THE SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF MEXICO’S FIRST REPORT ON THE CAVES OF MEXICO

February 12, 1963

Edited by T. R. Evans
The Speleological Survey of Mexico is the organization that became the Association for Mexican Cave Studies. A faint copy of this rare spirit-duplicated publication was donated to the AMCS by William Russell. It was scanned by Bill Mixon in June 2010. The scans are presented grayscale to preserve as much legibility as possible.

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Note: This first report is not intended as a source of information for spelunkers, etc. The purpose of this report is to inspire you, the reader, to supply us with additional information about these caves and other Mexican caves that you may know of. We want descriptions of caves, locations, lists of fauna taken from the caves, bibliographical material, maps, reports of trips that have been made to the caves, reports of archaeological work carried on, etc. Please take the time to read over this report carefully, and if you find any mistakes that we have made, let us know.

You have in your hand all of the information that we of the SSM have, and after reading the report, you will see that much of our information is very scanty. Please reply if you have additional information or more accurate information.

Address replies to: SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF MEXICO
P. O. Box 7572, DF Station
Austin 12, Texas

Editor of the SSM: T. R. Evans
Associate Editors: T. W. Raines, James Reddell, & Wm. Russell
CUEVA CHORREADERO

Owner: Unknown

Location: 4 mi. NE of Chiaps de Corzo, Km. 1110. Alt. 3000'.

Description: A stream of moderate size flows from the cave. The entrance is near the base of a 150'-200' cliff, and is 30'-40' high, 20' wide, and 40' above the canyon floor, thus creating a waterfall. Large flights of swallows enter the cave as the density of the bat flight decreases.

Reported by: Dr. D. C. Carter, Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.

MUNICIPAL PARK CAVE

Owner: The city of Tuxtla Gutierrez.

Location: In a municipal park of Tuxtla, 2 mi. SW of Tuxtla. The cave is in the park near the swimming pool.

Description: The cave is fairly small, contains water and springs, and apparently connects to a small underground stream.

Fauna: Glossophaga

Reported by: Dr. D. C. Carter, Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.

CUEVA DEL RANCHO NUEVO

Owner: Unknown

Location: Near San Cristobal de las Casas. (See Sr. Kransky who owns a photo shop in San Cristobal.)

Reported by: Dr. D. C. Carter of the Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.
CUEVA DE LA MINA LEPANTO

Owner: Naica Mines of Mexico (a subsidiary of the Penoles Co.).

Location: Near the mining camp of Naica, Chi. Go on the Mex. Central Railroad to the station of Concho, 130 kms. S of Chihuahua. From here, take the narrow guage line to Naica, about 30 kms.

Description: A gypsum cave which is near the Maravilla Cave, and may actually be a continuation.


CUEVA DE LA MINA MARAVILLA

Owner: Naica Mines of Mexico (a subsidiary of the Penoles Co.).

Location: See location of preceding cave.

Description: The cave is on the third level of the mine and is guarded by a heavy wooden door to prevent vandals from entering. The cave is noted for its gypsum crystals which range in size from several inches long to 5 or 6 ft. The large clusters of crystals resemble the famed maguey plants of Mexico.

BUEN ABRIGO CUEVA

Owner: Unknown

Location: At the foot of Sierra San Lorenzo. The cave is in the area of Candelaria and may be in the state of Durango.

Fauna: Mormoops m. megalophylla (Collected by Davis & Carter 1959).


CUEVA DEL ANGOSTO

Owner: Unknown

Location: To the north of la Cueva de la Candelaria.


CUEVA DE LAS ANIMAS

Location: Near Monclova.

Reported by: Dr. F. Bonet
Location: Begin at the largest service station on the north side of Highway 57, east of Arteaga. Proceed one mile along 57, and take the dirt road north across the dam. Drive 6 miles and park car. The cave is visible from the road and is about 1500' above the Cerro del Fortezaute.

Description: The entrance is 60' high and 100' wide. A breakdown slope descends from the entrance, and the cave gets smaller towards the end. There are many formations in the cave, which is only 250' long.


CUEVA DE BERNARDO

Owner: Unknown

Location: See former cave location. This cave is on the same hill, only ½ way up.

Description: The entrance is a 10" x 18" hole which drops 62' to a breakdown pile. The horizontal length of the cave is about 30'.

Reported by: R. M. (Bud) Frank--Easter 1952.

CUEVA DE LA CANDELARIA

Owner: Unknown

Location: Northeast of Torreon, near the border of Durango. The cave is on the northern side of the extreme northern part of the small Candelaria Range, to the south of the Delicias Valley. It is about 3½ hrs. on a fair road from (NE) San Pedro de las Colonias.

Description: The entrance is a horizontal hole about 10' in diam. There is a drop at the entrance and a cable ladder or rope is necessary. The first room has a ceiling ht. of 9 mts., and the second room, south and well below the first, has a ht. of 4 mts. The floor of the second room is irregular and has large cracks in it leading to other parts of the cave. Exploration is dangerous. The first room was used by peoples of Laguna as a funeral deposit. The bodies were not buried, but were wrapped as mummies. Much archaeological work has been carried on in this cave.

CUEVA DE EL CHARRO

Location: Near Arteaga.
Reported by: Dr. P. Bonet

COYOTE CAVES (Cueva de Agua)

Location: Northeast of Torreon.


CUEVAS (1 & 2)

Location: Near Perros de la Fuente.
Reported by: Dr. P. Bonet

LA CUEVA DE ESPAÑA

Location: 22 km. S. 11 km. W of Nacozari; Near Torreon. Turn off highway just before reaching Picaresas.

