEFACT</b>	An item of human manufacture, normally applied only to the products of previous culture. Artefacts may or may not be buried by sediment. Examples bone or stone tools, engraving, painting. [Advise cave manager if such items are found.] <i>Miscellaneous terms.</i> RefJJ
<b>ARTESIAN</b>	Where water moves under pressure through completely flooded cavities. Much of Australia is underlain by Artesian strata. <i>Geology.</i> RefTW
<b>ARTHROPODS</b>	A Phylum of invertebrates, being very widespread. They are the most common group of animals inhabiting caves, having jointed bodies, many limbs and exoskeletons eg insects, crustaceans, spiders, millipedes. <i>Fauna.</i> RefJJ
<b>ASCENDER</b>	A mechanical device for ascending a rope. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> RefJJ
<b>ASH</b>	Sand sized or finer-grained volcanic ejecta. Coarser material is called lapilli. <i>Lava Cave term.</i> RefKG
<b>ASPHODILITES</b>	no definition (term mentioned in ASF codes) <i>Miscellaneous terms.</i> RefMM
<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	A stable community of different species living in a specific habitat. <i>Cave - Biota.</i> RefJJ
<b>AUTOGENIC DRAINAGE</b>	Underground karst drainage that is derived entirely by absorption of meteoric (atmospheric) water into the karst rock surface. <i>Karst - Miscellaneous features of.</i> RefDL
<b>AVEN</b>	A dome or vertical hole in a cave roof, particularly that is difficult or impossible to free-climb. It does not reach the surface. It may have a passage leading from it. cf Blind shaft. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> RefMM
<b>AZIMUTH</b>	In surveying, the true bearing of a survey line, obtained from an accurate survey or <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> RefJJ

## B

<b>BACON</b>	A thin, translucent sheet of dripstone hanging from a cave wall or roof, and with streaks of colour suggesting bacon. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> RefUC
<b>BACTERIA</b>	Unicellular microscopic plants. They are autotrophs, ie make their own food. They sometimes form aggregations. Very important in caves as decomposers causing high CO2 levels seen in some caves. Probably play a role in most speleogenesis. <i>Biology - Flora &amp; Fauna.</i> RefAC
<b>BARE KARST</b>	Karst with much exposed bedrock. Syn. Naked karst, Unmantled karst. <i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> RefJJ

<b>BASALT</b>	An igneous rock that typically underlies oceanic basins. A dark coloured, generally fine grained rock that occurs widely as lava flows of many different ages. Lava caves occur most commonly in basaltic lava. <i>Geology. Ref DL</i>
<b>BASIN</b>	A segment of the earth's crust which has been downwarped. When filled with sediments they increase in thickness toward the centre. cf Craton, Orogen. <i>Geology. Ref MM</i>
<b>BAT</b>	A mammal of the order Chiroptera, divided into several families. The only mammals capable of true flight, having membranes between the toes of their forefeet. <i>Fauna. Ref JJ</i>
<b>BATHYPHREATIC</b>	Referring to water moving with some speed through downward looping passages in the phreatic zone. <i>Hydrology terms. Ref JJ</i>
<b>BEARING</b>	In surveying, the angle measured clockwise that a line makes with north. See also Grid, Magnetic & True north. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term. Ref JJ</i>
<b>BED</b>	A stratum or layer in a sedimentary rock sequence, or unconsolidated sediment. <i>Geology. Ref JJ</i>
<b>BEDDING GRIKE</b>	A narrow rectilinear slot in a karst rock outcrop due to solution along a bedding plane. <i>Karst - Miscellaneous features of. Ref JJ</i>
<b>BEDDING PLANE CAVE</b>	A cavity developed along a bedding plane and elongate in cross section. May result from a difference in solubility between the 2 beds. <i>Cave - Kinds of. Ref JJ</i>
<b>BEDDING PLANE</b>	A surface separating 2 beds of rock, usually planar. <i>Geology. Ref JJ</i>
<b>BEDROCK</b>	(1) In a cave, a portion of the native rock strata that has not undergone collapse. The walls and roof of caves are often in bedrock. (2) In karst, the rock that underlies the limestone strata. <i>Karst - Miscellaneous features of. Ref MM</i>
<b>BELAY POINT</b>	A fixed point used to support the belay, usually and ideally independent of the support point of the ladder or rope used for climbing. <i>Climbing and SRT. Ref MM</i>
<b>BELAY ROPE</b>	The rope used for belaying, separate (usually) from the climbing rope. <i>Climbing and SRT. Ref MM</i>
<b>BELAY</b>	1 The attachment (often by a separate rope) of a climber, or a ladder to a secure point. 2 The secure point itself. 3 The use of a belay as a life line during ascent or descent of a climber. see On belay. <i>Climbing and SRT. Ref JJ</i>
<b>BELOW</b>	Emergency call (often shouted) of danger. Signal given to those below that something is falling. Only useful if there is voice contact between the top and bottom of a pitch.

*Climbing and SRT. RefMM*

- BENCH** A horizontal shelf along the wall of a lava tunnel, generally close to floor level. It is formed at the edge of a lava flow level, by cooling and solidification of the edge followed by a lowering of the level.  
*Lava Cave term. RefKG*
- BENCH** Some 'benches' form differently by the rolling down of a long flap of wall lining. Gradations can occur, eg. where a thin bench breaks free and starts to roll downwards.  
*Lava Cave term. RefKG*
- BENTHIC** Bottom dwelling. The ocean floor, from the low water mark to the greatest depths. Some cave fauna would occur in this zone in submarine or submerged caves. cf Littoral.  
*Geology. RefMM*
- BIOCLASTIC** Containing grains composed of fragmented and transported organic material, eg. shell fragments.  
*Cave - Biota. RefKG*
- BIOGENIC** Of biological origin. eg most limestone is biogenic.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna. RefMM*
- BIOGEOGRAPHY** The study of the geographical distribution of animals and plants over the globe. cf Zoogeography, Phytogeography.  
*Cave - Biota. RefAC*
- BIOMASS** The total mass or weight of living matter, usually relates to a given area, habitat or community.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna. RefMM*
- BIO-SPACE** The separated or interconnected air or water-filled spaces that are inhabited by living organisms. The spaces may be cracks, pipes, channels, interstitial medium, saturated zone, tubes, voids, microcaverns, larger cavities including caves.  
*Cave - Biota. RefAC*
- BIOSPELEOLOGY** The study of plant, animal and other organisms living in caves.  
*Cave - Biota. RefJJ*
- BIOTA** The total assemblage of living organisms of a district. Biotic.  
*Fauna. RefAC*
- BIVALVE** A Mollusc. A soft bodied animal having a shell in 2 halves. eg scallop, oyster. Often preserved (along with other mollusc types) as fossils in limestone.  
*Fauna. RefMM*
- BLANKET** A dripstone curtain, thicker than Bacon, and not noticeably translucent.  
*Cave - Depositional Features. RefMM*
- BLIND SHAFT** A vertical extension upwards in a cave that does not reach the surface. cf Aven  
*Cave - Parts of. RefJJ*
- BLIND VALLEY** A valley which ends at its lower point in a ridge or wall of limestone. It has (or had) either a perennial or intermittent stream flow, that escapes underground at the lowest point.

*Karst - Miscellaneous features of.* RefJJ

- BLISTER CAVE** Strictly, a cave formed by gas pressure pushing up a surface crust. True blisters are rare, & generally too small to enter. Some large ones are known overseas. The term has been misused for single simple chambers formed by drainage of liquid lava.  
*Lava Cave term.* RefKG
- BLOWHOLE** A vertical hole often circular, on the surface in karst through which air blows in and out, often audibly. Common feature of the Nullarbor Plain. Elsewhere in Australia known as a Pipe or Solution pipe. In USA known as a Blowing cave.  
*Karst - Depression Features of.* RefJJ
- BLOWHOLE** A hole to the surface in the roof of a sea cave through which waves force air and water.  
*Karst - Miscellaneous features of.* RefJJ
- BOBBIN** A descender that opens to enclose the rope around two fixed pulleys. May have a handle ("STOP") which must be squeezed to allow descent.  
*Climbing and SRT.* RefRW
- BOLLARD** A projection of rock over which rope, tape or wire can be placed to create an anchor.  
*Climbing and SRT.* RefRW
- BOLT** A high tensile steel bolt used as an anchor.  
*Climbing and SRT.* RefJJ
- BOMB** A large fragment of volcanic ejecta. Some bombs show twisted forms indicating that they were still liquid when ejected, but solidified before landing. 'Breadcrust' and 'cowpat' bombs are named for their appearance.  
*Lava Cave term.* RefKG
- BONE BRECCIA** A breccia containing many bone fragments. see Breccia. [Advise cave manager if such items are found.]  
*Cave - Erosional & Solutional Features.* RefJJ
- BOOBTUBE** A clear plastic tube about a metre long, used as a straw to drink water from crevices and otherwise inaccessible pools.  
*Miscellaneous terms.* RefMM
- BOTRYOID** A speleothem shaped like a bunch of grapes. A variety of Coralloid, formed either in air or water.  
*Cave - Depositional Features.* RefHF
- BOULDER  
CHOKE** A collapse of rock from floor to roof which makes further progress difficult or dangerous.  
*Cave - Parts of.* RefMM
- BOXWORK** A speleothem composed of intersecting mineral blades. In Nullarbor caves they are formed by the filling of cracks that form in dried out sediments with calcite material then the sediment has been eroded away.  
*Cave - Depositional Features.* RefUC
- BRAKE BAR** A round bar hinged to a karabiner or rappel rack used for abseiling.  
*Climbing and SRT.* RefJJ
- BRANCHWORK** A dendritic system of underground streams or passages that join successively to

form larger and larger streams and passages. cf Dendritic.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ

**BREAKDOWN** (1) Rock that has fallen from the wall or roof of a cave. (2) Enlargement of cave chambers by this process.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ

**BRECCIA** Rock that is composed of fragments of other rocks cemented together, often in a matrix of finer sediment.

*Cave - Erosional & Solutional Features.* Ref JJ

**BRUNTON COMPASS** A type of compass, with a hinged mirror and including a clinometer. Designed for measuring rock dip & strike.

*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ

**BRYOZOA** A Phylum of tiny colonial animals 'Lace corals', that build calcareous structures of many kinds. A fossil that was common in warm shallow Tertiary seas.

*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref KG

**BURST** See Flap.

*Lava Cave term.* Ref KG

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## C

**CACO<sub>3</sub>** Calcium carbonate.

*Mineral, Rock and Chemical terms.* Ref MM

**CAINOZOIC** The last of the geological eras, includes the Tertiary and Quaternary Periods. Extending from about 65 million years ago up to the present.

*Geology.* Ref KG

**CALCARENITE** An indurated sand composed mainly of detrital calcium carbonate fragments. A limestone or dolomite composed of coral or shell sand, or of sand derived from the erosion of older limestones, with sand sized particles. See Aeolianite.

*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref KG

**CALCAREOUS** Made of limestone or calcium carbonate.

*Mineral, Rock and Chemical terms.* Ref MM

**CALCIFICATION** Calcified. To become hard or stony by being impregnated with calcium salts. May apply to tree roots etc in caves.

*Processes.* Ref MM

**CALCILUTITE** A fine grained clastic (silt and clay sized particles) limestone or dolomite.

*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref KG

**CALCIRUDITE** A coarse (gravel sized) limestone. The clasts (broken fragments) making up the rock may be fossils or pieces of coral or shells or fragments of limestone, with the interstices filled with calcite, sand or mud with the whole bonded by a calcareous cement.

*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref KG

**CALCITE** The common (trigonal) crystal form of Calcium carbonate mineral [CaCO<sub>3</sub>] and the main constituent of limestone, with different crystal forms in the rhombohedral



subsystem. Occurs in caves as massive or finely crystalline speleothems or other crystal forms.

*Mineral, Rock and Chemical terms.* Ref JJ

**CALCIUM  
CARBONATE**

CaCO<sub>3</sub>. see Aragonite, Calcite

*Mineral, Rock and Chemical terms.* Ref MM

**CALCRETE**

An indurated surface formed by weathering process involving cementation of the surface soils and weathered rock by calcite, drawn to the surface by capillary action. See Kankar, Oolite.

*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref KG

**CALCSILTITE**

A limestone composed of calcareous sediments of silt size

*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref EH

**CAMBERING  
FISSURE**

A fissure that forms behind and parallel to a cliff line, as a result of the outward rotation or sliding of large blocks.

*Cave - Kinds of.* Ref KG

**CANOPY**

A compound speleothem consisting of a flowstone cover on a bedrock projection and a fringe of stalactites or shawls on the outer edge.

*Cave - Depositional Features.* Ref JJ

**CANYON**

A deep valley with steep to vertical walls. In karst, often formed by a river rising on impervious rocks outside the karst area.

*Karst - Depression Features of.* Ref JJ

**CANYON**

A deep elongated cavity cut by running water in the roof or floor of a cave, or forming a cave passage.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ

**CAPROCK**

A surface composed of Calcrete, especially where it is separated from the underlying rock by a clay or similar layer..

*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref MM

**CARABINER**

See Karabiner. Also Crab, Krab.

*Climbing and SRT.* Ref MM

**CARBIDE LAMP**

Produces light by burning acetylene gas formed by reacting water and (calcium) carbide.

*Lighting term.* Ref MM

**CARBIDE**

Calcium Carbide Ca<sub>2</sub>C. Reacts with water to form Acetylene gas (and carbon dioxide & calcium oxide) and because of impurities, also produces other noxious gases.

*Miscellaneous terms.* Ref JJ

**CARBON DIOXIDE**

CO<sub>2</sub>, a colourless odourless gas, which when dissolved in water, forms Carbonic acid.

