

CAVE SCIENCE NEWS

NEW ABSTRACT DEADLINE FOR SPELEO BRAZIL 2001

The Organizing Committee for the 13th Annual Congress of Speleology recently announced a new deadline for abstracts: January 20, 2001. Information on the Congress is available at: http://www.speleobrazil2001.org.br/br2001_i/index.html

KARST CHINA 2001: FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN KARST REGIONS

August 24-27, 2001. Beijing, P.R. China

Sponsor: Geological Society of China; Chinese Academy of Geological Science; International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH); others
Abstract deadline is January 30, 2001

This meeting will cover broad engineering, environmental, water resources, and management topics pertaining to the socio-economic development in karst regions in the world, with a special focus on southwestern China. Pre- and post-conference field trips will be available to visit the Guilin tower karst, Three-Gorge Dam site, and other well-known karst regions in China.

(In the U.S.A. contact E-mail: Karstchina@yahoo.com; elsewhere e-mail: GSC@caga.net)

MIDDLE EAST SPELEOLOGY CONFERENCE IN LEBANON

On April 20 and 21, 2001, Speleo-Club du Liban will celebrate its 50th Anniversary (and the rejuvenation of the nation of Lebanon) with a special symposium on the speleology of the Middle East. Speleologists from the USA and other countries who have contributed to Middle East speleology are especially invited. Official field trips are scheduled for 22 April and unofficial trips and tourism may also follow.

With the eased political climate in Syria, caving in that country (including both limestone and lava tube caves) also may be possible. Both Lebanese and Syrian visas would be necessary for this field trip.

Persons interested in participating should contact Speleo-Club du Liban at P.O. Box 70-923, Antelias, Lebanon. E-mail: sc_liban@hotmail.com. Their home page is www.Homestead.com/sc_liban/Main.html.

Following the symposium, a small American group may be invited to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Environmental Affairs of Egypt, including cooperative field-work in at least one Egyptian cave. The U.S. organizing committee of this possible endeavor includes Ken Osmond (Florida State Univ.) and William Halliday.

NSS members interested in participating (at their own expense) should contact Bill Halliday as soon as possible at bnawrh@webtv.net. Arabic-speaking cave mappers are especially needed. Attendance at the Lebanon symposium will not be a requirement for this Egyptian project.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I read with interest Will Reeves' article *Caecidotea carolinensis* (Isopoda: Asellidae): First record of a stygobite from South Carolina, which appeared on page 18 of the April 2000 *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*. I feel it only fair to point out, however, that the presence of *C. carolinensis* in Parler Cave has been known and documented ever since 1989.

Following my discovery of this species in Bennetts Mill Cave and its description by Lewis and Bowman in 1977, I began searching other potential sites for this species. We had noted similar appearing isopods in Parler Cave in 1981. The opportunity to make collections of these came about in 1989, and they were confirmed as being *C. carolinensis* by Dr. Jerry Lewis. The sample included two females (previously unknown in this species). I prepared a report on these entitled Some Observations on the Distribution and Microhabitat of *Caecidotea carolinensis* and delivered it at the Biology session of the 1992 NSS Convention in Salem, Indiana. The abstract of my paper appeared in the December 1992 issue of this very journal (then known as *The NSS Bulletin*) and also appeared in the index, found in the same issue.

I mention this, not to embarrass or criticize anyone, but rather to set the record straight. Mr. Reeves is to be commended for the additional information gathered on other species found in the Parler Cave stream. As I pointed out in my new book, *Caves of South Carolina*, due out summer of 2000, "The study of cave life in South Carolina is in its infancy." For this reason, any additional information on cave organisms in the Palmetto State is most useful.

I am currently engaged in a U.S. Fish and Wildlife research project involving *Caecidotea carolinensis*. If any of our readers should locate additional sites for this species, I would appreciate hearing from you.

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