Description: The cave is rather large and has a large entrance. The entrance passage ascends steeply at first, and then gradually. The first ill-defined chamber is 200' long. The second is also ill-defined and somewhat smaller; 50' long, 30' wide, and 40' high. The floor of this chamber descends and the cave continues for several hundred yards. There are some rather large rooms in the lower part of the cave.


CUEVA DEL CUANCO

Location: Near Ramos Arizpe--on the Rancho de San Francisco.
Reported by: Dr. P. Bonet

CUEVA DEL LEON

Location: In Canon de la Almada near Mazquis.
Reported by: Dr. P. Bonet

CUEVA DE LA MINA DE LA MUTUA

Location: Near Arteaga.
Reported by: Dr. P. Bonet
Location: Near Saltillo--in the Rancho del Jaguey.

Reported by: Dr. F. Benet

CUEVAS PAILAS

Location: 50 km. NE of Parras in the Arroyo del Muerto of the Sierra de la Peña. Starting from Parras, go N, crossing successively the Torreon-Saltillo Hwy., the railroad line, and the so-called Peña "mire", which is located in the bottom of an extinct lake.

Description: Vertical entrance with one room. The cave contained artifacts similar to those of Candelaria.


CUEVA DE LOS PINOS

Location: Near Ojo Caliente.

Reported by: Dr. F. Benet

CUEVA DEL PONIENTE

Location: Near the village of Cuatrociénegas. Contact Garza Villarreal who lives in Cuatrociénegas and knows where the cave is. The cave is probably NW of this village.


CUEVA DE EL POZO

Location: In the Canon de Jimnico. This may be between Monterrey and Sabina Hidalgo. There is a Cerro Sombrerillo and a Los Pozos.

Reported by: Dr. F. Benet

CUEVA DEL S. VON ??

Location: Near Ojo Caliente--in El Vulcan.

Reported by: Dr. F. Benet

CUEVA DE SAN VICENTE

Location: Near the village of Cuatrociénegas. Contact Garza Villarreal in this village. He knows where the cave is.

Cueva del Sombrerillo

Location: In the Canon de Jimulco
Reported by: Dr. F. Bonet

Unnamed Cave

Location: W of Hwy. 57, 5 miles S of the 1012 Km. post.
Reported by: R. M. (Bud) Frank--Rester 1962.

Cuevas del Vapora, del Agua, del Indio, del Macho, del Curia, de los Poderes, de los Jeroglíficos

Location: In the area of Candaralía. In the state of Coahuila or Durango.
Description: These caves are probably shelters and were explored by Dr. J. Alden Mason of the University of Penn. (Mex. Caves & Cav.)

Cueva de la Humixa

Location: Northwest of Torreon and Gomez Palacio. In the area of Candaralía.

Grutas de Mapiimí

Location: Near Torreon, the capital of the neighboring state of Coahuila. This cave is reached by a fine highway from Torreon.
Description: Supposedly 15 km. long. Many oxidized metals appear in the cave's interior making the walls appear red. There are many formations and a few "bottomless" pits. The cave has been explored by members of the Everest Club--probably from Torreon.

Cueva Pintada

Location: In the vicinity of Sotelitos, Durango (in the Sierra Madre Occidental of western Durango).
Description: Probably a shelter. Contains red and black pictographs, some post-Spanish.
Location: In the district of Pedricens, Durango.
Description: Of archaeological interest. Human remains found.

Boca del Bocacito

Location: Near Iguala, about 3/4 mile from Boca del Diablo. Well known by local children.
Description: A vertical shaft about 150' deep.
Reported by: Carroll Sleemaker--taken from a list that he compiled sometime around 1956.

Gruta de Cualac (Cototolapan)

Location: Near the village of Cualac, in northern Guerrero, near the Puebla border. It is near the towns of Huexuxtitlan and Chiepetlan.
Description: Chiefly of archaeological interest. A historical codex dating from the XVI century, but post-conquest and executed on European paper, was found here.
Bibliography: MEXICO'S CAVES AND CAVERNS, 1962 ed., p. 27 (a pamphlet published by Pemex). Muller, Florencia, EL CODICE DE CUALAC.

Boca del Diablo

Location: Near Iguala; go 10 mi. S of Iguala towards Texcoco and at the bottom of hill, turn left off highway onto dirt road. Immediately turn left again, cross small cobblestone bridge, and proceed to the Boca, which is in the brush a few yards ahead.
Description: This is the legendary "Devil's Throat" into which many political prisoners were supposed to have been thrown. There is an unbroken drop of 275' from the 10' x 20' opening to an alcove. From here, there is another 50' drop, and a final easy climb of another 50'. The bottom is a large chamber about 60' in diameter.
Reported by: Carroll Sleemaker--information taken from a list that he compiled sometime around 1956.

Grutas de Cacahuamilpa

Location: 49 kms. southwest of Alpuyeca, which is 100 kms. from Mexico City. The cave is a national park and is shown on most road maps.
Description: Commercial cave of Carlsbad proportions. The commercial portion is about 2 kms., although there is said to be over 15 kms. of passage. The cave has many legends associated with it and literally thousands of adventurous people have explored the cave.
Bibliography: Mohr, Charles E. "Special Supplement--Caves of Mex." NSS NEWS, April 1950, pp. 4-5. MEXICO'S CAVES AND CAVERNS, 1962 ed., pp. 17-23 (a pamphlet published by Pemex). This bibliography is incomplete. (Also see Hevey's CELEBRATED AMERICAN CAVERNS).
CUEVA DE CARLOS PACHECHO

Location: One mile on a foot trail running along the mountain-side from Cacahuamilpa, and somewhat above the main Grutas.
Description: Much smaller than Cacahuamilpa. It consists of two parallel rooms which are well decorated with large, but dry stalactites.