*Mineral, Rock and Chemical terms.* Ref UC

**CARBONIC ACID**

H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, an acid typical of ground water systems. The agent responsible for dissolving most caves.

*Mineral, Rock and Chemical terms.* Ref UC

**CARNIVOROUS**

Carnivore. An animal that feeds on any other animal. cf Herbivorous,

Insectivorous, Omnivorous.

*Fauna*. RefMM

**CATCHMENT**

The area drained by a watercourse, or by a system of watercourses. The subterranean catchment may well be larger than the apparent surface one. eg as at Mole Creek & Jenolan. Dolines may form a catchment, which may be crucial in their later development.

*Geology*. RefAC

**CAVE COMPONENT**

Alcove, Aven, Cavern, Chamber, Chimney, Crawlway, Decoration, Dome, Fissure, Flattener, Gallery, Grotto, Hall, Passage, Pillar, Pitch, Pothole, Rift, Rock pendant, Room, Shaft, Siphon, Speleogen, Speleothem, Squeeze, Sump, etc.

*Cave - Parts of*. RefMM

**CAVE AGE**

Most karst cave passages are less than 1 million years old, though Relict Caves could be hundreds of millions of years old. The most recently formed passages may be as little as 10,000 years old.

*Speleology term*. RefDL

**CAVE BLISTER**

A speleothem consisting of a hemisphere shape of thin calcite. See also Cave postule.

*Cave - Depositional Features*. RefJJ

**CAVE BREATHING, (CONT)**

(2) Barometric pressure changes (approx weekly). (3) Draught due to a cave with entrances on different levels. (4) Cold air sinking into a cave displacing warmer air. (5) Wind blowing over cave entrance. (6) Streams entering a cave may cause air flow.

*Processes*. RefMM

**CAVE BREATHING**

The movement of air in and out of a cave entrance. May occur on a daily cycle. The associated air currents within the cave. Breathing may be due to a number of causes: (1) Daily pressure changes due to the sun heating the air outside the cave.

*Processes*. RefJJ

**CAVE COMMUNITY**

All the cavernicolous animals (and plants) that live in a cave, bound together by food chains and other processes.

*Cave - Biota*. RefAC

**CAVE CORAL**

Speleothems consisting of short stalks with bulbous ends or nodular, prickly, globular, pop-corn or coral-like form. Often occurring in large numbers, covering entire walls of chambers. See Coralloid.

*Cave - Depositional Features*. RefJJ

**CAVE CRICKET**

An insect of the order Orthoptera. Also known by the NZ name of Weta. Usually scavengers feeding on plant detritus in caves, and fresh or dead plant matter outside of a cave entrance.

*Cave - Biota*. RefMM

**CAVE DEPOSIT**

An accumulation of material other than speleothems, such as charcoal, fossils, skeletal remains and flood borne debris as well as clay, silt, sand and gravel. See Cave Fill.

*Cave - Erosional & Solutional Features*. RefMM

**CAVE DEVELOPMENT**

Equates to cave genesis, the processes that work together to produce caves.

*Speleology term*. RefEH

<b>CAVE EARTH</b>	See Cave fill. <i>Cave - Erosional &amp; Solutional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>CAVE ECOLOGY</b>	The study of the interaction between cave organisms and their environment. eg energy input from surface, climatic influences. <i>Cave - Biota.</i> Ref JJ
<b>CAVE ECOSYSTEM</b>	The interaction of the cave community organisms with their subterranean biospace environment. <i>Cave - Biota.</i> Ref AC
<b>CAVE EXTENT</b>	The length, breadth and depth of the smallest cube that will contain the entire cave. See Cave Length. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref MM
<b>CAVE FILL</b>	Transported materials such as silt, clay, sand, gravel and humus, deposited in a cave, and which may partly or wholly block parts of a cave. Syn Cave earth. <i>Cave - Erosional &amp; Solutional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>CAVE FLOWER</b>	See Gypsum flower. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>CAVE GROUP</b>	A number of caves, not interconnected, but geographically associated in some relief feature or geological outcrop. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref WM
<b>CAVE GUANO</b>	Accumulations of dung in caves, in some places may be partly mineralised. Main source is bats and birds. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref WM
<b>CAVE LENGTH</b>	The total length of all the passages of a cave. This normally exceeds the Cave extent. The exact method of determining Cave length varies from cave to cave and from State to State. A universal method should (ideally) be agreed on. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref MM
<b>CAVE MINERAL</b>	A secondary mineral formed in caves from a primary mineral, by a physico-chemical reaction. Examples are minerals formed by reactions with guano. <i>Mineral, Rock and Chemical terms.</i> Ref UC
<b>CAVE PEARL</b>	A smooth polished and rounded speleothem found in shallow hollows into which water drips. Consists of concentric layers around a nucleus. Also as Pisolite, Pisolith. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>CAVE POSTULE</b>	A white, hemispherical wall and roof deposit of calcite. See also Cave blister. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>CAVE RAFT</b>	See Raft. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref HF
<b>CAVE SHIELD</b>	See Shield. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref WM
<b>CAVE SPRING</b>	A natural flow of water from rock or sediment within a cave. <i>Hydrology terms.</i> Ref JJ
<b>CAVE SYSTEM</b>	A collection of caves linked by enterable passages, or linked hydrologically. Or a

large cave with extensive complex of chambers & passages.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

**CAVE**

A natural cavity in rock, large enough to be entered by people. May be water filled. May also be blocked partly or fully by sediment or ice. Commonly formed by solution in Limestone. Caves also form in many other rock types, and by many other processes.

*Cave - Kinds of.* Ref JJ

**CAVER**

A person who enters a cave for recreation and or scientific purposes. Syn, potholer, spelunker.

*Speleology term.* Ref MM

**CAVERN**

A large chamber within a cave. Also used poetically to denote a larger than average size cave.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ

**CAVERNICOLE**

An animal which normally lives in caves for the whole or part of its life cycle. Most are invertebrates. cf Accidental, Troglaxene, Troglophile & Troglobite and the aquatic equivalents Stygoxene, Stygophile & Stygobite.

*Cave - Biota.* Ref JJ

**CAVES**

Unsatisfactory term. The plural CAVES should not to be used when the meaning is the singular CAVE. eg "some caves are big" is ok, "we went to Big Cave" is ok, "we took shelter in the caves" is NOT OK. In the last case use CAVE, or use the cave name.

*Unsatisfactory term, not recommended.* Ref MM

**CAVING**

The entering and exploration of caves. Also referred to as indoor mountaineering.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

**CENOTE**

A partly water filled doline, often having vertical walls.

*Karst - Depression Features of.* Ref JJ

**CHAMBER**

The name for the largest space in a cave. Compared to other parts of the cave they generally have greater width, length & height.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ

**CHASM**

In caves, a deep, wide and elongated gap in a cave floor.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref WM

**CHERT**

A hard flint like rock of fine crystalline silica, from white through light grey to black or red or dark brown. Insoluble in water. Fractures irregularly forming very sharp edges that resist weathering. Occurs in limestone in discrete strata as nodules.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

**CHERT**

Nodules commonly less than fist sized, but may range up to 1m diameter. Flakes can be used as knife or scraper tools.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

**CHIMNEY**

A vertical opening in a cave that is narrow enough to be climbed by chimneying.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ

**CHIMNEYING**

Ascending or descending by means of opposed body and or limb pressures

against 2 facing walls.  
*Climbing and SRT*. Ref JJ

- CHOCK** A device, being a block of metal, for use as a chockstone.  
*Climbing and SRT*. Ref JJ
- CHOCKSTONE** A rock wedged between 2 fixed rock surfaces and used as an aid in climbing.  
*Climbing and SRT*. Ref JJ
- CHOKE** A cave passage that is blocked by sediment or by local collapse of walls and or roof.  
*Cave - Parts of*. Ref JJ
- CLASS** 3th rank in Taxonomic system. Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna*. Ref MM
- CLASSIFICATION** In biology, the scientific naming of all life forms eg plants, animals, fungi, algae. See Taxon.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna*. Ref MM
- CLAUSTROPHOBIA** An irrational fear of being in a closed space.  
*Miscellaneous terms*. Ref JJ
- CLINOMETER** An instrument for measuring vertical angles, or angles of dip.  
*Survey & Mapping term*. Ref JJ
- CLOGGER** A type of ascender without a handle, used with a karabiner to keep it securely on the rope.  
*Climbing and SRT*. Ref JJ
- CLOSED DEPRESSION** In karst terrain, a depression having no outlet for surface water. see Doline, Uvala.  
*Karst - Depression Features of*. Ref WM
- CLOSED TRAVERSE** In surveying, a traverse which forms a loop, thus enabling determination of a loop error.  
*Survey & Mapping term*. Ref JJ
- COCKPIT KARST** Karst of tropical areas, with residual hills that are chiefly hemispheroidal and the closed depressions often lobate. It grades up to Cone karst then Tower karst. Some geographers describe a variety of other intermediate forms.  
*Karst - Hill Features of*. Ref JJ
- COFFEE AND CREAM** A cave decoration caused by salt exudation finely shattering base rock to the consistency of flour. Deposits have colours resembling coffee and cream.  
*Cave - Erosional & Solutional Features*. Ref NP
- COL** A saddle or low point on a ridge or between adjacent peaks that gives (the easiest) access from one side to the other.  
*Geology*. Ref KG
- COLLAPSE DOLINE** A doline which has formed chiefly by the collapse of rock strata. cf Solution doline, Doline.  
*Karst - Depression Features of*. Ref WM
- COLLAPSE DOME** A chamber formed by progressive roof collapse until it reaches a stable dome-

shaped form. A rubble mound will generally be present on the floor. Collapse may initiate by the removal of hydrostatic support when the water level falls.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref KG

**COLLUVIAL**

Transported sediment deposited on a slope.

*Geology.* Ref MM

**COLUMN**

A speleothem joining floor to ceiling, formed when a stalactite and stalagmite grow and join, or when either grow to meet bedrock.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ

**COMMON NAME**

In biology, the name used in publications aimed at a wide audience as opposed to the specific name. see Species.

*Biology - Flora & Fauna.* Ref MM

**COMPASS**

An instrument with a magnetic needle that is free to point to magnetic north. Measures a bearing, the angle in degrees clockwise from north.

*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ

**CONDUIT**

1 An underground stream course (often circular or elliptical in cross section) completely water filled and under hydrostatic pressure. 2 A dry passage inferred to have been such a stream course.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ

**CONE KARST**

Karst of tropical areas, dominated by its projecting residual relief rather than by its closed depressions. Intermediate between Cockpit karst and Tower karst. Similar to Chinese term Fengcong.

*Karst - Hill Features of.* Ref JJ

**CONTIGUOUS  
KARST**

The interconnected air filled or water filled solutional or hydrological network of spaces in any area of karstified carbonate rock.

*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref AC

**CONULITE**

A speleothem which is hollow and conical and which forms in silt or other soft material, as a drill hole under a ceiling drip. A "splash cup". The drill hole sides may calcify, later erosion may leave the crystalline lining free standing. cf Boxwork.

*Cave - Erosional & Solutional Features.* Ref UC

**COPROLITE**

Fossilised large excrement of animals as found in caves, especially those used as lairs.

*Miscellaneous terms.* Ref JJ

**COPROPHAGE**

A scavenger which feeds on animal dung, including guano.

*Miscellaneous terms.* Ref JJ

**CORALLINE**

Limestone having the structure of or composed of corals, as, coralline limestone.

*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref MM

**CORALLOID**

A speleothem which is nodular, globular or coral-like in shape and which forms from thin films of water. Cf Cave coral.

*Speleology term.* Ref MM

**CORRASION**

The wearing away of bedrock or loose sediment by mechanical action of moving agents, especially water, ie Corrosion & Abrasion.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

<b>CORRIDOR</b>	An alternate name for a passage, especially when of walking height. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref WM
<b>CORROSION</b>	Syn. Solution. <i>Processes.</i> Ref JJ
<b>COVERED KARST</b>	Karst where the bedrock is mainly covered by soil or superficial deposits. <i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>COW'S TAIL</b>	A length of rope used as a safety when crossing a rebelay. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref RW
<b>CRAB</b>	See Carabiner. Also, Krab, Karabiner. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref MM
<b>CRATON</b>	A relatively large block of the earth. Being immobile the rocks are often of great age. <i>Geology.</i> Ref MM
<b>CRAWL(WAY)</b>	A passage which, because of its low roof height, must be negotiated on hands and knees. cf Flattener, Stooping, Walking. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>CROSS BEDDING</b>	Sets of inclined layers or beds, typically seen in dunes. <i>Geology.</i> Ref KG
<b>CROSS SECTION</b>	The shape of a cave passage across its width. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>CRUST</b>	A speleothem composed of thin mineral layers on bedrock or soil surfaces in caves. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref HF
<b>CRYPTIC</b>	Animals that are inconspicuous either because they are small, secretive in their habits, or well camouflaged. Applies to many cavernicoles, due to their habit of living in darkness, as well as the other reasons. <i>Fauna.</i> Ref AC
<b>CRYPTOZOA</b>	The terrestrial animals that live in darkness beneath stones, logs, bark etc, or in the soil. They are potential colonisers of caves. <i>Cave - Biota.</i> Ref JJ
<b>CRYSTAL POOL</b>	A cave pool, usually with little or no overflow, containing well formed crystals. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>CURRENT MARKING</b>	Shallow asymmetrical hollows formed by solution by turbulent waterflow and distributed regularly over karst rock surfaces. cf Scallop. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>CURTAIN</b>	A speleothem of dripstone, in the form of a wavy or folded sheet hanging from a cave wall or roof, often translucent & resonant. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ

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## D

**DARK** Of eyes, a change in the retina sensitising it to dim light. (becoming accustomed to

<b>ADAPTATION</b>	the dark). The reverse is 'Light adaption'. <i>Cave - Biota. Ref JJ</i>
<b>DARK ZONE</b>	The part of a cave in perpetual darkness, that lies beyond the Twilight zone. see Transition zone. <i>Cave - Parts of. Ref JJ</i>
<b>DAYLIGHT HOLE</b>	An opening to the surface in the roof of a cave. <i>Cave - Parts of. Ref JJ</i>
<b>DEAD CAVE</b>	A cave without streams or drips of water. <i>Cave - Kinds of. Ref JJ</i>
<b>DECLINATION</b>	The angle from true (or grid) north to magnetic north, at a given time and place. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term. Ref JJ</i>
<b>DECOMPOSERS</b>	Living things, chiefly bacteria and fungi, that live by extracting energy from tissues of dead animals and plants. <i>Miscellaneous terms. Ref JJ</i>
<b>DECORATION TYPES</b>	Column, Curtain, Dog tooth spar, Drap, Driphole, Dripstone, Eccentric, Floe calcite, Flowstone, Gour, Helictite, Helignite, Karren, Moonmilk, <i>Cave - Depositional Features. Ref MM</i>
<b>DECORATION TYPES</b>	Pendulite, Rimstone, R dam, R pool, Roof crust, Shawl, Speleogen, Stalagmite, Stalactite, Stegamite, Straw, Travertine. <i>Cave - Depositional Features. Ref MM</i>
<b>DECORATION</b>	Cave features due to secondary mineral precipitation, usually of calcite, but also Aragonite, Gypsum, Salt, Ice, Lava and other rarer minerals. Also called Speleothem. <i>Cave - Depositional Features. Ref JJ</i>
<b>DEFLATION</b>	The removal of loose fine grained material from a surface by wind action. One way of forming hollows that are not karst. <i>Geology. Ref KG</i>
<b>DENDRITIC</b>	In caves, a network formed by the merging of small channels which in turn merge to form larger ones. cf Branchwork. <i>Fauna. Ref MM</i>
<b>DESCENDER</b>	A mechanical device for descending ropes. <i>Climbing and SRT. Ref JJ</i>
<b>DETRITIVORES</b>	Pertaining to detritus-feeding invertebrates. <i>Fauna. Ref MM</i>
<b>DETRITUS</b>	1. Aggregate of fragments from organic structures as detached or broken down tissues. Small pieces of dead and decomposing plants and animals. 2. Material formed by mechanical breakage or abrasion of parent rocks. <i>Fauna. Ref KG</i>
<b>DEVELOPED SECTION</b>	A long section through a cave, usually from the entrance to the end of the cave, with the centreline being along the usual path. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term. Ref JJ</i>
<b>DIAGENESIS</b>	Post-depositional modification to a sediment that converts it into rock. Typically



involves compaction, cementation and induration.

*Geology*. Ref KG

- DIG** An excavation made (1) to discover a new cave (2) to extend an existing cave (3) to uncover artifacts or animal bones.  
*Speleology term*. Ref JJ
- DIKE** A body of igneous rock that cuts across the structure of adjacent rocks. Sometimes intruding into or exposed in cave fissures and passages.  
*Geology*. Ref MM
- DIP** The angle at which beds are inclined from the horizontal, being the maximum angle of the bedding planes at right angles to the strike.  
*Geology*. Ref JJ
- DIP** In surveying, the angle above or below horizontal of the current survey leg.  
*Speleology term*. Ref JJ
- DISCHARGE** The outflow drainage of Aquifer waters.  
*Hydrology terms*. Ref AC
- DISJUNCT DISTRIBUTION** The separate occurrences of similar species in separate karst areas. These species are related to a (now extinct) common ancestor that was widespread, & a surface dweller. cf. Distributional relict, Phylogenetic  
*Cave - Biota*. Ref AC
- DISTRIBUTIONAL RELICT** Relates to a species surviving in an area isolated from the main or original distribution area. Usually a result of broad scale environmental events such as glaciation, continental drift. eg Gondwanan or Pangean relict species.  
*Cave - Biota*. Ref AC
- DOG TOOTH SPAR** A speleothem, being calcite with acute pointed crystals.  
*Cave - Depositional Features*. Ref JJ
- DOLINE KARST** Karst dominated by closed depressions, chiefly dolines, perforating a simple surface.  
*Karst - Kinds of*. Ref JJ
- DOLINE** A closed depression draining underground in karst, formed by Solution and or Collapse of underlying rock strata. Shape is variable, but often conical or bowl shaped.  
*Karst - Depression Features of*. Ref JJ
- DOLINE** Sides may be gently sloping to vertical or overhanging. Size: a few metres to many hundreds of metres across, . See also Cenote, Sinkhole, Polje, Uvala, Solution doline, Subsidence doline & Collapse doline.  
*Karst - Depression Features of*. Ref JJ
- DOLOMITE CAVE** A cave in dolomite rock.  
*Cave - Kinds of*. Ref MM
- DOLOMITE** A mineral, or a carbonate rock consisting of calcium magnesium carbonate  $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ .  
*Karst - Kinds of*. Ref JJ
- DOMAIN** A biological region of the earths crust.  
*Cave - Biota*. Ref JJ

<b>DOME SYNDROME</b>	The tendency for cavers to go to the known end of a cave, especially when without due regard for the cave itself nor for its contents. Term coined from a cave where the final chamber is a dome and in which the practice was common. <i>Miscellaneous terms.</i> Ref MM
<b>DOME</b>	A hemispheroidal hollow in the roof of a cave, formed by breakdown or salt weathering. Some caves end at a dome. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>DONGA</b>	In the Nullarbor plain, a closed depression generally hundreds of metres across and often from 2 to 5 metres deep. Dongas have very gentle slopes and flat clay-loam floors. Often contain trees when the surrounding country is treeless. <i>Karst - Depression Features of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>DRIPHOLE</b>	A hole formed by water dripping onto a cave floor. May be a metre deep or even deeper. May form in sediments or rock. <i>Cave - Erosional &amp; Solutional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>DRIPLINE</b>	A line on the ground at a cave entrance formed by drips from the rock above. A dripline defines the beginning of a cave. Important to archaeologists in both Rock Shelters and Caves. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>DRIPSTONE</b>	A speleothem formed where water drips fall from cave roofs and walls, usually of calcite. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>DRY CAVE</b>	A cave without a running stream or a lake. cf Dead cave, Wet cave. <i>Cave - Kinds of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>DRY VALLEY</b>	A valley in karst terrain without a surface flow of water. The talweg of such a valley may undulate with many closed depressions, and there may no longer be a distinct channel. <i>Karst - Depression Features of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>DUCK(UNDER)</b>	A place where water is at or close to the cave roof for a short distance so that it can be passed only by submersion. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>DUNE LIMESTONE</b>	Syn. Aeolian calcarenite. <i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>DURICRUST</b>	An indurated surface formed by weathering processes involving cementation of the surface soils and weathered rock by calcite (calcrete), iron oxides (ferricrete, or laterite), silica (silcrete) or other cements. <i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> Ref KG
<b>DYE GAUGING</b>	Determining stream discharge by inserting a known quantity of dye and measuring its concentration after mixing. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>DYNAMIC PHREAS</b>	A phreatic zone where water moves fast with turbulent flow under hydrostatic pressure. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ

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## E

<b>EASTING</b>	(1) The distance of a point east of the point of origin of a map or a grid. (2) The east-west component of a survey leg (or of a series of legs). East is positive, west is negative. See also Northing, Vertical. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>ECCENTRIC</b>	A speleothem of abnormal shape or attitude. cf Helictite. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>EDAPHOBITE</b>	An animal (invertebrate) dwelling in the soil. <i>Fauna.</i> Ref MM
<b>EFFLUX CAVE</b>	A cave entrance that has a stream flowing out of it. cf Influx cave, Inflow cave, Outflow cave, Resurgence, Spring. <i>Cave - Kinds of.</i> Ref MM
<b>EFFLUX</b>	Place of outflow for karst waters from an aquifer. Applied to a place where a cave stream emerges. See Efflux cave, Resurgence, Spring. <i>Hydrology terms.</i> Ref AC
<b>ENDEMIC</b>	Peculiar to a country or district, and not native elsewhere. May be very limited in extent, eg to a single cave system. <i>Biology - Flora &amp; Fauna.</i> Ref AC
<b>ENDOGEAN</b>	Pertaining to the biological domain immediately beneath the ground surface. ie in the soil or plant litter. cf Epigean, Hypogean. <i>Cave - Biota.</i> Ref JJ
<b>ENDOKARSTIC</b>	Subterranean region in karst, below the Epikarstic zone. Includes the upper area with free draining water plus the area below water table. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref AC
<b>ENTRANCE ZONE</b>	The interface between surface and subterranean environments, leading into the Twilight zone. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref AC
<b>EOLIAN</b>	See Aeolian. Also Aeolianite. <i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>EPIGEAN</b>	Pertaining to the biological domain at the ground surface or above it. Includes streams. cf Endogean, Hypogean. <i>Cave - Biota.</i> Ref JJ
<b>EPIKARSTIC</b>	Of the upper layer of karstified carbonate rock in the unsaturated zone, immediately below the soil layer <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref AC
<b>EPIPHREAS, EPIPHREATIC ZONE</b>	The zone immediately above the permanently flooded Phreatic zone. Referring to water moving with some speed during floods that are too large for the usual conduits. <i>Hydrology terms.</i> Ref JJ
<b>EROSION</b>	The wearing away of bedrock or sediment by mechanical and chemical actions of all moving agents. eg rivers, wind, glaciers. <i>Geology.</i> Ref JJ

<b>ESCARPMENT</b>	A steep face terminating high lands abruptly, frequently of stratified rocks. Uplift is not implied. <i>Geology. RefMM</i>
<b>EUSTATIC</b>	Pertaining to world-wide (simultaneous) changes of sea levels. <i>Geology. RefKG</i>
<b>EVAPOTRANSPIRATION</b>	A process by which water is lost from a catchment or karst surface which includes evaporation of water from wet surfaces and from plants. <i>Speleology term. Ref AC</i>
<b>EXHUMED KARST</b>	Karst features reexposed by erosion from beneath former covering strata. <i>Karst - Kinds of. Ref WM</i>
<b>EXSURGENCE</b>	A spring fed only by percolation water, and not by sinking streams. <i>Karst - Miscellaneous features of. Ref JJ</i>

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## F

<b>FACIES</b>	Part of a rock body as differentiated from other parts by appearance or composition, often as a result of changing depositional environments. <i>Geology. Ref EH</i>
<b>FALLING</b>	Emergency signal, given by a climber to the belayer, that the climber is falling (and to expect the safety line to become taut). <i>Climbing and SRT. Ref MM</i>
<b>FALSE FLOOR</b>	A remnant of a sheet of flowstone deposited on sediments that were later eroded away. A false floor may span between passage walls or merely be projecting ledges along the walls. <i>Cave - Depositional Features. Ref LW</i>
<b>FAMILY</b>	5th rank in Taxonomic system. Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species. Family names end in -aceae for plants, eg Liliaceae (lilies), and -idae for animals, eg Macropodidae (kangaroos). <i>Biology - Flora &amp; Fauna. Ref MM</i>
<b>FAULT CAVE</b>	A cave developed along a fault or fault zone, either by movement of the fault or by preferential solution along it. <i>Cave - Kinds of. Ref JJ</i>
<b>FAULT PLANE</b>	A plane along which movement of a fault has taken place. <i>Geology. Ref JJ</i>
<b>FAULT</b>	A fracture separating 2 parts of a once continuous rock body with relative movement along the fault plane. <i>Geology. Ref JJ</i>
<b>FENGCONG</b>	Chinese term equating to Cone karst. <i>Karst - Hill Features of. Ref EH</i>
<b>FENGLIN</b>	Chinese term for the isolated limestone hills known as Tower karst. <i>Karst - Hill Features of. Ref EH</i>
<b>FISSURE CAVE</b>	A narrow vertical cave passage, often developed along a joint but not necessarily

so. Usually due to solution but sometimes to tension.

*Cave - Kinds of.* Ref JJ

**FISSURE**

An open crack in rock or soil.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

**FLAP**

A section of wall lining in a lava tube that has broken free and sagged or rolled down away from the wall. Where only a small patch has been pushed off by gas pressure from behind it may be referred to as a 'burst'.

*Lava Cave term.* Ref KG

**FLATTENER**

A passage, often of considerable length which though wide, is so low that one has insufficient room to stand or crawl. Movement along a flattener is only possible in a prone position. cf, Crawlway, Stooping, Walking

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ

**FLINT**

See Chert.

*Geology.* Ref MM

**FLOCCULANT**

Suspended sediment.

*Hydrology terms.* Ref AC

**FLOE CALCITE**

Very thin flakes of calcite floating on the surface of a cave pool, or previously formed in this way.

*Cave - Depositional Features.* Ref JJ

**FLOWSTONE**

A speleothem. A deposit formed by precipitation from thin films or trickles of mineralised water over floors or walls, usually of calcite. cf Travertine.

*Cave - Depositional Features.* Ref JJ

**FLUORESCEIN**

A reddish-yellow organic dye C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>5</sub> which gives a green fluorescence to water, used in water tracing. Detectable in minute concentrations.

*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ

**FLUOROMETER**

An instrument for measuring the fluorescence of water. Used in water tracing and dye gauging.

*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ

**FLUVIAL**

Pertaining to flowing water. Produced by the action of a stream or river. cf Lotic.

*Hydrology terms.* Ref KG

**FOIBE**

A blind or dead-end shaft.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref KG

**FOOD CHAIN**

A series of plants or animals linked together by their food relationships or a specific nutrient and energy pathway. see Food web.

*Fauna.* Ref AC

**FOOD WEB**

An interlocking system of separate food chains in any (cave) community.

