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Cover photographs [all images by Chris Howes]:

With one Paper and one Report in this Issue relating to the caves, karst, and cave faunas of various parts of Sarawak (Malaysia), it seemed an ideal opportunity to choose a selection of photographs from there to adorn both of the covers. Once again we are pleased to thank **Chris Howes** for providing a fine and wide-ranging collection from which to choose the images featured on the front and rear covers.

The **Front Cover** image shows Judith Calford on part of the Boardwalk in Niah Cave, a site mentioned repeatedly in a Paper by Martin Laverty in this Issue, wherein he discusses the early (pre-Malaysia) history of cave and karst exploration in southwestern Sarawak. Deep solutional pocketing of the cave ceiling, prominent in the photograph, is suggestive of a phreatic origin for the cave, but – alternatively – might reflect a secondary overprint related to dissolution induced by the nitrification of biogenic ammonia derived from the microbial decay of bird and bat guano.

Relating to aspects of a short Report by Phil Chapman, which describes aspects of the cave fauna of the Bau area of southwestern Sarawak, the **rear cover** collage includes six images illustrating examples of the prolific, diverse and fascinating fauna observed within the wider context of the caves of Sarawak as a whole. Brief background and available details of the six images are provided below.

a	b	Image a	A cave swiftlet (<i>Aerodramus</i> sp.) photographed in Niah Cave, Sarawak, in April 2019. Both the black-nest swiftlet (<i>Aerodramus maximus</i>) and the mossy-nest swiftlet (<i>Aerodramus salangana</i>) are reported as nesting in the Niah caves. See also Image F.
	c	Image b	Head of a cave racer snake (<i>Orthriophis taeniurus</i>), with its tongue extended, “smelling”/“tasting” the air, a repetitive act that helps the snake to be aware of its environment and, particularly, to sense the presence and location of potential prey or threats. Photographed in Racer Cave, Mulu, Malaysia, April 2019.
d	e	Image c	Huntsman spider (Family Sparassidae; ?Heteropoda sp.) with its egg sack. Photographed in Stone Horse Cave, Mulu, Malaysia, April 2019.
	f	Image d	Female <i>Psecchus</i> sp. (a large cribellate – orb-weaving – spider) with part of its characteristic web. Photographed in Deer Cave, Mulu, Sarawak, Malaysia, in November 2022.
		Image e	Whip scorpion (unidentified <i>Uropygid</i>) with folded pedipalps (“pincers”), photographed in Stone Horse Cave, Mulu, Malaysia, in November 2022. Almost all whip scorpion species have eight eyes, the exceptions being a tiny minority of (blind) cave-dwelling species reported in the southern USA. Whether surface- or cave-dwelling their eyesight is, however, generally poor and – especially when hunting – they rely upon their highly sensitive, elongated, antennae-like, first pair of legs, which function as sensory organs.
		Image f	Young swiftlets (<i>Aerodramus</i> sp.), possibly the Black-nest Swiftlet – <i>Aerodramus maximus</i> – still in the nest and with their eyes not yet open. Photographed in Lagang’s Cave, Mulu, Malaysia, in April 2019. See also Image A.

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