GRUTAS DE CUIMULUA

Location: Near Iguala--somewhere near Balsas and Arceles, SW of Iguala.
Description: Reported by Otis McCallister to be the "largest cave in Mexico."
Reported by: Carroll Slemenger (taken from a list that he compiled sometime around 1936).

DOS BOCAS

Location: Near the Grutas de Cacahuamilpa--about ½ mile below Cacahuamilpa by foot trail. Signs indicate the way.
Description: Two very large caves with entrances about 100' apart at the head of a blind canyon. The San Jeronimo River flows from the upper Boca and is very swift, making exploration somewhat hazardous. The Chontacuatan flows from the lower Boca and joins the San Jeronimo to form the Rio Amacuzac. The upper Boca has an upper entrance, and another about ½-way along between the upper and lower ones. The upper entrances of the Bocas are many miles apart and each cave is said to be from 4-5 miles long. The passages in both are on the order of 75' wide and equally as high. The best time for exploration is April or early May when little rain occurs.

GRUTAS DE JUICITLACUACA

Location: 4 miles N of Colotlipa, Guerrero. The road to Colotlipa takes off near Chilpancingo--to the left as you go towards Acapulco. It is necessary to walk 3 or ½ miles to reach the cave. Horses are available.
Description: The entrance is 4 m wide and 5 m high. The cave is large and well-decorated with formations. Pictographs appear in one section of the cave. There is an underground river about 1500 meters from the entrance. The cave also contains a "bottomless" pit.
Location: One mile S of Palo Blanco, Guerrero.
Description: Small sink hole with a 12' entrance drop. Rope needed. It has one main chamber and several smaller ones.

UNNAMED CAVE

Location: Near Iguala, about ½ mile from Boca del Diablo. Local inquiry will turn it up.
Reported by: Carroll Slemaker—taken from a list that he compiled sometime around 1956.

UNNAMED CAVE

Location: Acachinotla, Guerrero
Description: The cave is 40 yards long and contains bats.
Reported by: Dr. D. C. Carter of the Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.

UNNAMED CAVE

Location: Almolonga, Guerrero
Description: The cave contains several crevices in overhanging wall which contains bats. No passages at the bottom.
Reported by: Dr. D. C. Carter of the Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.

UNNAMED CAVE

Location: Mexcala, Guerrero. 1.5 miles from Highway 95 is the village of Mexcala. The cave is 6-8 kms. downstream on the Rio Baluza. It is 15 km. by road.
Reported by: Dr. D. C. Carter of the Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.

CUEVA DEL CHIVO

Location: At Hupalconco, an archaeological site near the town of Tulancingo. The site is 4 kms. north of Tulancingo.
Description: Of archaeological interest. Obsidian knives, balls of copal incense, skeletons of children, and ceramics from late, preconquest periods have been taken from the cave.

UNNAMED CAVE

Location: Near Chapulhuscan. Take foot trail from here to small village (2½ miles) and inquire here.
Description: Entrance is in 75' cliff about 1 mi. from village towards river. It is 1000 ft. long and has a wet-weather stream.
CHUANAS XOXAFI

Location: Near the town of Lagunillas which is several km. E of the Pan American Highway at Km. 126 (Mohr reports Km. 196). The cave is about two miles E of Lagunillas along a good dirt road on a hill called "Loma del Zopilote." The cave is easy to reach and the people of the area will act as guides.

Description: Large and very beautiful cave with many rooms and galleries (according to "Mexico's Caves and Caverns"). Mr. Mohr describes the cave as looking like the core of an extinct volcano. He estimates a direct descent of 500' via ladders that were in the cave to an apparently bottomless pit, over which hung the cave's sole stalactite. (There is another cave in the area called the "Cristo Grotto" which has a vertical entrance, and is perhaps the cave that Mr. Mohr describes as "Toxafi."


CUEVA DE LA ESTRELLA

Location: The cave is on the Río Zopilote, NE of Cacahusnillo, near Tlapa de las Sal.

Description: Large cave with pits, a river, and waterfalls.


UNNAMED CAVE

Location: 3 miles E of Tepotzotlan, Morelos.

Description: The entrance is obscured by vegetation. The cave contains a room 30-40 yds. long, 10 yds. wide, and 3-4 yds. high.

Reported by: Dr. D. C. Carter of the Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.

CUEVA DE AGUA

Location: Near Sabanas Hidalgo.

Reported by: Dr. F. Bonet

CUEVA LA BOCA

Location: On a hillside some 2 km. east of Villa de Santiago. There is a stream at Santiago which, if low enough, will permit driving to the foot of the hill. 500' climb to the entrance.

Description: The entrance is 30' high and quite impressive. The cave ends abruptly after 200 yards and contains large numbers of bats.


CUEVA DE CASA BLANCA

Location: 2.3 miles SW of Monterrey, between Monterrey and Saltillo. At this point, there is a truck stop and refreshment stand known as "Casa Blanca." Inquire here for directions.

Description: Quite beautiful.