*Fauna.* Ref AC

**FORAMINIFERA**

A subclass of Sarcodina, unicellular (mostly microscopic & marine) animals that secrete tests of CaCO<sub>3</sub>. Their remains accumulate to form foraminiferous limestone.

*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref MM

**FORAMINIFEROUS** Composed chiefly of the remains of Foraminifera.

<b>LIMESTONE</b>	<i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> Ref MM
<b>FOREDUNE</b>	A dune ridge built up behind a coastline. Generally higher and more extensive than a beachridge. <i>Geology.</i> Ref KG
<b>FORESTRY COMPASS</b>	A lightweight tripod mounted compass which also functions as a clinometer, and has a telescopic sight. Similar to a theodolite. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>FORMATION</b>	An unsatisfactory term in speleology. Use KARST GEOMORPHOLOGY, referring to the creation of a cave. The term FORMATION is generally confused with FORMATIONS, which also should not be used. Formation is a geologic term. <i>Unsatisfactory term, not recommended.</i> Ref MM
<b>FORMATION</b>	In geology, the fundamental unit in rock stratigraphic classification, consisting of a distinctive mappable body of rock. <i>Geology.</i> Ref WM
<b>FORMATIONS</b>	An unsatisfactory term in speleology. Use DECORATION or SPELEOTHEM. The term FORMATIONS is generally confused with FORMATION, which also should not be used. Note the plural. The term invariably implies 'pretty' decorations especially Stalactites. <i>Unsatisfactory term, not recommended.</i> Ref MM
<b>FOSSIL CHAMBER</b>	Ossuary, a place in a cave where there is a large number of fossil bones. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref MM
<b>FOSSIL</b>	The remains or traces of animals or plants preserved in rocks or sediments. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>FOUL AIR</b>	In a cave or mine, air with greater than 1% carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) which adversely affects respiration and metabolism. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref MM
<b>FREE PITCH</b>	Where a rope or ladder hangs vertically and free of the walls. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref JJ
<b>FREE SURFACE STREAM</b>	A cave stream which does not normally fill its passage to the roof <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>FRIEND</b>	A mechanical coming device that is wedged into a rock crack and used as an anchor point. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref RW
<b>FROSTWORK</b>	A speleothem consisting of radiating, acicular (needle like) crystal sprays resembling a catus or thistle plant. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref MM
<b>FUNGLIN</b>	Isolated limestone hill in an alluvial plain. (Chinese term). <i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> Ref WM
<b>FUNGUS</b>	Plu Fungi, organisms that subsist upon dead or living organic matter, of glycogen, fat, mannitol, but not starch. eg mushrooms, moulds, mildews, rusts, smuts. <i>Flora.</i> Ref MM

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# G

- GALLERY** A cave chamber that is rather large and nearly horizontal. May be adorned with natural decorations.  
*Cave - Parts of.* Ref WM
- GARDENING** Clearing stones or other material from a route either to (1) moderate potential danger of falling stones (2) increase accessibility.  
*Speleology term.* Ref JJ
- GASTROPOD** 'stomach footed', a class of molluscs eg snail, having a shell of a single valve, usually spirally coiled.  
*Fauna.* Ref MM
- GENUS** 6th rank in Taxonomic system. Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species. Genus + Species constitute a unique name for all known species of living or extinct organisms.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna.* Ref MM
- GENUS** A group of species thought to have a fairly recent ancestor, but which do not interbreed, or if they do, they form sterile hybrids.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna.* Ref MM
- GEOCONSERVATION** The conservation of geodiversity protecting natural values that encompass its ecological and geoheritage values.  
*Conservation.* Ref MM
- GEODIVERSITY** The range or diversity of geologic (bedrock), geomorphic (landform) and soil features, assemblages, systems and processes.  
*Geology.* Ref MM
- GEOLOGY** The study of the earth, its rocks, and how it changes, or has changed. Includes earth sciences, such as geology, geophysics, earth history, stratigraphy, paleontology, mineralogy.  
*Geology.* Ref MM
- GIBBS** An ascender with its cam operated by the weight of the climber.  
*Climbing and SRT.* Ref JJ
- GLACIER CAVE** A cave formed within or beneath a glacier. Having walls, floor & roof mainly of ice. May have have a floor at least partly of bedrock.  
*Cave - Kinds of.* Ref JJ
- GLACIOKARST** Karst landscape which has been glaciated during or since the Ice Ages.  
*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref TW
- GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM** GPS. Hand held device that computes position in latitude/longitude or in map grid reference. Uses Satellite technology.  
*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref MM
- GLOSSARY** This Glossary (compiled by M Meth Feb 98) is the copyright property of the Australian Speleological Federation inc (ASF).  
*Miscellaneous terms.* Ref MM
- GOUR** Syn. Rimstone dam.  
*Cave - Depositional Features.* Ref JJ

<b>GPS</b>	See Global Positioning System. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref MM
<b>GRADE</b>	The class of a cave survey on the basis of the precision of the instruments and the accuracy of the methods. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>GRID NORTH</b>	The direction of a north-south grid line on a map. Only at the point of origin is this equal to True north. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>GRID</b>	A system of squares on a map formed by straight lines that denote distance east and north of a fixed point of origin. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>GRIKE</b>	A solutional trench that may be deep, narrow, vertical (or nearly so) rectilinear slot in a rock outcrop due to solution along a joint. Syn Klufkarrren. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>GROT HOLE</b>	A small and insignificant cave with no leads, often tight and difficult to maneuver in. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref MM
<b>GROTTO</b>	A room of moderate dimensions in a cave, but richly decorated. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>GROUND TROG</b>	A search on the surface for cave entrances. Or merely the walk from car or camp to a (known) cave, particularly if the terrain is difficult. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref MM
<b>GROUNDWATER</b>	Water below the level at which all voids in the rock are completely filled saturated. Syn. phreatic water in saturated zone below water table. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>GUANO</b>	The accumulation of dung from bats or birds. Often partly mineralised, and includes rock fragments, animal remains eg bones. Guano also may contain products of reactions between the excretions and the rock. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>GUANOBIA</b>	An animal association feeding on guano. Not considered true cavernicoles? as guano is not confined to caves. <i>Cave - Biota.</i> Ref JJ
<b>GYPSUM FLOWER</b>	An elongated and curving deposit of gypsum on a cave surface. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>GYPSUM</b>	The mineral hydrated calcium sulphate $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ

## H

<b>HABITAT</b>	The immediate surroundings of a plant or animal, with everything necessary to sustain life. <i>Biology - Flora &amp; Fauna.</i> Ref AC
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<b>HALF BLIND VALLEY</b>	A blind valley that overflows its threshold when the flow exceeds a certain limit, beyond which the stream sink cannot accept all the water <i>Karst - Depression Features of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>HALF TUBE</b>	Exposed on a fractured rock surface. Often meandering or 'anastomosing'. see Anastomosis. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>HALITE</b>	The common salt sodium chloride NaCl as a mineral in the cubic crystalline system. May form as decorations on dry caves as, dripstone, crust, flowstone, stalactite, stalagmite and other forms. <i>Mineral, Rock and Chemical terms.</i> Ref JJ
<b>HALL</b>	A lofty chamber that is longer than it is wide. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>HARNESS</b>	In climbing, an arrangement of tape, either the seat harness or chest harness for the attachment of ascenders or descenders. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref JJ
<b>HELICTITE</b>	A speleothem, appearing to defy gravity, being a curved or angular twiglike lareral projection of calcim carbonate. Has a tiny central canal. See Anthodite. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>HELIGMITE</b>	A helictite that grows on a cave floor or a shelf. Usually thin, curved and angular. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref WM
<b>HELMET</b>	A miners, climbers or other kind of non metallic protective helmet used in caving. Australia does not have a standard for caving helmets. A chin strap is recommended for vertical work. A sun visor is generally an inconvenience. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>HERBIVORE</b>	An animal that eats plants. <i>Fauna.</i> Ref MM
<b>HISTOPLASMOSIS</b>	A lung disease usually mild in effect but known to be fatal. May be caught from guano in caves, caused by fungus, Histoplasmosis capsulatum. <i>Miscellaneous terms.</i> Ref JJ
<b>HOLOKARST</b>	Having bare surfaces on thick deposits of limestone that extend below sea level and little or no surface drainage. They have karren, dolines, uvalas and cave systems. cf merokarst. <i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> Ref WM
<b>HORIZONTAL ANGLE</b>	The difference in direction of two survey lines measured clockwise in a horizontal plane. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>HORNITO</b>	A small spatter cone up to 5 m high which spits out red hot drops of lava. <i>Lava Cave term.</i> Ref KG
<b>HUMIDITY, RELATIVE</b>	The ratio of the amount of water present in air to the amount present at saturation. Most caves have high humidity because climatic conditions tend to be constant with very little evaporative moisture loss. But caves can have low humidity. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref MM

<b>HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE</b>	The pressure due to a column of water. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>HYPOGEAN</b>	Pertaining to the domain below the endogean, including the dark zone of caves. cf Epigean, Endogean. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>HYPORHEOS</b>	Pertaining to water flowing over streambeds. cf Lotic. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref AC

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## I

<b>ICE CAVE</b>	(1) An otherwise normal cave with permanent (ie perennial) ice in it. (2) A cave that only has ice in it on a seasonal basis. Note: A cave entirely in ice, or under an ice sheet, is called a Glacier cave. <i>Cave - Kinds of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>ICE</b>	A mineral, H <sub>2</sub> O, which may form speleothems in ice caves as, stalactite, stalagmite, drapery, crust, flower, flowstone, helictites and euhedral (having well formed crystal faces) crystals. <i>Mineral, Rock and Chemical terms.</i> Ref HF
<b>INDURATED</b>	Soils and sedimentary rocks which have become hardened or cemented. <i>Geology.</i> Ref KG
<b>INFLOW CAVE</b>	A cave into which a stream enters or is known to have entered formerly. The stream cannot be followed downstream to the surface. <i>Cave - Kinds of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>INFLUX CAVE</b>	A cave entrance that has a stream flowing into it. cf Efflux cave. See also Inflow & Outflow caves. <i>Cave - Kinds of.</i> Ref MM
<b>INORGANIC</b>	Of non-biological origin. <i>Biology - Flora &amp; Fauna.</i> Ref MM
<b>INTERSTITIAL MEDIUM</b>	The spaces between grains of sand, fine gravel or detritus filled with air or water which contains phreatobia. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>INVERTEBRATE</b>	An animal without a backbone. eg Annelid (worm), Mollusc (snail) & Arthropods. The main life forms found in caves. <i>Fauna.</i> Ref AC
<b>INVERTED SIPHON</b>	A siphon of U-profile. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>ISOPOD</b>	An animal of the order of Crustaceans having 7 pairs of legs. Includes slaters. Commonly found in caves. <i>Fauna.</i> Ref MM

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## J

<b>JOINT PLANE CAVE</b>	A cavity developed along a joint, which is often steeply dipping, and thus high in relation to width. <i>Cave - Kinds of.</i> RefJJ
<b>JOINT PLANE</b>	The plane in which a joint has formed. <i>Speleology term.</i> RefMM
<b>JOINT</b>	A planar or gently curving crack separating two parts of once continuous rock, without relative movement along its plane. <i>Speleology term.</i> RefJJ
<b>JUG HANDLE</b>	A small loop of rock shaped like a handle, used as an anchor point or hand hold to aid in climbing. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> RefMM
<b>JUMAR</b>	An ascender with a simple finger operated safety catch, a handle and several attachment points. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> RefJJ

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## K

<b>KAMENITZA</b>	Serbian word for a type of Karren. Literally means Pool in the stone. Syn Solution pan. <i>Karst - Minor Forms of.</i> RefEH
<b>KANKAR</b>	(pronounced kunkar) A deposit, often nodular, of calcium carbonate formed in soils of semi arid regions by evaporation of mineralised water at the surface.. Can form cave roof. see Oolite, Calcrete, Caprock. <i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> RefJJ
<b>KARABINER</b>	A steel or other alloy, oval or D-shaped link with a spring loaded gate on one side to admit a rope, or to clip to a ladder etc. Also known as See Karabina. Also Carabiner, Crab, Krab. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> RefJJ
<b>KARREN</b>	German word for the surface occurring minor forms of karst. Solution grooves cut into bare or covered limestone surfaces by running water. Also occur underground. Several types exist eg: Rillenkarren, Rundkarren, Kamenitza. <i>Karst - Minor Forms of.</i> RefTW
<b>KARST GEOMORPHOLOGY</b>	The scientific study of karst landforms (both on the surface and underground) and the processes which contribute to their development. <i>Speleology term.</i> RefEH
<b>KARST HYDROGRAPHIC ZONES</b>	The 3 vertically aligned subterranean divisions of karst: upper unsaturated zone, intermittently saturated epiphreatic (or floodwater) zone and lower saturated (phreatic) zone. <i>Speleology term.</i> RefMM
<b>KARST HYDROLOGY</b>	The scientific study of the movement of water through a karst system, and the storage of water in it. <i>Hydrology terms.</i> RefEH

