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Cave and Karst Science

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Cave and Karst Science — Notes for Contributors

Scope of articles

Authors are encouraged to submit articles for publication in *Cave and Karst Science* – the *Transactions of the British Cave Research Association* – to one or both editors via the editorial addresses shown on the Contents page. Submissions fall into five broad categories...

Papers: Scientific papers, normally up to 6,000 words but may be longer subject to editorial agreement, on any aspect of karst or speleological science, including archaeology, biology, chemistry, conservation, geology, geomorphology, history, hydrology and physics. Manuscript papers, which should be of a high standard, will be subject to peer review by two referees.

Reports: Shorter contributions, normally 500–3,000 words, on aspects of karst or speleological science, as listed above, or more descriptive material, such as caving expedition reports and technical articles. The Editorial Board will review manuscripts unless the subject matter lies outside their fields of expertise, in which case assessment by an appropriate expert will be sought.

Features: Articles of appropriate length (by editorial agreements) for the core topic that do not fall readily into either the Paper or Report categories but are longer than normal Forum contributions (see below). Such items might include, for example, new translations of historical milestone publications, appreciations of the work of major contributors to the many cave and karst science fields, or considerations of past activities and/or future ways forward in the cave and karst sciences.

Forum: Personal statements, normally up to 1,000 words, on topical issues; discussion of published papers, and book reviews. Where appropriate, statements should put forward an argument and make a case, backed-up by examples used as evidence.

> **Abstracts**: Authors (or supervisors) of undergraduate or postgraduate dissertations on cave or karst themes are encouraged to submit abstracts for publication. Please indicate whether the thesis is available *via* inter-library loan. Abstracts of papers presented at BCRA (and related) conferences or symposia are also welcome. Normally, **Abstracts** appear as part of **Forum**.

Prospective authors are welcome to contact the editors (see the Contents page for current addresses), who will be pleased to advise on manuscript preparation.

Photo Feature: Introduced in 2022, this is intended to encourage cavers to submit one to three photographs together with a brief explanation of their scientific significance.

Open access

In 2024 the BCRA Council agreed that all articles accepted for publication in *Cave and Karst Science* will be Open Access, meaning that the article can be downloaded freely, and will be marked as meeting the open access requirements of **UKRI.org**. However, the BCRA Council encourages those submitting a paper to ***make a donation*** towards the costs of publication, particularly if they are affiliated to an academic institution

The following notes are intended to help authors prepare their material in the most advantageous way. Time and effort are saved if the guidelines below are followed. Queries regarding the content or format of the material should be made before submitting the manuscript. On publication, authors will be provided with access to downloadable digital copies of their contributions.

Manuscript style

Text: Material should be presented in a style as close as possible to that adopted by *Cave and Karst Science* since 1994. Subheadings within an article should follow the system used in *Cave and Karst Science.* A consistent set of primary, secondary and, if necessary, tertiary subheadings should be indicated clearly.

Abstract: Submitted material should normally be accompanied by an abstract, stating the essential results of the investigation or the significance of the contribution, for use by abstracting, library and other services.

References to previously published work should be given in the standard format used in *Cave and Karst Science*. In the text author's name and date (and page number *if appropriate*) should be cited in parentheses – (Smith, 1969, p.42). All text citations should be referenced in full, in alphabetical order, at the end of the manuscript, thus: Smith, D E, 1969. The speleogenesis of the Cavern Hole. *Bulletin of the Yorkshire Caving Association,* Vo1.7, 1–63. Periodical titles must be **written in full**. Books should be referenced by author (or Editor), date, title, place of publication and publisher, in the form: Braithwaite, C J R, 2005. *Carbonate Sediments and Rocks.* [Dunbeath: Whittles Publishing.] 164pp. Failure to provide full and unambiguous references can delay publication.

Acknowledgements: Any person or organization that has given a grant or helped with the investigation or with preparation of the article should be acknowledged. Contributors in universities and other institutions are reminded that grants towards publication costs may be available, and that they should make related enquiries as early as possible. Some expedition budgets include an element to help publication, and the editors should be informed of this.

Speleological expeditions have a moral obligation to produce reports (contractual in the case of expeditions supported by Ghar Parau Foundation awards). These should be concise and cover the results of the expedition as soon as possible after the return from overseas, so that later expeditions are informed for their planning. Personal anecdotes should be kept to a minimum, but useful advice such as location of food supplies, medical services, *etc*., may be included, preferably as appendices.

Submission media

Unless a suitable alternative is agreed in advance with the Editor(s), manuscripts should be sent by email, with the Text and Tables as separate Word documents and with each figure and photograph as a separate jpg or tif file. If the file attachments exceed 20Mb they should be sent to one or both of the editorial addresses shown on the Contents page, using a file-transfer service such as WeTransfer.