Reported by: Dr. F. Bonet
CUENCA DEL CARRIZAL
NUEVO LEON
Owner: On the property of La Hacienda del Carrizal.
Location: About 34 miles N of Bustamante near the village of
Candelaria and in the area of the Golondrinas mines. The hacienda
may be reached by jeep or V-Wagon, etc., and there is a train to
Estacion Candelaria. The cave is near the Cerro de Candelaria (a moun-
tain).
Description: Two streams merge before the lower entrance. One is
about 300°F and the other 70°F. The warm-water passage siphons
about 300' from the entrance. The upstream passage continues in
the cold-water passage for some 2000 ft. and then gets very small,
almost siphoning. The cave is essentially all walk-through and
contains few formations.
Bibliography: Mohr, Charles E. "Special Supplement--Caves of
Mexico," NSS NEWS, April 1950, p. 3.

GRUTA DEL PALMITO (BUSTAMANTE)
NUEVO LEON
Location: About 3 miles from the village of Bustamante by rough
dirt road and by steep winding trail. The cave is some 2000 ft.
above the start of the trail. A guide or instructions may be
gotten in Bustamante.
Description: Very large passage, filled with huge formations.
The main passage is over 2000 ft. long and descends to a depth
600 ft. below the entrance. Large breakdown covers the floor
in places.
Bibliography: Mohr, Charles E. "Special Supplement--Caves of
Mexico," NSS NEWS, April 1950, p. 3. Reddell, James THE TEXAS

GRUTAS DE GARCIA
NUEVO LEON
Owner: See Pedro Wood or the Lions Club of Monterrey.
Location: Take road 3 from Monterrey 13 miles and at this point,
turn W and continue about the same distance until reaching Villa
Garcia. The entrance is about 8 miles north of this town at an
altitude of 1110 meters.
Description: Large, scenic, electrically-lighted commercial
cave. A steep walk is necessary to reach the cave. The tour
lasts 3 hours and covers 5 miles. The cave also has a spectac-
ular skylight in the roof of one of the large rooms.
Bibliography: Mohr, Charles E. "Special Supplement--Caves of Mex-
ico," NSS NEWS, April 1950, p. 3. MEXICO'S CAVES AND CAVERNS,
1962 ed., p. 6-11 (a pamphlet published by Pemex).

CUERVA DE LEON
NUEVO LEON
Location: Near Majeras.

CUERVA DE LA MINA DE LA BLANCA
NUEVO LEON
Location: Near Geraralvo.
Reported by: Dr. F. Bonet.

CUERVA DE EL MURCIALAGO
NUEVO LEON
Location: Near Aranberrti which is about 100 miles off the high-
way over rough roads.
Description: Small cave.
Reported by: Dr. F. Bonet
GUEVA DE SAN JOSÉCITO

Location: In the vicinity of Aramberri, which is a town about 100 miles off the highway over very rough roads.

Reported by: Carroll Slemaker (information from a list that he compiled sometime around 1956).

UNNAMED CAVE

Location: Near Iturbide.


UNNAMED CAVE

Location: Near and NW of Los Ramones.


UNNAMED CAVE

Location: Near Garcia. The cave is about 1/2 to 3/4 mile before Grutas Garcia, on the left side of the road, about 2000' up. A guide is necessary. See Pedro Wood at Garcia.

Reported by: Carroll Slemaker (information taken from a list he compiled sometime around 1956).

UNNAMED CAVE

Location: In the vicinity of Aramberri, which is 100 miles off the highway over very rough roads.

Description: Three or four small caves. One is a cave with a vertical entrance drop of about 50'. This cave is located on the top of a hill near Aramberri and the entrance is 2' x 3'. Below the drop is a large room from which there may be leads.

Reported by: Carroll Slemaker (from a list that he compiled sometime around 1956).

GRUTA DE LA VIRGEN

Location: NW of Grutas Garcia about 10 miles.


LAS CUEVAS

Location: On a hill E of Tehuantepec are several caves.

Bibliography: Lamb, Dana THE LOST CIT'TY.

CAVES OF GUINOLCA MOUNTAIN

Location: On a fortified hill with ancient ruins near the city of Tehuantepec.

Description: These caves are probably shelters and contain paintings.

Location: 2 miles north of Rusjaypan de León are several small caves and one large one.
Description: The large cave is a deep, narrow sink hole which requires 60' of rope to enter. There are no passages from the bottom of the pit. The caves are unnamed.
Reported by: Dr. D. G. Carter of the Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.

MIXTEQUILLA
Location: 6 miles NW of Mixtequilla.
Description: The cave has two entrances and is hot and dry. The total passage length is 75-100 yards. Cave is unnamed.
Reported by: Dr. D. G. Carter of the Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.

CHUTAS DE MONTIPLOR
Owner: Sr. Alvaro Alvarez (owner of the tobacco hacienda).
Location: The cave is on the hacienda which is found on the Mexico City-Valle Nacatioal Highway. The hacienda is about 6 km. before Valle Nacional, and the road is paved. Ask permission to visit the cave. The entrance is a 10-min. walk from the hacienda hqts.
Description: The cave has a small entrance and is supposed to be quite extensive and virtually unexplored.

CUEVA PINA DEL COLORADO
Location: 1 mile S of Tequisistlan, Oaxaca. It is in a hill N of Hwy. 190, 8 miles W of Tehuantepec.
Description: The cave has a large mouth in a sandstone formation. The cave is very dry and the floor is dust-covered.
Reported by: Dr. D. G. Carter of the Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.