<b>KARST TYPES</b>	Buried karst, Cone karst, Covered karst, Exhumed karst, Halbkugelkarst, Holokarst, Kegelkarst, Merokarst, Mikrokarst, Naked karst, Paleokarst, Pseudokarst, Spitzkegelkarst, Subjacent karst, Syngenetic karst, Thermokarst, Tower karst. <i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> Ref WM
<b>KARST WINDOW</b>	A closed depression, not a polje, which has a stream flowing across its bottom. <i>Karst - Depression Features of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>KARST, FEATURES OF</b>	The special landforms of a karst area include: Caves, Dolines, Karren, Rill, Rillenkarrren, Rundkarren, Solution pan and underground drainage. <i>Cave - Kinds of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>KARST</b>	Terrain with special landforms & drainage characteristics due to greater solubility of certain rocks in natural waters than is common. Name derived from a province in Slovenia, where this type of landform was first described. Several types described. <i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>KARSTIC</b>	Pertaining to karst. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref MM
<b>KARSTIFICATION</b>	A periodic or cyclic process where phases of active solutional development of karst are followed by infilling of karst conduits and voids. <i>Processes.</i> Ref AC
<b>KERNMANTEL</b>	A rope with a plaited sheath around a core of parallel or twisted strands. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref JJ
<b>KEYHOLE</b>	A small passage or opening in a cave having a keyhole shaped cross section, round above and narrow below. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>KINGDOM</b>	1st and highest rank in Taxonomic system. Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species. <i>Biology - Flora &amp; Fauna.</i> Ref MM
<b>KNOBBY PAHOEHOE</b>	A form of pahoehoe lava in which the smooth surface is broken by numerous small knobs and lumps. <i>Lava Cave term.</i> Ref KG
<b>KRAB</b>	Short for Karabiner. A steel or aluminium alloy snap link used in rope work. Also known as Karabina, Carabiner, Crab. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref JJ

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## L

<b>LABYRINTH</b>	Syn, Maze cave, Network. <i>Cave - Kinds of.</i> Ref WM
<b>LADDER</b>	In caving, a flexible lightweight ladder of galvanised or stainless steel wires and aluminium alloy rungs. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref JJ

<b>LAKE</b>	In caving, a body of standing water (no matter how small) in a cave. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>LAPIES</b>	A synonym for Karren, used mainly in the special case of Marine Lapies which form on limestone surfaces exposed to the sea, or to sea spray. See also Phytokarst. <i>Karst - Minor Forms of.</i> Ref KG
<b>LAPILLI</b>	A general term for pebble to granule sized volcanic ejecta. Angular frothy fragments are called scoria. Finer material is ash and coarser fragments are called bombs or blocks. <i>Lava Cave term.</i> Ref KG
<b>LARVA</b>	(Plu larvae). The young of insects, eg grub, caterpillar, maggot that metamorphose into adult forms eg beetle, moth, fly. Larvae are active, self sustaining and independent life forms, and many inhabit caves. <i>Fauna.</i> Ref AC
<b>LATERITE</b>	An iron rich deep weathering profile. Lateritised means containing laterite. <i>Geology.</i> Ref KG
<b>LAVA CAVE</b>	A cave in a lava flow, usually a tube formed by flow of liquid lava through a solidified mass, or by roofing over of an open channel. Small lava caves may form as gas blisters. <i>Cave - Kinds of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>LAVA DRIBBLES</b>	Drips and associated runs of smooth surfaced lava on a vertical or sloping wall in a lava tube. Formed from a molten lining. <i>Lava Cave term.</i> Ref KG
<b>LAVA DRIPS</b>	Short smooth-surfaced drips of lava on a ceiling or upper wall, formed from a molten lining. Grades to flatter 'lava dribbles' on the walls. <i>Lava Cave term.</i> Ref KG
<b>LAVA HANDS</b>	Groups of elongated finger or grape-like extrusions formed on a wall or roof where pasty lava has been forced out through a crack or hole in the lining. Matching 'lava stalagmites' may occur on the floor below. See also 'lava turds'. <i>Lava Cave term.</i> Ref KG
<b>LAVA STALACTITES</b>	Longer and thicker than 'lava drips'. Rare straw-like lava stalactites have been recorded overseas. <i>Lava Cave term.</i> Ref KG
<b>LAVA STALAGMITES</b>	Mounds or columns of lava built up on a floor. Some may resemble 'lava turds', others are built up of numerous small semi-solid droplets to form agglutinated stalagmites. <i>Lava Cave term.</i> Ref KG
<b>LAVA TUBE</b>	A cave in lava formed by removal of liquid material from beneath a solid roof. <i>Lava Cave term.</i> Ref KG
<b>LAVA TURDS</b>	A descriptive term for small lava extrusions. A thick pasty lava has been forced out of a small orifice in the wall lining or floor. Analogies to dog, sheep, cow, etc. have been seen. aka 'Lava hands'. aka (less politely) 'Stoolite' and 'faecicles' <i>Lava Cave term.</i> Ref KG
<b>LAVA</b>	Molten rock that is capable of flowing on the surface or in lava tubes. Also volcanic rock solidified from magma. See 'pahoehoe' and 'aa' for specific types.

*Lava Cave term.* RefKG

- LAVACICLE** Small round-tipped lava stalactites, formed where molten lava has dripped from the roof, or dribbled down the walls of the cave.  
*Lava Cave term.* RefKG
- LAY** The way in which strands of a rope or cable are twisted.  
*Climbing and SRT.* RefJJ
- LEAD ACID BATTERY** A rechargeable acid battery used as a light source in caving, usually worn on a waist strap and with a lamp fitted to the helmet.  
*Lighting term.* RefJJ
- LEAD** A cave passage noticed but as yet unexplored.  
*Speleology term.* RefJJ
- LEADER** In caving, the person directing the activities of a caving party, and with responsibility for the safety of the group.  
*Speleology term.* RefJJ
- LEG** A survey leg, the measurement between 2 adjacent survey stations in a cave survey.  
*Survey & Mapping term.* RefJJ
- LEUCOPHOR** A colourless water tracer, which fluoresces blue.  
*Survey & Mapping term.* RefJJ
- LEVEE** An outward sloping raised area on each side of a lava channel. Analogous to a river levee, it is built up by successive lava layers whenever the channel overflows.  
*Lava Cave term.* RefKG
- LEVEL** A group of cave passages developed in the same horizontal plane, especially in caves that are developed on 2 or more planes.  
*Cave - Parts of.* RefWM
- LEVEL** In caves, the height relation of a point in a cave to the entrance or a datum eg sea level.  
*Survey & Mapping term.* RefWM
- LIFE LINE** A safety device additional to the main support in climbing. May be an additional rope, or merely an additional attachment to the main system  
*Climbing and SRT.* RefMM
- LIMESTONE CAVE** Limestone is relatively soluble and is the most common rock type in which caves develop.  
*Cave - Kinds of.* RefMM
- LIMESTONE PAVEMENT** (1) A bare plane surface of bedded limestone, commonly divided into blocks (clints) by solutionally widened joints (grikes). (2) On the Nullarbor, an area of calcrete built up in an otherwise soil covered area.  
*Karst - Minor Forms of.* RefWM
- LIMESTONE** A sedimentary rock consisting mainly of calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) derived from the deposition of the calcareous remains of animals. Usually of marine origin but can be of freshwater origin. eg Oolitic, Coralline, Foraminiferous. See Dolomite, Magnesite.  
*Karst - Kinds of.* RefJJ
- LINTEL LINE** A line on the ground at a cave entrance directly below the outer edge of the rock

above. May or may not coincide with the dripline.  
*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

**LIQUID MEDIUM** Contains the Stygofauna or aquatic Cavernicoles.  
*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

**LITHIFICATION** Hardening of sediment to form a rock.  
*Geology.* Ref KG

**LITTORAL** Shoreline. Between high and low tide marks, Intertidal. cf Benthic. Most sea caves occur in this zone.  
*Geology.* Ref MM

**LIVE CAVE** A cave containing flowing water or active speleothems. Cf Active cave.  
*Cave - Kinds of.* Ref JJ

**LONG SECTION** A cave map showing a cross section along the length of a cave or of a single passage or chamber.  
*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ

**LOOP ERROR** The error in easting, northing & vertical that results when a survey, in forming a loop, closes on itself.  
*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref MM

**LOOP** See Closed traverse.  
*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref MM

**LOTIC** Pertaining to the aquatic environment of running water.  
*Geology.* Ref AC

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## M

**MACROCAVERN** Includes all cavities in rocks greater than 20 cm in diameter. This includes all the cave passages that are accessible to people. Cf Mesocavern, Microcavern.  
*Cave - Kinds of.* Ref EH

**MACROINVERTBRATE** An invertebrate large enough to be easily visible to the naked eye.  
*Fauna.* Ref AC

**MAGNESITE** Magnesium carbonate rock. Usually considered as a mineral, and may have various impurities such as Calcium or Iron and may be susceptible to karst solution processes. (cf dolomite). Example is the magnesite karst at Savage River in NW Tasmania.  
*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref AC

**MAGNETIC NORTH** The direction to the north magnetic pole. The position of the north (and south) magnetic poles undergoes continuous change year by year.  
*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ

**MARBLE** Limestone recrystallised and hardened by pressure and heat.  
*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref JJ

**MARL** A calcareous clay, or impure fine grained limestone.  
*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref KG

<b>MASS MOVEMENT</b>	Dislodgment and downslope transport of soil and bedrock under the influence of gravity. <i>Geology. RefMM</i>
<b>MASSIVE</b>	A rock mass that is not obviously fractured, or with individual strata more than 100mm in thickness. <i>Geology. RefMM</i>
<b>MAZE CAVE</b>	A complex pattern of connecting passages often on two or more levels in a cave. Syn Labyrinth, Network. <i>Speleology term. RefJJ</i>
<b>MEANDER NICHE</b>	A hemispherically roofed part of a cave formed by a stream meandering and cutting down at the same time. <i>Speleology term. RefJJ</i>
<b>MEANDER</b>	An arcuate curve in a river course due to the stream eroding sideways. <i>Geology. RefJJ</i>
<b>MEROKARST</b>	Having bare surfaces on thick deposits of limestone that extend below sea level and little or no surface drainage. They have karren, dolines, uvalas and cave systems. cf holokarst. <i>Karst - Kinds of. RefWM</i>
<b>MESOCAVERN</b>	Includes all cavities in rock that are smaller than 20 cm in diameter and larger than 0.1 cm in diameter. Not large enough to be considered as a cave in the usual sense. Cf Microcavern, Macrocavern. <i>Cave - Kinds of. RefEH</i>
<b>METABOLIC RATE</b>	The rate at which an organism transforms food into energy and body tissue; most cave animals, particularly the obligates in the dark zone have a reduced metabolic rate. <i>Fauna. RefMM</i>
<b>MICROCAVERN</b>	All cavities in rock that are smaller than 0.1 cm in diameter down to and including microscopic size. Whilst not considered a cave, such cavities may be important biological niche sites. Cf Mesocavern, Macrocavern. <i>Cave - Kinds of. RefEH</i>
<b>MICROCLIMATE</b>	The climate (temperature, humidity, air movement etc) of a restricted space, eg of a cave, or of a portion of a cave. see Microhabitat. <i>Speleology term. RefJJ</i>
<b>MICROGOUR</b>	Miniature rimstone dam with associated tiny pool of the order 10mm wide and deep. Most commonly occurs on flowstone, but may occur in other situations. <i>Cave - Depositional Features. RefJJ</i>
<b>MICROHABITAT</b>	The individual faunal habitat or niche within a larger (cave) environment. <i>Fauna. RefAC</i>
<b>MICROKARST</b>	Karst topography in which all surface features are small. An area dominated by minor karst features. <i>Karst - Kinds of. RefWM</i>
<b>MOONMILK</b>	Often a cauliflower shaped mass of soft, white, moist, plastic speleothem



consisting of calcite, and hydrated minerals such as hydrocalcite, hydromagnesite or huntite. May become hard or powdery if they dry out.  
Syn Rockmilk.

*Cave - Depositional Features.* Ref JJ

## **MORPHOLOGY**

The study of the physical form of lands or regions. Also the form and structure of any natural phenomena, eg of plant or animal design.

*Geology.* Ref MM

## **MOTTLING**

Blotchy or patchy colour patterning.

*Speleology term.* Ref KG

## **MUD PENDULITE**

A pendulite with the knob coated in mud.

*Cave - Erosional & Solutional Features.* Ref JJ

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# **N**

## **NAKED KARST**

Syn. Bare karst.

*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref WM

## **NATURAL ARCH**

An arch of rock formed by weathering.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

## **NATURAL BRIDGE**

A bridge of rock spanning a ravine or valley and formed by erosive agents.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

## **NECROPHAGE**

A scavenger feeding on animal carcasses rather than live prey.

*Cave - Biota.* Ref JJ

## **NETWORK**

A complex pattern of repeatedly connecting passages in a cave. Syn Maze, cave, Labyrinth.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

## **NICHE**

An organism's place in the cave ecosystem. Where it lives and eats, and what eats it. How it interacts with all biotic and abiotic factors.

*Fauna.* Ref AC

## **NIFE CELL**

A rechargeable alkaline battery for use with an electric cap lamp.

*Lighting term.* Ref JJ

## **NORTHING**

1. The distance of a point north of the point of origin of the grid of a map. 2. The south-north component of a survey leg, or of a series of 2 or more legs. North is positive, south is negative. cf Easting.

*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ

## **NOTHEPHREATIC**

Referring to water moving slowly in cavities in the phreatic zone.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

## **NUMBERING**

Assigning an alphanumeric identity number to a cave entrance, such that no 2 entrances have the same number.

*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ

## **NYMPH**

Some insect young or juveniles are called nymphs. Esp. those with no or incomplete wings.