File naming: Files can be difficult to track. The editors advise that all related file names (including photos and graphics files) should begin with the same character string, e.g. lead author's surname. If submitting a large number of files it is especially helpful to include an index – a file containing a list of file names and their contents.

Manuscript format

Text: The text should be Microsoft Word (Doc) [**NOT Docx**, because this is not recognized by our current publishing software], preferably compiled using the **Times New Roman** font. Please do **not** include tables, graphics or photos within text files, but supply them separately, as detailed below.

Layout: Material should be compatible with the *Cave and Karst Science* 'house style' regarding headings, *etc*., but do not attempt to match the layout. Text should be in a single column and 'double-spaced'. Character formatting (bold, italic, sub- and superscript) can be used, but please do **not** apply paragraph formatting, which will be stripped out during DTP.

Symbols: Special symbols, including accented Roman characters, Greek letters, fractions, mathematical symbols, and some icons, can be generated using the MS Word character map accessible via Insert/Symbol. If the required symbol is not available here, please check for an alternative in the Symbol font. To avoid confusion and assist the editors, authors who employ special symbols should provide an explanatory list (digitally) of the nature, meaning and font of the characters used.

Tables, graphics and photos: Tables and Figures (both diagrams and photographs) should be referred to in the text, where necessary, as (Table 4), (Fig.3), *etc*. Preferred approximate positions of tables, graphics and photos can be indicated by, e.g., <Insert Figure 1>. A full list of captions should be submitted at the end of the manuscript, after a hard page break. Photo captions should include the photographer's name unless the photographer is also the sole author. Any material not created by the author(s) must acknowledge that permission is granted for its use.

Avoid submitting composite illustrations containing mixed photos, diagrams, charts, *etc*. It is inefficient and time-consuming to optimize them for printing or viewing and overall outcomes can be inferior to using separate figures at appropriate sizes. The large footprint needed to ensure legibility of full-page composites also reduces options for appropriate positioning of illustrations among the text. If composite figures are considered essential or advantageous, and if approved by the editors, please submit separate high-resolution copies of all components and a template of the required layout.

Tables should be submitted in a separate MS Word (Doc) file, numbered in sequence and provided with captions. Use a simple table design that is easy to edit. For example, use tabs or table cells rather than spaces to separate data, and merge table cells only where strictly necessary. For submission, separate each table using a **hard** page break.

Graphical illustrations should be designed to make maximum use of page space. Preferred **final** widths are 1-column, 1.5-columns or 2-columns (90mm, 143mm or 188mm respectively); these might be adjusted to make best use of available space during layout. Maximum column height is 267mm but, if designing a potentially full-page illustration, remember to allow for caption space below. Maps (and cave surveys) must have bar scales only. When submitting graphics, bear in mind that referees may request revisions, so submission of a draft version is advised.

Various digital graphics formats are acceptable, but some are not recommended – e.g. MS Word's built-in facilities (auto-shapes, text boxes and MS Draw) can cause problems. Charts generated within MS Excel are becoming increasingly popular. For these to retain their initial clarity during production it is best to provide each chart removed from its parent data and saved as a separate, appropriately named, sheet within an Excel workbook file.

Remember that graphics, photos and tables might have to be reduced (or, more rarely, enlarged) from the size envisaged during compilation, to fit the column heights and widths described above. Lettering should be of a suitable size to be readable at the anticipated dimensions of use; generally use of a simple sanserif typeface such as "Arial" (or a closely similar font) is preferred.

Photographs should be provided at full resolution. **Do not sharpen**. Tif or larger size jpg files are currently the preferred formats. Other formats might be acceptable or adaptable; please check with the editors if in doubt.

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Contents

Cover photographs

*The **Front Cover** photograph shows **Manbhalang Wann** examining the skull of a Himalayan Serow* (Capricornis sumatraensis) *that was found, together with a partial skeleton, at the base of the second pitch of Swiftlet Pot (Krem Lanshat), in the Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya. Tragically, "**Man**" passed away in 2016. He had a deep interest in caves and was an active member of the Caving in the Abode of the Clouds expeditions. His enthusiasm and good company are sorely missed by all who knew him. The Serow-remains are featured in an article in this Issue, describing mammals in Meghalayan caves; the cave also yielded the skull of a juvenile macaque. Abundant Himalayan Swiftlets* (Aerodramus brevirostris)*, which utilize the cave for roosting and nesting, prompted the naming of the cave. Such colonies appear to be uncommon in India, and this site is the only swiftlet colony that has been recognized with certainty within Meghalaya. The photograph was taken by **Elena Buduran**.*