CHUTAS DE SOLA DE VEGA
Location: Ask for directions in Sola de Vega, Oaxaca, which is twenty minutes SW of Oaxaca by car or bus.
Description: Contains formations and is supposed to be rather spectacular.

CHUTA DE TEPALMAME
Location: Near Tepalmame, District of Cointlahuaca, Oaxaca about 15 km. N of Tepalmame.
Description: The cave is entered by a tunnel 200 mts. long. 100 mts. wide, and 70 mts. high. Polychrome paintings are found at a distance of 10 mts. inside the cave and have been investigated by Dr. Alfonso Caso and other specialists from the Institute of Anthropology.
UNNAMED CAVE
Location: Near Potrero. It is a fairly major undertaking to reach this area, which is in a valley with a large river, B of Potrero.
Description: This is only one of the many caves that apparently exist in this valley of many resurgences. The cave is said to be large.
Bibliography: Lamb, Dans: THE LOST CITY.

CUEVA DE YANHUITLAN
Location: Near Yanhuitlan, Oaxaca, which is on the Mexico-Acapulco Highway.
Description: A cave that was used for religious purposes (and may still be) and which had a sacred idol in it.

CUEVA DE COCSETLAN
Location: South of Tenuacan, the famed mineral-spring resort.
Description: Of archaeological interest because of the old beans, corn, gourds, chili, and pumpkins that have been found here. The cave has been studied by Dr. Richard McNeish and others. From the finds of this cave, it is proven that man in this region was sedentary and had a formed agriculture almost 9,000 yrs. ago.

CUEVA DEL MADRONO
Location: About 3/4 hr. from the road to the SE from El Madrono, which is near Laguna Colorado, Municipio de Landa de Matamoros, Queretaro. A guide is necessary.
Description: Altitude of entrance: 1,610 mts. Maximum penetration: 36 mts. The entrance is oriented to the NW. The ceiling height varies from 1.8 to 3 mts. The cave has some formations and breakdown.

CUEVAS DEL AHUATE (1, 3, &4)
Location: In the "Puerto" del Ahuate, at some 2 kms. to the SW of Xiilitla. Go on foot or horseback on the road to Pian de Juarez and Xiilitilla for about 20 minutes. A few minutes past the "Puerto" de San Nicolas, you reach the "Puerto" del Ahuate. 100 mts. past this "Puerto" is a dolina on the left of the road. In the sides of this dolina are 4 caves.
Description: Alt. of entrance: 761 mts...length of the caves: #1: 11 mts., #3: 5 mts., & #4: 4.5 mts. These are all small and were probably at one time part of the large #2 cave.

CUEVA DEL AHUATE (2)
Location: See preceding caves location.
Description: Alt. of entrance: 721 mts. Length of explored portion 320 mts. The explored part occurs on two levels separated by some 30 mts. The entrance is 3.5 mts. wide and 2 mts. high, and is oriented to the W. There is a pit in the cave over 30 mts. deep that leads to an unexplored third level. The cave has some
CUEVA DEL AHUATE (2) cont'd

SAN LUIS POTOSI

formations, including helictites.

Bibliography: Bonet, F. CUEVAS DE LA SIERRA MADRE ORIENTAL EN LA
REGION DE Xilitla, (Mexico 1953), pp. 58-68 (Boletin Num. 57 of
the Inst. of Geol. of the UNAM in Mexico City).

CUEVA DEL AIRE

SAN LUIS POTOSI

Location: Near Huichihuayan in the Municipio de Xilitla. The
cave is 1700 mts., in a straight line SSW of the church in Huichihuayan,
Hacienda de San Juanito. The cave is on the eastern side of the
mountain. The entrance is oriented to the NE.

Description: Alt. of entrance: 190 mts. Explored portion: 60
mts. The entrance is 0.75 mts. high and 2 mts. wide. Inside,
there are three rooms, one being short and the third 30-40 mts.
long. This latter room has an unexplored passage at one end
which is about 3 mts. high.

Bibliography: Bonet, F. CUEVAS DE LA SIERRA MADRE ORIENTAL EN
LA REGION DE Xilitla, (Mexico 1953), pp. 38-42 (Boletin Num. 57
of the Inst. of Geol. of the UNAM in Mexico City).

EL BOSCAN DEL ARROYO

SAN LUIS POTOSI

Location: NE of Valles a few miles near the village of Los Sabino.

The entrance is at the end of an arroyo some two miles
N of Los Sabinos. The road to the arroyo is passable in a jeep
or VW. Los Sabinos is near Km. 437.

Description: Large entrance at the end of a blind arroyo. There
is a 62' entrance drop into the cave. To reach the back part of
the cave, it is necessary to go down a 20' drop and a 50' climb.
Ladders or rope are necessary for both. There is a water-filled
passage that begins off from the main passage that has not been
fully checked out. The passages are large and walk-through.

Bibliography: Mohr, Charles E. "Special Supplement--Caves of

CUEVA DE LA BARRANCA

SAN LUIS POTOSI

Location: Near Ahuacatlan, Municipio de Xilitla. It lies on the
W side of the steep barranca from which the arroyo is Xilitla
runs. The cave is some 1000 mts., in a straight line to the NE
of Ahuacatlan and near the village of La Barranca.

Description: Alt. of entrance: 669 mts. Length of cave: 420 mts.
The entrance is about 2 mts. wide and 3 mts. high and is flat.
to the E. The passage is usually between 1.5 and 2.5 mts. high and
from 1 to 2 mts. wide.