## O

- OBLIGATE** Invariably. A species which is unable to live outside of a given environment. Applied to animals living in the dark zone of caves that may display Troglomorphic adaptations.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna. Ref AC*
- ON BELAY** Signal given to a climber by the belayer, that the manually operated belay system is ready for use.  
*Climbing and SRT. Ref MM*
- OOLITE** Oolitic limestone. A type of rock, often calcareous which grows by radial or concentric means around a nucleus. The term Oolite formerly referred to cave pearls.  
*Karst - Kinds of. Ref JJ*
- OPEN TRAVERSE** A survey traverse which does not form a loop.  
*Survey & Mapping term. Ref JJ*
- ORDER** 4th rank in Taxonomic system. Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna. Ref MM*
- ORGANIC** Of biological origin. (Strictly includes all carbon compounds, some of which are NOT biological).  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna. Ref AC*
- ORIENTATION** The relationship of a survey line to true, grid or magnetic north.  
*Survey & Mapping term. Ref JJ*
- OROGEN** Oro = mountain. A belt of deformed rocks, making up a portion of the continental crust.  
*Geology. Ref MM*
- OUTFLOW CAVE** A cave from which a stream flows or formerly did, and which can not be followed upstream to the surface.  
*Cave - Kinds of. Ref JJ*
- OVERHANG** A ladder or rope that hangs over a ledge or shelf of rock that projects past the rest of the rock face below, & thereby hangs free.  
*Climbing and SRT. Ref MM*
- OVERHANG** A simple cave or rock shelter in which no part is in the dark zone.  
*Cave - Kinds of. Ref MM*
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## P

- PAHOEHOE** A type of lava in which the surface was relatively fluid and so formed smooth or porridge-like surfaces. Variants include wrinkled or 'ropy' surfaces, like flowing pitch, and surfaces with small rounded knobs.  
*Lava Cave term. Ref KG*

<b>PALAEOKARST</b>	A 'fossil' karst, being a remnant of a previous period of Karstification. Characterised by old deposits, as lithified cave fills or breccias <i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> Ref RW
<b>PALAEOSOL</b>	Ancient soils. <i>Geology.</i> Ref KG
<b>PALEO SOILS</b>	See Palaeosol. <i>Geology.</i> Ref MM
<b>PARASITE</b>	Deriving food from a host, to which it is attached, and harming the host. In caves the Acarina (ticks & mites) are parasites on other invertebrates or vertebrates. (Note that some mites are free living in caves. cf Endophyte Epiphyte Holozoic Saprophytic <i>Fauna.</i> Ref AC
<b>PARIETAL ASSOCIATION</b>	Animals found on walls around cave entrances. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>PASSAGE</b>	A cavity in a cave that is longer than it is wide or high. A passage normally leads to other places in a cave, and is not a dead end. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>PENDANT</b>	See Rock pendant. <i>Cave - Erosional &amp; Solutional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>PENDULITE</b>	A kind of stalactite which has been partly submerged with that part covered with Dog tooth spar, giving the appearance of a drumstick. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>PERCOLATION WATER</b>	Water moving mainly downwards through pores, cracks & fissures in the unsaturated Epikarstic zone and Vadose zone. Also relates to water draining underground from a Swallet or Streamsink. <i>Hydrology terms.</i> Ref JJ
<b>PERMEABILITY</b>	The property of rock or soil permitting water to pass through it. Primary permeability depends on pores between the grains of material. Secondary Permeability depends on solutional widening of joints & bedding planes & on other solution cavities. <i>Hydrology terms.</i> Ref JJ
<b>PHREAS</b>	Syn. Phreatic Zone. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>PHREATIC WATER</b>	Water below the level at which all voids in the rock are completely filled with water. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>PHREATIC ZONE</b>	The zone that is below the Water table (except at times of drought) where voids or tubes in the rock are completely saturated with water. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>PHREATOBIA</b>	An animal association found in water separating grains of sand or fine gravel. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>PHYLOGENETIC</b>	Pertaining to an evolutionary development of a species. Usually this would involve a long history of development, but it could conceivably be relatively short. <i>Fauna.</i> Ref AC
<b>PHYLUM</b>	Second rank in Taxonomic system. Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus,

Species. In Plant Classification Phylum can be known as a Division.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna.* Ref MM

- PHYTOKARST** A type of small scale solutional sculpturing or Karren which forms with the assistance of certain algae and other micro-organisms that secrete acid solutions. Commonly occurs as a part of Marine lapies, and also as light oriented features in Cenotes.  
*Speleology term.* Ref KG
- PILLAR** A bedrock column from roof to floor left by removal of surrounding rock.  
*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ
- PINNACLE KARST** Tropical landscape of near vertical sided spires. Also as Arete Karst.  
*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref WM
- PIPE** A tubular cavity projecting down from the surface into karst rocks. Often filled with earth etc.  
*Karst - Depression Features of.* Ref JJ
- PIT** (Looking for a definition)  
*Cave - Parts of.* Ref MM
- PITCH** A vertical or nearly vertical part of a cave for which a ladder or rope is normally used for ascent or descent.  
*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ
- PITON** A solid or folded metal spike driven into a crack in a rock to form an anchor.  
*Climbing and SRT.* Ref JJ
- PLAN** A cave map at a reduced scale showing the details projected vertically onto a horizontal plane..  
*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ
- PLUNGE POOL** A swirlhole, generally of large size. occurring at the foot of a waterfall or rapid, on the surface or underground.  
*Speleology term.* Ref JJ
- POLJE** A large closed depression draining underground, with a flat floor across which there may be an intermittent or perennial stream. The polje may be liable to flood and become a lake, and its floor makes a sharp break with parts of surrounding slopes.  
*Karst - Depression Features of.* Ref JJ
- POLYGONAL KARST** Karst completely pitted by closed depressions so that divides between them form a crudely polygonal network.  
*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref JJ
- POOL DEPOSIT** Any sediment which accumulates in a pool in a cave. Crystalline deposits precipitated in a cave pool, usually of crystalline shape as well as structure.  
*Cave - Depositional Features.* Ref JJ
- POPULATION** Individuals of a species that form an interbreeding group, separated by physical barriers from other such populations.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna.* Ref JJ
- POROSITY** The property of rock or soil of having small voids between the constituent particles. The voids may or may not interconnect. If they connect, the Permeability of the rock will be higher. 3 classes of porosity are recognised:

*Hydrology terms.* Ref JJ

**POROSITY** Primary: intergranular porosity. Secondary: porosity arising from fractures and joints etc in the rock mass. Tertiary: porosity arising from the development of karstic conduits.

*Hydrology terms.* Ref JJ

**POT** See Pothole.

*Karst - Depression Features of.* Ref JJ

**POTHOLE** A vertical or nearly vertical shaft or chimney open to the surface.

*Karst - Depression Features of.* Ref JJ

**PREDATOR** An animal which captures other animals for its food.

*Fauna.* Ref JJ

**PRISMATIC COMPASS** A compass with a prism that enables the viewing angle to be read whilst sighting a distant object.

*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ

**PROJECTED SECTION** In mapping, a vertical section along the main trend of a cave. Horizontal distances may be distorted, so that slope angles are reduced.

*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ

**PRUSIK KNOT** A friction knot which can slide along a rope when no weight is applied, but grips when a pull is applied. Used in climbing.

*Climbing and SRT.* Ref JJ

**PRUSIK SLING** A sling fastened by a prusik knot to a rope

*Climbing and SRT.* Ref JJ

**PRUSIKING** Ascent on a rope using prusik knots as ascenders.

*Climbing and SRT.* Ref JJ

**PSEUDOKARST** Terrain with landforms (and caves) which resemble those of karst but are not the product of karst solution processes.

*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref JJ

**PUDDINGS** A local term for small tumuli within lava tubes, but also applied to porridge like mounds of pahoehoe that have been squeezed up through an opening in a crusted floor.

*Lava Cave term.* Ref KG

**PUPA** (Plu Pupae) The inactive stage of certain insects when the larva undergoes metamorphosis and becomes an adult.

*Fauna.* Ref AC

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## Q

**QUATERNARY** The youngest geological period, extending from the end of the Tertiary 1.6 million years ago to the present. Divided into Pleistocene, and Holocene which is the last 10,000 years. A time of great ice ages with widely fluctuating climates and sea levels.

*Geology.* Ref KG

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# R

- RADON** A radioactive inert gas (Rn86 half life 3.8 days) formed continuously in the earth's interior by radioactive decay. Densest of all known gases, tends to collect in caves as well as man made cellars etc. Concentration varies greatly between localities.  
*Geology*. Ref MM
- RAFT** A speleothem consisting of a thin layer of crystalline material which forms and floats on the surface of a cave pool. Sinks if water surface is disturbed. May form many layers in a dried out pool.  
*Cave - Depositional Features*. Ref HF
- RAPPEL RACK** A descender consisting of a frame mounting 5 or 6 brake bars.  
*Climbing and SRT*. Ref JJ
- RAPPEL** Syn. Abseil.  
*Climbing and SRT*. Ref JJ
- REBELAY** The placing of an additional belay on a rope so as to avoid a rub point on a pitch. Or merely to split long pitches. Syn. Deviation, Redirection.  
*Climbing and SRT*. Ref JJ
- RECHARGE** The process involving the input or intake of water into the saturated zone in karst aquifers. Relates to the quantity of water added.  
*Hydrology terms*. Ref AC
- REGRESSION** A withdrawal of the sea from the land, due to uplift or a eustatic drop in sea level. See transgression.  
*Geology*. Ref KG
- REGRESSIVE EVOLUTION** Concept used to describe the adaptive traits or troglomorphies of obligate cavernicoles, particularly those species that only live in the dark zone. eg Reduced eye size; Loss of visual ability or loss of eyes;  
*Fauna*. Ref MM
- REGRESSIVE EVOLUTION** Reduced body pigmentation (or no pigment); Loss of wings (in insects, such as carabid beetles); Elongated appendages including antennae; Longer and greater density spines or setae (hairs); Reduced metabolic rate.  
*Fauna*. Ref MM
- RELATIVE HUMIDITY** See Humidity.  
*Speleology term*. Ref MM
- RELICT KARST** Old cave forms produced by earlier geomorphic processes within the present phase or period of karstification and open to modification by present day processes. Such as deposition of speleothems, sediments or skeletal deposits.  
*Karst - Kinds of*. Ref RW
- RELICT** See Distributional Relict.  
*Fauna*. Ref MM
- RESURGENCE** A Spring where a stream, which has a course higher up on the surface, reappears lower down at the surface.  
*Speleology term*. Ref JJ

<b>RHIZOMORPH</b>	A calcareous structure formed around roots, and preserving the form of the root. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref KG
<b>RHODAMINE</b>	A red organic dye detectable in very dilute solutions. Used in water tracing and dye gauging. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>RIFT</b>	A long narrow high and straight cave passage controlled by planes of weakness in the rock. cf Fissure. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>RIGGING</b>	In climbing, the process of establishing the belays for ropes and or ladders. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref RW
<b>RILL</b>	Small solution groove on surface exposures of limestone. Most common in arid or semiarid areas. <i>Karst - Minor Forms of.</i> Ref WM
<b>RILLENKARREN</b>	A type of Karren, runnels about 20mm wide with sharp ridges between them. Usually solutional, formed by air currents with airborne moisture forming closely situated often parallel to sub-parallel vertical grooves on a sloping limestone surface. <i>Karst - Minor Forms of.</i> Ref KG
<b>RIMSTONE DAM</b>	A ridge or rib of rimstone, often curved convexly downstream. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>RIMSTONE POOL</b>	A pool held up by a rimstone dam. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>RIMSTONE</b>	A deposit formed by precipitation from water flowing over the rim of a pool. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>RIPARIAN</b>	Pertaining to the banks of a river or stream. And expanded to include the perimeter area around dolines, particularly those which act as swallets. <i>Geology.</i> Ref MM
<b>RISING</b>	Another term for a spring. A feature where water returns to the surface from an underground body of water. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>ROCK PENDANT</b>	A smooth surfaced projection from the roof of a cave due to solution. Usually occur in groups. <i>Cave - Erosional &amp; Solutional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>ROCK SHELTER</b>	A cave, often at a cliff base, with more or less level floor extending only a short distance so that no part is beyond daylight. <i>Cave - Kinds of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>ROCK</b>	Any naturally formed coherent and relatively hard mass of mineral matter. <i>Geology.</i> Ref MM
<b>ROCK</b>	A warning given (shouted) when a rock is seen to be falling, or is about to fall, and which could endanger those below. See also "Below". <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref MM
<b>ROCKHOLE</b>	A shallow small hole in rock outcrops, often rounded in form and holding water after rain. A feature of the Nullarbor Plain.