*The six images comprising the **Rear Cover** collage, relate to this Issue's Report on the "Sulfur Caves–Epirus 2025" Speleological Expedition, which took place in the Vikos–Aoos UNESCO Global Geopark of northern Greece. These photographs illustrate some of the representative features of sulphuric acid speleogenesis (SAS) cave morphology and other morphologies that were observed and recorded during exploration and study of the Sarantaporos Cave System. Brief descriptions of the six photographs, all of which were taken by **Sotiris Kountouras**, are provided below.*

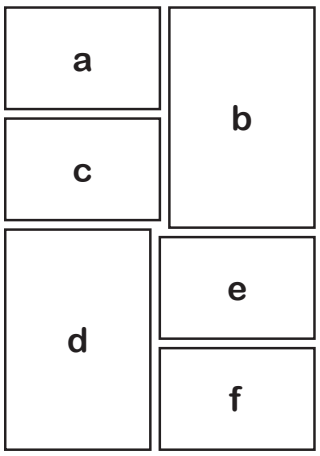

Image **a** *A typical image of a caver moving through a relatively low passage segment during the 1925 explorations of the Sarantaporos sulphur caves.*

Image **b** *Characteristic passage morphology within the Sarantaporos sulphur caves, showing a feeder developed along the length of the passage. Here, the feeder is filled with sediment, revealing evidence of periodic or seasonal recharge. Well-developed gypsum crystals are visible in the upper foreground.*

Image **c** *A drapery: one of a very few speleothems that were observed in the SAS caves of the Sarantaporos area. Its presence indicates that secondary, epigenetic, speleothem deposition has been active subsequent to the development phase of the passage.*

Image **d** *A passage profile that shows a well-defined feeder along the conduit floor. The walls, which display distinct notches and corrosion karren reflecting the erosional role of upwelling fluids, illustrate the type of dissolution features characteristic of the Sarantaporos sulphur caves.*

Image **e** *Looking downwards towards a caver in one of only a few essentially vertical cave passages that were explored during the "Sulfur Caves–Epirus 2025" Speleological Expedition.*

Image **f** *A view of a passage cross-section that demonstrates clear evidence of rock breakage and detachment initiated along bedding planes within the limestone sequence.*

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Annual subscriptions are available to non-members at a rate of £28. For destinations outside the UK. extra postage of £3 (Europe) and £6 (outside Europe) applies. A special discounted subscription rate is available to *bona fide* students. For more information about BCRA publications and publication sales, please refer to the details on the inner back cover of this Issue.

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EDITORIAL

David Lowe and **John Gunn**

This is the first Issue of the 33rd Volume of *Cave and Karst Science* that we have edited. All but two of those volumes comprised three issues. Volumes 32 and 35 included special "double" issues – 32(1) and 32(2+3); 35(1+2) and 35(3), giving 94 printed "magazines" and a conceptual grand total of 96 issues. During the *circa* 33 years of our editorship, beginning in 1994, we have introduced some innovations (e.g. the *Forum* section, Feature articles and, most recently, the Photo Feature) but, overall, the underlying submission, review and response procedures have remained broadly the same. This long-established approach is an anomaly – and perhaps we are heading towards being an anachronism – among the international peer-review journals because our contributors (and reviewers) receive a "personal – commonly bespoke – service" from the editors, rather than interacting with an electronic submission system. We have always considered that "*This was a Good Thing*" (Sellar and Yeatman, 1930), but we leave contributors to decide whether it *remains* a good thing. No doubt, when we step down, the new editor(s) will create a more "streamlined" system. Nevertheless, for the present Volume at least, we continue to look forward to receiving emails from contributors and potential contributors.

Cave and Karst Science differs from many academic journals in two other ways. Firstly, we welcome submissions from potential contributors who are not part of the mainstream academic structure. Such individuals (or, in some cases, teams) include, for example, cavers who have an interest in aspects of the cave- and/or karst-related sciences but lack opportunities to study them as part of their day-to-day employment. They might not have the confidence to present their ideas, let alone the background skills routinely applied to – and required for – academic publishing. Our view is that we should be approachable and should offer guidance and editorial help; we neither expect nor insist upon either a regimented academic approach or adherence to a strict and formulaic format.