Bibliography: Bonet, F. CUEVAS DE LA SIERRA MADRE ORIENTAL EN LA
REGION DE XILITLA, (Mexico 1953), pp. 72-76 (Boletin Num. 57 of
the Inst. de Geologia of the UNAM in Mexico City).

LA CUEVA CHICA

SAN LUIS POTOSI

Location: At the end of a good, level foot trail, 1 mile E of
The Pan American Highway, 20 km. S of Almalle. The cave is near
the town of Pujil which is on the Rio Santa Maria. Go one mile
N of the river towards Valles to a "lanse" leading E over fields.
Go ½ mile to a clearing and limestone kiln. A gully leads to the cave
from here.

Description: Walking passage with pools.

Bibliography: Mohr, Charles E. "Special Supplement--Caves of Mex."
CUETA DE LOS CUCHOS

Location: Very close to Plan de Juarez, on one side of the Arroyo de Xilitilla, Municipio de Xilitila. From the Puerto del Ahuate, the road descends to the left side of the Arroyo until Plan Chi-
quito. Past this village, but immediately before Plan de Juarez is a deviation to the right which leads to the bed of the Arroyo de Xilitilla. 5-10 min. above here (walking) are two large por-
tals. This cave is in the smallest.

Description: Alt. of the entrance: 515 mts. Length of cave: 126 mts. The entrance is oriented to the NNW and is 10-15 mts. wide. Ceiling mts. range from 1.5 to 3 mts. Bat guano, but no bats.


CUETA GRANDE

Location: Near Pujil, 8 miles S of Valles and about 3 miles NE
of Pujil.

Description: A large cave.

Reported by: Dr. F. Bonet

CUETA DE LA VISTA

Location: Near Ahuacatlan. This cave is on the E side of the
barranca that runs into the Arroyo de Xilitilla, about 1 km. to
the NE of Ahuacatlan. Cross the barranca below the Cueva de Laja
and go to the other side in the direction of Ahuacatlan.

Description: Alt. of entrance: 938 mts. Length of explored part:
132 mts. The entrance is oriented to the N and is 3 mts. wide and
1.5 mts. high. The passage averages 2-3 mts. in width and varies
from 1 to 10 mts. in height.

Bibliography: Bonet, F. CUEVAS DE LA SIERRA MADRE ORIENTAL EN LA RUTA DE XILITILA, (Mexico 1953), pp. 53-86 (Boletin Num. 57 of the Inst. de Geologia of the UNAM in Mexico City).

YACANTO DE HUITIZMOLOTITLA

Location: On the Rancho de Huitizmolotitla near the village of
Flamingo, about 10 kms. N of Xilitila. The owner is Sr. Modesto
Gomez. Permission must also be gotten from the Presidente of the
Municipio de Xilitila.

Description: Large pit 100' in diameter and 344' deep. At the
bottom of this is another drop of 161' to a walking, stream passage.
This passage has been explored for over a mile with no end in
sight. Wading is sometimes necessary and in the back of the cave,
rafts or inner tubes are necessary.

CUEVA DEL JOBO

Location: On the road from Y Griega to Xilitla. The cave is in the right of the road as you approach Xilitla, 8 kms. from Y Griega, and is easily seen from the road.

Description: Alt. of the entrance: 445 mts. Explored part: 56 mts. The cave is all horizontal and large enough to walk in except for a crawley at the end which is about 5 mts. long. There are a few old formations. The entrance is oriented to the SW.


CUEVA DE LA LAGA

Location: Ahuacatlan, Municipio de Xilitla. The cave is 750 mts. in a straight line from Ahuacatlan to the NE, and near the village of La Barranca. In relation to La Cueva de la Barranca, this cave is little more to the S and 100 mts. lower.

Description: Altitude of the entrance: 870 mts. Length of cave: 80 mts. The entrance is oriented to the E. The ceiling ht. ranges from 1.5 mts. to 2.5 mts. The passage width varies from 1.5 mts. to 8 or 10 mts.

Bibliography: Bonet, F. CUEVAS DE LA SIERRA MADRE ORIENTAL EN LA REGION DE XILITLA, (Mexico 1953), pp. 76-82 (Boletín Num. 57 of the Inst. de Geol. of the UNAM in Mexico City).

CUEVA DE LA MUJER DEL AGUA

(Cueva de Xumo-Conco or Cueva de Huxum-a)

Location: 85 mts. to the SW of la Cueva del Aire, Hacienda de San Juanito, Huichihuayan, Municipio de Xilitla.

Description: Alt. of entrance: 245 mts. Explored passage: 36 mts. The entrance is obscured by breakdown and an artificial wall. From the entrance, a triangular room is entered which from one of the vertices to the opposite wall is over 100'. An unexplored passage about 10 mts. wide leads from one end of the room and descends at about 35'. The cave may connect to Cueva del Aire.


CUEVA DEL NACIMIENTO DEL RIO

HUICHUAYAN

Location: Some 2 kms. to the SW of Huichihuayan, Mun. de Xilitla. There is the old road to Xilitla from this point, which goes along the river and after ½ hr. or so, you reach the Ranchito de El Nacimiento. 200 mts. to the SW is a lagoon formed by water leaving the cave.

Description: Alt. of entrance: 110 mts. The entrance is oriented to the N and the water leaves the cave through large breakdown blocks. About 100' inside the cave, wall-to-wall water is encountered, making the use of boats necessary. The cave is virtually unexplored and may be quite large.