*Karst - Minor Forms of.* RefJJ

**ROCKMILK**

See Moonmilk.  
*Speleology term.* RefMM

**ROCKPILE**

A heap of rocks in a cave, usually formed by local collapse, roughly conical in overall shape.  
*Cave - Parts of.* RefJJ

**ROOF CRUST**

A thin speleothem on a cave precipitated from water films exuding from pores or cracks.  
*Cave - Depositional Features.* RefJJ

**ROOF SNIFFING**

Describes progress in a water filled passage with only sufficient air space for the nose to be above the water.  
*Speleology term.* RefMM

**ROOM**

A wider part of a cave than a passage, but not considered as large as a chamber.  
*Cave - Parts of.* RefJJ

**ROPE PROTECTOR**

A length of fabric or plastic hose etc placed around a rope where it may rub against rock.  
*Climbing and SRT.* RefJJ

**ROPY LAVA**

Another term for pahoehoe, especially the type with curved and twisted ridges.  
*Lava Cave term.* RefKG

**RUNDKARREN**

A type of karren. Generally about 200mm wide with rounded profile. Surface karst solution feature consisting of rounded grooves in eg, limestone, normally formed under soil or under heavy litter or moss layers. cf Rillenkarrren.  
*Karst - Minor Forms of.* RefMM

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**S**

**SAFETY LINE**

A safety rope attached to a climber in addition to the main rope or ladder.  
*Climbing and SRT.* RefJJ

**SALT WEATHERING**

Detachment of particles from a rock surface by the growth of crystals from salt solutions. A feature of the Nullarbor and other desert caves.  
*Processes.* RefJJ

**SANDSTONE CAVE**

A cave formed in sandstone.  
*Cave - Kinds of.* RefMM

**SAPROPHAGE**

A scavenger feeding on decaying organic material.  
*Cave - Biota.* RefJJ

**SATURATED ZONE**

The zone below the water table, composed of shallow, deep (bathypneatic) and stagnant pneatic zones. Syn. Phreatic zone.  
*Hydrology terms.* RefAC

**SATURATED**

Water which has dissolved as much limestone or other material as it can under the prevailing conditions.  
*Speleology term.* RefJJ



<b>SCALE</b>	The ratio of the length between any 2 points on a map to the actual distance between the same points on the ground or in a cave. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SCALING CHIP</b>	A small, thin, flat piece of limestone that has fallen from the ceiling or wall of a cave. May be the result of Salt weathering, a cave breakdown process. <i>Cave - Erosional &amp; Solutional Features.</i> Ref WM
<b>SCALING POLE</b>	A light weight pole, often in short sections and assembled where used, to raise a ladder to points inaccessible by climbing. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SCALLOP</b>	Current markings that intersect to form points which are directed downstream. <i>Cave - Erosional &amp; Solutional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SCAT</b>	Faecal pellets or animal droppings, which may provide an important source of food in caves. <i>Fauna.</i> Ref MM
<b>SCAVENGER</b>	An animal that eats dead remains and wastes of other animals and plants. cf coprophage, necrophage, saprophage. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SCORIA</b>	Refers to the angular pebble-sized frothy fragments that have solidified while flying through the air. Lapilli is a more general term for pebble to granule sized ejecta. Finer material is referred to as ash, and coarser fragments as bombs or blocks. <i>Lava Cave term.</i> Ref KG
<b>SCROGGIN</b>	Food, being high energy food eaten by cavers etc consisting of nuts, dried fruit, lollies, chocolate pieces etc. <i>Miscellaneous terms.</i> Ref MM
<b>SEA CAVE</b>	A cave in present day or emerged sea cliffs, formed most commonly by wave attack but may have been formed by the usual karst solution processes. In karst areas, a 'normal' cave may be exposed then modified by marine action. <i>Cave - Kinds of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SECTION</b>	A map of a cave in a vertical plane, that shows the floor and roof lines. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SEDIMENT</b>	Material deposited by water ice or wind or precipitated from water. <i>Cave - Erosional &amp; Solutional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SEEPAGE WATER</b>	Syn. Percolation water. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SELENITE</b>	A crystalline form of gypsum. <i>Mineral, Rock and Chemical terms.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SHAFT</b>	A vertical cavity that is deeper than it is wide, and roughly circular in cross section. Wider than a chimney. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SHAWL</b>	A simple triangular shaped curtain. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SHIELD</b>	A speleothem consisting of 2 parallel plates separated by a medial planal crack. Forms by water seeping through the medial crack. Cf Stegamite.

*Cave - Depositional Features.* RefHF

- SHOW CAVE** A cave that has been made accessible to the public for guided visits.  
*Cave - Kinds of.* RefJJ
- SINGLE ROPE TECHNIQUE** The practice of climbing up and down ropes with the help of ascenders and descenders. Abbr. SRT.  
*Climbing and SRT.* RefJJ
- SINK** A place where a surface water course disappears underground. Also known as 'streamsink'.  
*Karst - Depression Features of.* RefKG
- SINKHOLE** In Australia, used for sites of sinking water in a karst area. Sinkholes also include Swallets. Note that in USA the term is, by long established usage, synonymous with the term DOLINE, in the broader sense.  
*Karst - Depression Features of.* RefAC
- SINTER** A mineral precipitate deposited by a mineral spring, either hot or cold. Calcareous sinter is also called tufa, travertine or onyx marble.  
*Cave - Depositional Features.* RefWM
- SIPHON** A waterfilled passage of inverted U profile which delivers a flow of water whenever the upstream head rises above the top of the U.  
*Cave - Parts of.* RefJJ
- SLING** A joined loop of rope or tape.  
*Climbing and SRT.* RefJJ
- SOIL CONE** A conical pile of soil (and material filtering down from the surface) accumulates on the floor of a cave beneath fissures and pipes in the ceiling.  
*Cave - Erosional & Solutional Features.* RefMM
- SOLIFLUCTION** Usually relates to the slow movement or flow of saturated soil or rock fragment masses down slopes and may be applied to subaqueous flowage.  
*Hydrology terms.* RefMM
- SOLUTION DOLINE** A doline formed by solution processes and not modified by collapse.  
*Karst - Depression Features of.* RefMM
- SOLUTION FLUTE** An English term for some forms of Karren, generally equivalent to Rillenkarren. A solution hollow running down the maximum slope of the rock, of uniform width & depth, with sharp ribs between it and its neighbours. Often 1-2cm wide & deep.  
*Karst - Minor Forms of.* RefJJ
- SOLUTION PAN** A dish shaped depression on a flat, horizontal rock surface. Sides may overhang.  
sYN. Kamenitza.  
*Karst - Minor Forms of.* RefJJ
- SOLUTION PIPE** A vertical cylindrical shaft, often about 0.5 m across and up to 20 m deep, which is a characteristic of syngenetic karst areas. See Blowhole.  
*Karst - Depression Features of.* RefKG
- SOLUTION RUNNEL** A larger solution flute that may increase in size down its length.  
*Karst - Minor Forms of.* RefJJ
- SOLUTION TUBE** May equate to blowhole, but solution tubes are often filled with sediment, which

falls to a cave floor and forms a mound.  
*Karst - Depression Features of.* Ref JJ

- SOLUTION** In karst rocks particularly, the change of bedrock from solid to liquid state by combination with water. In physical solution, ions of rock go directly into solution without transformation.  
*Processes.* Ref JJ
- SOLUTION** In chemical solution, weak acids take part especially carbonic acid H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, formed by dissolved carbon dioxide.  
*Processes.* Ref JJ
- SPATTER** Molten material that was ejected from a vent or turbulent flow and which stuck together on landing to form a knobby rock in which the individual lumps are still just recognisable.  
*Lava Cave term.* Ref KG
- SPECIES** 7th and lowest rank in Taxonomic system. Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species. Genus & Species together constitute the 'specific name', a unique name for all known organisms that are alive or have become extinct.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna.* Ref JJ
- SPECIES** Individuals of a given species have a large number of characteristics in common, and are thought to be able to breed together & have come from a common ancestor.  
*Biology - Flora & Fauna.* Ref JJ
- SPELEOGEN** A cave feature formed erosionally or by weathering within a cave. Usually formed in the parent rock. eg Current markings, Rock pendant, Canyon, Spongework, Dome, Scallop.  
*Cave - Erosional & Solutional Features.* Ref JJ
- SPELEOLOGIST** A person who studies caves and their contents, especially by actually entering caves.  
*Speleology term.* Ref MM
- SPELEOLOGY** The study of caves and their contents. The exploration, description and study of caves and related phenomena.  
*Speleology term.* Ref JJ
- SPELEOTHEM** Any of the secondary mineral cave deposits formed by chemical deposition, most commonly of calcite. See decoration. Note that use of 'formation' is detrimental.  
*Cave - Depositional Features.* Ref JJ
- SPLASH CUP** (1) A shallow cavity in the top of a stalagmite. (2) Any depression caused by dripping water. Syn Conulite.  
*Cave - Depositional Features.* Ref JJ
- SPONGEWORK** A complex of irregular, inter-connecting cavities intricately perforating the rock. The cavities may range from a few centimetres to more than a metre across.  
*Speleology term.* Ref JJ
- SPRING** A natural flow of water from rock or soil onto the land surface or into a body of surface water. Syn Rising.  
*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

<b>SQUEEZE</b>	An opening in a cave only passable with effort because of its small dimensions. cf Flattener, Crawl. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SRT</b>	See Single rope technique. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref MM
<b>STALACTITE</b>	A speleothem hanging or growing downwards from a roof or wall, usually of cylindrical or conical form, originally with a central hollow tube, and formed by dripping water. see Straw. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>STALAGMITE</b>	A speleothem projecting vertically upwards from a cave floor and formed by precipitation from drips, often found directly under a stalactite. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>STANCE</b>	(is this a caving term) <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>STATION</b>	A survey point in a chain of such points in a survey. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>STEEPHEAD</b>	A steep-sided valley in karst, generally short, ending abruptly upstream where a stream emerges or formerly did so. <i>Speleology term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>STEGAMITE</b>	A speleothem projecting upwards from a cave floor in the form of a calcite ridge. A medial crack appears along the top of the ridge where water is thought to be forced from the speleothem under capillary action. First described by R Webb. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref RW
<b>STOOPING</b>	In caving, describes a passage in which there is not quite enough head room walk, but more than a crawl way. cf Flattener, Crawlway, Walking <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> Ref MM
<b>STRANDLINE</b>	A coast line, present or ancient. <i>Geology.</i> Ref KG
<b>STRAW</b>	A long, thin-walled tubular stalactite that elongates as minerals are deposited at the lower tip by seepage water flows dripping through its hollow interior. see Stalactite. <i>Cave - Depositional Features.</i> Ref JJ
<b>STREAMSINK</b>	A point where a surface stream disappears underground. May empty into an obvious karst feature, or percolate down through streambed gravels. <i>Karst - Depression Features of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>STRIKE</b>	The orientation of beds of rocks, given as the direction of a horizontal line in a bedding plane. . On level ground it is the direction of outcrop of inclined beds. <i>Geology.</i> Ref JJ
<b>STROMATOLITE</b>	A calcareous deposit, secreted by calcareous algae in the form of laminated domes and columns. Occurs in many cenotes. <i>Karst - Miscellaneous features of.</i> Ref KG
<b>STYGOBIONT</b>	Aquatic cavernicoles. Animals that live in karstic groundwater, or in alluvial groundwater. Includes stygobites, stygophiles & stygoxenes.

*Speleology term. Ref AC*

- STYGOBITE** An aquatic troglobite. An obligate aquatic species of hypogean waters having troglomorphic adaptations. Also includes the fauna found in deep groundwater substrata of alluvial aquifers.  
*Speleology term. Ref AC*
- STYGOFAUNA** Ecologically descriptive term covering aquatic groundwater fauna. Syn Stygobiont.  
*Speleology term. Ref AC*
- STYGOPHILE** A facultative stygobiont, usually lacking troglomorphies, and considered as the aquatic equivalent of a (terrestrial) troglophile.  
*Speleology term. Ref AC*
- STYGOXENE** An habitual stygobiont which spends only part of its life cycle in cave waters and returns periodically to the epigeal domain, eg for food.  
*Speleology term. Ref AC*
- STYLOLITE** Suture in rock formed where pressure solution has taken place, often leaving a thin lamina of insoluble material along it. Also applied to columnlike structures in some limestones which are at right angles to the bedding plane.  
*Karst - Miscellaneous features of. Ref JJ*
- SUBJACENT KARST** Karst developed in limestone or other soluble rock underlying other rock formations that are far less soluble. The ground surface may be perforated by collapse dolines etc or it may show no hint of the underlying karst. Example: Big Hole in NSW.  
*Karst - Kinds of. Ref JJ*
- SUBSIDENCE DOLINE** Formed by the downward movement of limestone by solution and of loose surface material such as soils into an underground cavity.  
*Karst - Depression Features of. Ref KG*
- SUBTERRANEAN** Pertaining to underground environments. Often in reference to caves. And often in reference to caves in karst.  
*Speleology term. Ref AC*
- SUMP** A point in a cave passage where the water meets the roof, then continues under water.  
*Speleology term. Ref JJ*
- SUPERSATURATED** Referring to water that has more calcium carbonate or other karst rock mineral in solution than the maximum corresponding to normal conditions.  
*Speleology term. Ref JJ*
- SURVEY** In caving, the measurement of directions and distances between survey points and of cave details from them, and the plotting of cave plans and sections from these measurements.  
*Survey & Mapping term. Ref JJ*
- SUSPENDED SEDIMENT** Small particles of insoluble organic or inorganic matter suspended in water, Syn flocculant.  
*Hydrology terms. Ref AC*
- SUUNTO** A small, handheld pendulum clinometer commonly used in cave survey.