Secondly, many – possibly most – journals have a relatively narrow focus and, arguably, a readership that is targeted and transfused specifically with material linked closely to that focus. That is, of course, perfectly logical and understandable – but how many separate topic-specific journals would be required to offer distinct, tailored, outlets covering all potential facets of "*cave- and karst-related **knowledge***"? Instead, we welcome contributions containing information, thoughts and ideas from every academic discipline – artistic as well as scientific or technological – and *potentially* from areas of knowledge and expertise that are not considered academic at all. This admits-to, and allows for, recognition that there must be areas of possible interest that do not at first glance appear linked to caves or karst. Hence, we remain flexible and prepared to consider submissions reflecting thoughts developed outside the academic box, as normally perceived. For example, many cavers might be interested in reading details of explorations carried out during an expedition, or even about logistical issues related to setting-up that expedition, and its safe, successful and productive progress and completion. Even if scientific work formed part of the expedition, it would not necessarily interest readers who were not part of the research team, whereas the non-academic but no-less important aspects could be of great and lasting value. A rather different example might be that someone intrigued by references to caves (or karst) in poetry (e.g. in W H Auden's classic 1948 poem, "*In Praise of Limestone*", written in Ischia but perhaps also harking back to his native Yorkshire), might be inspired to offer a *Feature* based around a single poem or comparing different approaches. Equally, such karst-related stimuli might be awaiting analysis within other forms of artistic expression.

Whereas broad requirements for each defined type of *CaKS* publication are described for reference on the inner front cover of every Issue of the Journal, and *via* a page on the BCRA website [https://bcra.org.uk/pub/candks/guidelines.html], we have added a tabulated rationalization of the information as part of the *Forum* section on Page 45.

Moving to the Contents of this Issue, we are pleased to note that these include 3 papers and 1 report, relating to an eclectic variety of topics, and an equally cosmopolitan spread of overseas research areas. This situation is unusual because (without mounting a laborious trawl through the archives) neither Editor can recall a routine (rather than thematic) *Cave and Karst Science* Issue that didn't include at least one Paper or Report based upon research or exploration in the British Isles. This view might reflect imperfect editorial memories rather than actuality. In their order of appearance within the Issue, the contents include:

- **Uttam Saikia** and a multi-national team of co-authors present a consideration of the available information (anecdotal as well as physical) relating to the presence of mammalian species other than bats in the caves of Meghalaya. Some of the physical evidence is ancient as well as equivocal but, even so, it is clear that whereas the remains of some species probably reflect accidental (e.g. flood-related) entry to the caves, other species choose to venture underground for a variety of purposes. Photographic illustrations underscore the scientific discussion, and additional photographs are provided within a supplementary on-line appendix. An image related to the topic appears on the Front Cover of the Issue.
- Following the untimely death of Dave Gill early in 2024, several of his former colleagues helped the editors to ensure publication of material already submitted, for eventual inclusion in *CaKS* Issue 51(3). Subsequently, **Martin Laverty** continued to work with various colleagues to compile four additional *CaKS* submissions. One of these appeared in Issue 52(2), and two more in Issue 52(3). The current Issue contains the final submission of the four – this one under Martin's sole authorship – comprising "*Geonotes*", which describe and discuss aspects of the caves and karst of southwestern Sarawak. Supplementary on-line information was presented with the Issue 52(2) Paper, and this information is re-referenced in the current Issue.
- In marked contrast with the Paper described above, which has only one author, the third submission in this Issue is a Report, provided by **Georgios Lazaridis** and twenty-four (yes, 24) other authors. It deals with the context, findings and outcomes of the *"Sulfur Caves–Epirus 2025 Speleological Expedition"*, which took place within the Vikos–Aoos UNESCO Global Geopark in northern Greece, close to the border with Albania. In addition to describing the local geological and geomorphological setting, and discussing the specific nature and morphologies of the caves explored during the expedition, the authors comment briefly upon broader issues of sulphuric acid speleogenesis (SAS), with references to work in other regions. A selection of images captured during the expedition forms the collage on the Issue's Back Cover.
- The final Paper, authored by **Liviu Valenas** and three colleagues, relates to features termed "*water pits*", developed within quartzitic sandstones in northeastern Thailand. Discussions include their morphology, hydrochemistry and potential mode(s) of genesis. Whereas some of these pits share various characteristics with other, previously described, types of dissolution pits, evidence and consideration of possible interpretations suggest that those discussed here represent a unique landform type.

The remainder of the Issue is occupied by a relatively short *Forum* section that includes a reminder about the various options for *Cave and Karst Science* submissions (alluded to above), two book reviews, and another in the occasional "*Notes for Authors*" series.

Reference:

Sellar, W C and Yeatman, R J, 1930. *1066 and All That: A Memorable History of England, Comprising All the Parts You Can Remember, Including 103 Good Things, 5 Bad Kings and 2 Genuine Dates*. [Methuen Publishing.] 172pp.