Bibliography: Bonet, F. CUEVAS DE LA SIERRA MADRE ORIENTAL EN LA REGION DE XILITLA, (Mexico 1953), pp. 36-38 (Boletín Num. 57 of the Inst. de Geol. of the UNAM in Mexico City).
LA CUEVA E. NILO
Location: 100 yards E of the Pan American Hwy. at Km. 451.
Description: Small cave, and is partially filled with water.

LA CUEVA DEL PACHON
Location: Near the village of Pachon, 2 km. W of the Pan American Hwy. at Km. 549.
Description: Contains main room from which lead four passages. Three end shortly and the fourth is moist with a muddy floor. As the passage progresses, it starts resembling a small creek bed and contains abundant life. 500' in the cave a clear stream appears.

CUEVA DE LOS PALMAS
Location: Near Tamuin. Between Tamuin and Los Palmas.
Reported by: Dr. F. Bonet

CUEVA PINTA
Location: Near Los Sabinos, a village N of Valles.
Reported by: Dr. F. Bonet

CUEVA DE POTRERILLOS (del Muerto)
Location: On the Rancho de Potrerillos, 2 kms. to the WSW of Ahuatecatlan, Municipio de Xilitla. The cave is in a large dolina near the fork in the road; one to the Rancho and the other to Jalpan. Ask locally.
Description: Alt. of entrance: 1,250 mts. Length of cave: 288 mts. Two walk-in entrances a couple hundred feet apart. The cave is walk-through except for a 150' crawl at the end. There are two un-checked pits in the floor, each about 30' deep.

CUEVA DE LOS SABINOS
Location: Near the village of Los Sabinos, which is 3 kms. E of the Pan American Hwy. at Km. 487. Ask in Los Sabinos.
Description: The entrance is large and imposing. A passage leading off from the left of the large entrance room comes to a 60' pit where rope is necessary. Beyond this point lies a room inhabited by vampire bats.

CUEVA DEL SALITRE
Location: 1200 mts. to the NE of Xilitla on a hill called "Cerro del Campo Santo Viejo. The entrance is on the N slope of the hill and takes about 20 min. to walk to.
Description: Alt. of entrance: 460 mts. Explored passag: 150 mts. The entrance is oriented to the N and is 70 mts. wide and 30 mts. high. A room of great proportions descends to the S. Near the end of this room, there is another room on the left. Near the entrance, on the right, is a pit named "El Sotano," which is unexplored and probably leads to the most important part of the cave.
CUEVAS DE TANINAL
Location: Near Tamuin. There are two caves at the mouth of the Canyon de El Abra, about 9 km. from Valles towards Tampico. Reported by: Dr. F. Bonet

CUEVA DEL TAPATIO
Location: A little less than 1 km. in a st. line SW of the church in Xilitla. It is on a hill (small) about 500 kms. from the plaza. The cave opens in the western side, near the N end of the "uvala" on the hilltop. (uvala-depression??) Description: Alt. of entrance: 720 mts. Explored part: 24 mts. Max. width of cave: 38 mts. (at entrance). The floor of the cave descends at first. There is a column 5 mts. thick near the entrance. Bibliography: Bonet, F. CUEVAS DE LA SIERRA MADRE ORIENTAL EN LA REGIOON DE XILITLA, (Mexico 1953), pp. 50-55 (Boletin Num. 57 of the Inst. de Geol. of the UNAM in Mexico City).

SOTANO DEL TIGRE
Location: In the vicinity of Los Sabinos, a ranch N of Valles. Reported by: Dr. F. Bonet

SOTANO DE LA TINAJA
Location: In the vicinity of Los Sabinos, a village 3 kms. E of the Pan American Hwy. at Km. 487. Description: Entrance drop of 200'. The cave is apparently an underground water passage similar to the other caves in the area. The passage is ca. 20' wide and as high. There is a pit in the cave 1200' from the entrance which has not been checked. Bibliography: Mohr, Charles E. "Special Supplement--Caves of Mexico," NSS NEWS, April 1950, p. 4.

VENTANA JUBAIL
Location: Near Tamuin. Hire a guide and go 6 or 7 miles along a dry-weather road to the foot of the face of the Sierra del Abra. Description: A large cave. Reported by: Dr. F. Bonet

CUEVA CHINACATERRA
Location: 4.5 mi. S and 8 mi. W of Pericos, Sin. Description: The entrance opens in a large sink. The cave consists of one room 60' wide, 40' long, and 30-40' high. The air in the back of the cave is saturated with ammonia. Reported by: Dr. D. C. Carter of the Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.

LAS CUEVAS "EL TONEL" & "EL TIGRE"
Location: Near Cerro, Son. Description: El Tonel is like a tunnel for the first 75' and is 5' high and 5' wide. The tunnel leads to a chamber, and the cave continues. El Tigre opens in a shallow sink. A long ascending passage leads off the entrance chamber and is 100' long and as high as 40'. Reported by: Dr. D. C. Carter of Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.
REPORT OF LEADS:  

(1) 100 05, 30 22; Near Cumpas.
(2) 109 02, 30 10; Near Cumpas.
(3) 108 50, 30 17; Near Cumpas.
(4) 110 03, 29 27; Near Mermosítlo.