<b>CLINOMETER</b>	<i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SUUNTO COMPASS</b>	A small, handheld sighting compass commonly used in cave survey. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SWALE</b>	A linear hollow or depression found between dunes or beachridges. Generally marshy or swampy, or may contain small lakes. <i>Geology.</i> Ref KG
<b>SWALLET</b>	Usually in karst, a form of sinkhole (which may also be a cave entrance) but could refer to a streamsink. Swallets are major entry points for recharge waters in some karst areas. <i>Karst - Depression Features of.</i> Ref AC
<b>SWALLET</b>	They may empty into open or choked cave features (eg shafts, avens). Swallets may simply be a portion of streambed from which there is a gradual downward percolation of surface water. <i>Karst - Depression Features of.</i> Ref AC
<b>SWIRLHOLE</b>	A more or less circular hole in rock in a streambed eroded by eddying water. Sometimes aided by rocks, sand or pebbles tumbling round and round. <i>Karst - Depression Features of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>SYNGENETIC KARST</b>	Karst developed in Aeolianite. Where the evolution of the karst has occurred at the same time as the lithification of the host sediment. A characteristic feature of Australian Quaternary dune calcarenites. First described by J N Jennings. <i>Karst - Kinds of.</i> Ref JJ

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## T

<b>TAFONI</b>	Roughly hemispherical hollows weathered in rock at the surface. Not common in caves, but some hollows in Nullarbor caves may well be tafoni. <i>Karst - Depression Features of.</i> Ref JJ
<b>TAGGING</b>	Affixing a tag bearing a cave number near its entrance, either by glue or by means of rock drill and a small nail or screw. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>TALWEG</b>	Also Thalweg. The line of lowest points along a valley floor, normally the stream channel. <i>Geology.</i> Ref KG
<b>TAPE</b>	In survey, a graduated tape of steel, plastic, wire-reinforced cloth, or fiberglass, used for measuring distance. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> Ref JJ
<b>TAPE</b>	Strips of woven synthetic fibre used for slings to support ladders or as a handline. Short lengths can be worn as a waist band. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> Ref JJ
<b>TAXON</b>	(Plu Taxa) In biology, the name of a rank in a system of Taxonomy. From highest to lowest: Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species. See Species. <i>Biology - Flora &amp; Fauna.</i> Ref MM

<b>TECTONIC</b>	Pertaining to large scale movements of the earth's crusts, such as Folding and faulting. <i>Geology</i> . Ref KG
<b>TERRA ROSSA</b>	Reddish residual clay soil developed on limestone. <i>Speleology term</i> . Ref JJ
<b>TERRESTRIAL</b>	Living or active on the land surfaces, either Epigeal, Endogean or Hypogean. cf Amphibious, Aquatic, Arboreal. <i>Fauna</i> . Ref AC
<b>TERRIGENOUS</b>	Shallow marine sediments consisting of material derived from the land surface. <i>Geology</i> . Ref KG
<b>TERTIARY</b>	The geological time between Cretaceous and Quaternary, from about 65 to 1.6 million years ago. It occupies the bulk of the Cainozoic era. From oldest to youngest, the subdivisions are Palaeocene, Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene, and Pliocene. <i>Geology</i> . Ref KG
<b>TERTIARY</b>	Tertiary climates in Australia were mainly warm and humid, with aridity first appearing towards the end of the Miocene and becoming widespread in the Pliocene. <i>Geology</i> . Ref KG
<b>THEODOLITE</b>	Survey instrument that measures both horizontal and vertical angles, as well as horizontal distances using a telescope and a stadia. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term</i> . Ref MM
<b>THREAD</b>	A natural hole in a rock mass through which a rope, tape or wire can be passed to create an anchor. <i>Climbing and SRT</i> . Ref RW
<b>THRESHOLD</b>	That part of a cave near the entrance where surface climatic conditions rapidly grade into cave climatic conditions. Not necessarily identical with twilight zone. <i>Cave - Parts of</i> . Ref JJ
<b>THRESHOLD</b>	Slope or cliff facing up a blind or half-blind valley below a present or former streamsink. <i>Geology</i> . Ref JJ
<b>THROUGH CAVE</b>	A cave which may be followed from entrance to exit along a stream course or along a passage which formerly carried a stream. <i>Cave - Kinds of</i> . Ref JJ
<b>TIDEMARK</b>	A horizontal bench or a marking on a wall of a lava tube which indicates a prior lava level. <i>Lava Cave term</i> . Ref KG
<b>TOPOFIL</b>	A mechanical cave survey device that uses a roll of thread and a distance counter, a protractor to measure inclination and a compass to measure the bearing. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term</i> . Ref RW
<b>TOWER KARST</b>	The ultimate development of Cockpit karst through Cone karst to Tower karst,

in which the residual hills have very steep to overhanging lower slopes. There may be alluvial plains between the towers and flat-floored depressions within them. Syn Fenglin.

*Karst - Hill Features of.* Ref JJ

- TRACE** A length of wire rope with clips at each end to fasten a wire ladder to a belay point.  
*Climbing and SRT.* Ref JJ
- TRACER** (1) A material introduced into surface or underground water where it disappears or into soil to determine drainage interconnections and travel time. (2) A material introduced into cave air to determine cave interconnections.  
*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ
- TRANSGRESSION** An advance of the sea across the land, due to subsidence of the land, or a eustatic rise in sea level. Opposite of Regression (qv).  
*Geology.* Ref KG
- TRANSITION ZONE** Initial region of the Dark zone beyond the Twilight zone where there is no visible light. But some external factors from the entrance environment may still be apparent, eg seasonally fluctuating air temperatures.  
*Cave - Parts of.* Ref AC
- TRANSPIRATION** Loss of water by plants, usually by evaporation from leaves. Cf. evapotranspiration.  
*Fauna.* Ref MM
- TRAVERSE** The commonest form of cave survey in which direction, distance and vertical angle between successive points are measured.  
*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ
- TRAVERSE** (1) A route along ledges above the floor of a cave, (2) to travel in a cave along such a route.  
*Speleology term.* Ref JJ
- TRAVERTINE** Compact calcium carbonate deposit, often banded, precipitated from spring, river or lake water. It is often at least partly of biogenic origin with algae or invertebrate animals involved. Cf. tufa.  
*Karst - Kinds of.* Ref JJ
- TREE ROOT** Tree roots often penetrate down into caves and can form dense mats of fine rootlets, or thick tap roots which can completely block a passage. The breakdown of the tree roots forms food for cavernicoles.  
*Speleology term.* Ref MM
- TRI-CAM** A metallic device placed in holes or cracks for use as an anchor Cf. Chock.  
*Climbing and SRT.* Ref RW
- TROG UP** To dress in suitable clothing and to gather lighting and other gear before going caving.  
*Speleology term.* Ref MM
- TROG** A caver. The act of caving. Short for troglodyte.  
*Speleology term.* Ref MM
- TROGLOBITE** An animal (an obligate cavernicole) that lives in a cave and is unable to live



outside of it. Troglobites usually have troglomorphic adaptations. Aquatics now referred to as Stygobites but may be referred to as aquatic troglobites.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

**TROGLODYTE**

A human cave dweller.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

**TROGLOMORPHIC ADAPTATION**

Adaptions to the cave environment, eg loss of pigment, for species living in the dark zone. eg long antennae and legs, partial or complete loss of eyes, reduced metabolic rate.

*Speleology term.* Ref AC

**TROGLOMORPHIES**

Syn. troglomorphic adaptations. (N.B. Troglomorphies do not necessarily equate to level of adaptation to dark zone environment.)

*Speleology term.* Ref MM

**TROGLOPHILE**

A terrestrial cavernicole which frequently completes its life cycle in caves but is not confined to this habitat.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

**TROGLOXENE**

A terrestrial Cavernicole which spends only part of its life cycle in caves and returns periodically to the epigeal domain for food.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

**TRUE NORTH**

The direction of the geographical north pole at a place.

*Survey & Mapping term.* Ref JJ

**TUBE**

A cave passage of smooth surface, and elliptical or nearly circular in cross-section. Cf. phreatic tube

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ

**TUFA**

Spongy or vesicular calcium carbonate deposited from spring, river or lake waters. Cf. travertine.

*Speleology term.* Ref JJ

**TUFF**

A consolidated form of volcanic ash or lapilli.

*Lava Cave term.* Ref KG

**TUMULUS**

A rounded, sharply convex, mound of lava, frequently with radial or polygonal cracks, where a semi-solid crust has been pushed up by pressure from below. Applied to small mounds on a lava tube floor. See 'Puddings'.

*Lava Cave term.* Ref KG

**TUNNEL**

A nearly horizontal cave open at both ends, fairly straight and uniform in cross-section.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ

**TURBIDITY**

The muddiness, cloudiness or milkiness of water. Related to the amount of suspended sediment in the water.

*Hydrology terms.* Ref AC

**TWILIGHT ZONE**

The part of a cave in which some daylight penetrates (but not direct sun light) and gradually diminishes to zero light. See Transition zone.

*Cave - Parts of.* Ref JJ

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## U

- UNCONFORMITY** A time break in a depositional sequence.  
*Geology*. Ref KG
- UNSATURATED ZONE** In karst, the zone where voids in rock are partly filled with air and through which water descends under gravity. syn Vadose zone.  
*Speleology term*. Ref AC
- UVALA** A complex closed depression with several lesser depressions or dolines within its rim.  
*Karst - Depression Features of*. Ref JJ
- 

## V

- VADOSE FLOW** Water flowing in free-surface streams in caves.  
*Speleology term*. Ref JJ
- VADOSE SEEPAGE** Refers to water moving downward through the vadose zone, either in narrow fissures, or on the walls of air-filled caves. Syn. percolation water.  
*Speleology term*. Ref JJ
- VADOSE WATER** Water in the vadose zone.  
*Speleology term*. Ref JJ
- VADOSE ZONE** That part of the cave environment that lies or once lay above the water table. Also refers to the erosional processes that act in that zone. See Unsaturated zone.  
*Speleology term*. Ref JJ
- VAUCLUSIAN SPRING** A spring rising up a deep, steeply-inclined, water-filled passage from a deep aquifer, and under considerable pressure. The term derives from such a spring in France that rises about 250m and flows at about 25 cubic metres per second.  
*Speleology term*. Ref JJ
- VENOM** From a variety of animals, and introduced to a victim by a variety of methods. Toxin types include, anticoagulant, haemolytic, haemorrhagic, myotoxin, neurotoxin, procoagulant. Bite sites may be infected by agents such as bacteria, carried by the animal.  
*Miscellaneous terms*. Ref MM
- VERMICULATION** Pattern of thin, worm-shaped coatings of clay or silt on cave surfaces.  
*Speleology term*. Ref JJ
- VERTICAL ANGLE** The angle in a vertical plane between a line of sight and the horizontal, positive above the horizontal and negative below.  
*Survey & Mapping term*. Ref JJ
- VUG** A small cavity in rock, often lined with crystals.  
*Cave - Erosional & Solutional Features*. Ref WM
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## W

<b>WALKING</b>	In caving, a passage in which there is enough head room to walk upright. cf Flattener, Crawlway, Stooping. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> RefMM
<b>WATER SINK</b>	(Looking for a definition) <i>Speleology term.</i> RefMM
<b>WATER TRACING</b>	Determination of water connection between points of stream disappearance or of soil water seepage and points of reappearance on the surface or underground. <i>Survey &amp; Mapping term.</i> RefJJ
<b>WATER TRAP</b>	A place where a cave roof dips under water but lifts above it farther on. Cf duck (-under). <i>Speleology term.</i> RefJJ
<b>WATERTABLE</b>	The surface between phreatic water which completely fills voids in the rock, and ground air, which partially fills higher voids. <i>Speleology term.</i> RefJJ
<b>WELL</b>	A deep rounded hole in a cave floor or on the surface in karst. cf Rockhole. <i>Cave - Parts of.</i> RefJJ
<b>WET CAVE</b>	A cave containing a lake, often a non flowing (or extremely slow flowing) lake at water table. cf Dead cave, Dry cave. <i>Cave - Kinds of.</i> RefMM
<b>WET SUIT</b>	A garment of foam neoprene that insulates a diver from the cold by allowing a thin film of water to penetrate between the suit and the body. <i>Diving terms.</i> RefJJ
<b>WHALETAIL</b>	A descender consisting of an aluminium block with slots, knobs and a safety gate. <i>Speleology term.</i> RefJJ
<b>WHISTLE SIGNALS</b>	In climbing, 1= Stop, 2= Up, 3= Down. The SUD acronym is used widely. 4 = OK/Safe, and 1 long blast = Help is also used. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> RefGB
<b>WINDOW</b>	An irregular opening through a thin rock wall in a cave. A similar hole that forms a cave entrance. <i>Speleology term.</i> RefJJ
<b>WIRE LADDER</b>	A flexible lightweight ladder of steel wires and aluminium alloy rungs. <i>Climbing and SRT.</i> RefMM

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## X

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## Y

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## Z

**ZONATION** The division of a cave into a series of zones relating to the extent of light penetration, influence of external environmental factors and degree of internal stability. Examples of cave zones are the twilight zone, transition zone and dark zone.  
*Speleology term. RefMM*

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## Themes

1. *Biology - Flora & Fauna*
2. *Cave - Biota*
3. *Cave - Depositional Features*
4. *Cave - Erosional & Solutional Features*
5. *Cave - Kinds of*
6. *Cave - Parts of*
7. *Climbing and SRT*
8. *Conservation*
9. *Diving terms*
10. *Documentation*
11. *Fauna*
12. *Flora*
13. *Geomorphology*
14. *Geology*
15. *Hydrology terms*
16. *Karst - Depression Features of*
17. *Karst - Hill Features of*
18. *Karst - Kinds of*
19. *Karst - Minor Forms of*
20. *Karst - Miscellaneous features of*
21. *Lava Cave term*
22. *Lighting term*
23. *Mineral, Rock and Chemical terms*
24. *Miscellaneous terms*
25. *Processes*
26. *Speleology term*
27. *Survey & Mapping term*
28. *Unsatisfactory term, not recommended*

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## Plea for updates / suggestions

Please peruse the list, and advise the author if:

- You have a better definition for a term.
- You have a term that is not included on the list.
- You have any comment on the list.

## Acknowledgements

The current listing represents the work of many people, including (AND APOLOGIES TO THOSE I MISSED):

- Peter J ACKROYD,
- Edward (Ted) G ANDERSON,
- Glenn BADDELEY,
- Arthur CLARKE,
- W J COUNSEL,
- John R DUNKLEY,
- David GILLIESON,
- Ken GRIMES,
- Elery HAMILTON-SMITH,
- G S HUNT,
- Julia M JAMES,
- J N Jennings,
- David C LOWRY,

- Peter G MATTHEWS,
  - Max G METH,
  - Neil MONTGOMERY,
  - G J MIDDLETON,
  - A PAVEY,
  - Norman POULTER,
  - Aola M RICHARDS,
  - Andy SPATE,
  - Rauleigh WEBB,
  - Tom M WIGLEY.
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## Revision History

### **3 Mar 1998**

First Draft for Comment. The first public release on Internet.

### **15 Apr 1998**

Add a downloadable ZIP file containing HTML for complete glossary A - Z.  
Add an access counter.

### **Mar 1998 - Oct 2018**

Located at <http://home.pacific.net.au/~gnb/caving/glossary/>.

### **20 Dec 2018**

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