CUEVA DEL ABRA  
Location: Near El Abra, some 11 miles S of Ciudad Mante. The cave is 0.9 miles S of El Abra in a canyon by the same name. The large entrance is easily seen from the highway and a ten-minute walk will get you to the cave.
Description: Large entrance room which contains a pit and impressive skylight at one end. The pit is 118' deep and leads to a lower level that terminates in a mud bank after several hundred feet.

CAVES NEAR ACULTIZINGO  
Location: On the left side of the Mexico City-Veracruz Hwy. that runs through Orizaba as you approach Mexico City. Two small entrances may be seen from the road, close together. They are about 1 km. from the road and 200' above it.
Description: Very small--each about 20' long and 5-6' high, and perhaps 10' wide. They are formed in a limestone conglomerate made of football-size limestone "boulders." A larger cave is supposed to be higher up in the mountains.

CUEVA DE AGUA  
Location: Near the village of Tlilipan, S of Orizaba about 2 kms. Take a left after the first bridge out of Orizaba and follow this dirt road (path) about half a mile. The water leaving the cave runs under the road.
Description: Water passage about 8-10' high with 5-6' of clearance above the water. One dry crawlway exists. The water is swift and the cave has not been fully explored.

CUEVA ARRIBA  
Location: In a rock face on the left side of the road and 500' above it as you enter Tlilipan from Orizaba. The former is a small village a few kms. S of Orizaba. The entrance can be seen from the road.
Description: The lower part of the entrance which is 50' high and 15' wide goes nowhere. Above the lower part, there is a crack that can be climbed to with some difficulty, and which leads to a room 50' high, 10-30' wide, and 30' long. Some old formations are present as well as old guano.
GRUTA DE ATOYAC
Location: Below a railroad tunnel near the village of Atoyac. Inquire locally.
Description: Reasonably large walk-through passage for 1000' or so. At the end of the cave there are some crawlways. Ankle-deep water is present in some places. The cave has many formations.

GRUTAS DE CARMÍN
Location: Near Tzapotitlán.
Description: Very beautiful cave. Many formations and contains pools and lakes. Getting to the cave involves a rugged trip.
Reported by: Carroll Slemaker (taken from a list that he compiled sometime around 1956--He got his information from Otis McCalister.).

SOTANO DEL CRUCERO
Location: Near the village of Tequila, some 20 kms. S of Orizaba in the mountains. The pit is near the fork in the road where the road to Zacagolica forks from the road to Tequila.
Description: Deep shaft (364'), some 20' across at the top and belling out to 50-75' at the bottom. Water can be heard roaring through breakdown at the bottom.


CUEVA DEL BALSÁN DEL DIABLO
Location: On a hill S of C. Mendoza, a town about 7 miles from Orizaba towards Mexico City. Two entrances can be seen from the road. This cave opens in the smaller, upper entrance. The lower one is a small shelter cave. A cliff about 35' high must be climbed to reach the cave.
Description: The entrance opens into a large room 100' wide and as long with a 50' ceiling. A pit in the floor goes nowhere. At the upper end, a walking passage ascends at about 15° for a horizontal distance of 300' or so. A few old and not scenic formations are present.

LA CUEVA DEL MORAL
Location: On the E side of an arroyo near Nogales, Ver., about 2 miles walking from Nogales. Inquire locally.
Description: Small indentation in the wall of the arroyo (at the stream bed level). Not really a cave at all. Rumors persist that it once was a robbers' hideout. If it were, there is little evidence remaining.

CUEVA DEL OJO DE AGUA
Location: Above a spring at Tlilitlapan, Ver. (a few kms. S of Orizaba), where many women do their washing.
Description: Entrance is 20' wide and 15' high and leads to a large room with a sloping breakdown floor. After this, there is a second room, and in here, a small crack that leads to a third—a pretty formation room. The cave is 400-500' long with walking, climbing, and a little crawling.
SOTANO DE OZOATLICHEOCOA

Location: Off to the right of a stone path between the road to Tequila and the road to Zongolica as you walk to the road to Zongolica.

Description: 300' drop to large room. Upstream passage terminates in a 100' dome after 500' or so. The downstream passage keeps dropping in a series of drops: 30', 60', 90' respectively. At the bottom of the last, there is another unexplored drop in the fissure passage that is ca. 40'. There is running water in the cave—about ankle deep. The passage is from 6-8' wide and over 75' high.

Reported by: T. R. Evans, Terry Raines, James Reddell, and Wm. Russell.


COFRÉ DE PUEBLO

Location: Near Jalapa.

Description: Reportedly very long.

Reported by: Carroll Slemaker (information from a list he compiled sometime around 1956. His information was from Otis McCullish).

GRUTAS DE TEZONAPA

Location: Supposedly near Tezonapa, Ver. "Mexico's Caves & Caverns" states that there is a road from Tezonapa to the cave. A trip to the area in the fall of 1962 by T. R. Evans, Wm. Russell, J. Reddell, and T. Raines failed to turn up the cave.

Description: Large, full of formations, and very extensive.

"The entrance is said to be 40 mts. wide and 20 mts. high."


CUEVA DE LAS VIGAS

Location: 3 mi. ESE of Las Viges, Ver., about ¾ mi. from the highway. It is possible to drive within 200 yds. of the entrance.

Description: Long sink hole with two caves at the bottom. One has a 40' entrance drop. There is a tall pine tree rising from one sink and a natural bridge is also present.

Reported by: Dr. D. C. Carter of the Texas A&M Dept. of Wildlife Management.

Note: There are many other caves and "sotanos" in the region of Tequila, Ver. that we are in the process of describing and naming. A location map of them is also being drawn.