



# PALEOGENNÍ KRAS NOVÉHO ZÉLANDU

Jiří Otava

Česká geologická služba odbor Geologie Moravy

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# Jeskyně IZA Mt. Rodnei, Rumunsko Kontakt svorů-rul a paleogenních vápenců



20 m

The band of exposed limestone that occurs here in the Oparara Valley (rarely more than 800 metres wide) runs for almost the entire length of the Oparara River.



DNE ARCH 200 METRES

MEST

# písčité vápence paleogénu







Malý oblouk vtok

# Malý oblouk odtok





# WELCOME TO THE TE ANAU GLOWWORM CAVES

The Tunnel Burn (stream) flowing through the Te Anau Glowworm Caves originates from Lak Orbell in the Murchison Mountains.

The Te Anau Glowworm Caves (250 metres long) are the lower part of the much larger Aurora Caves system. This system (6.7 kilometres) comprises four levels of interconnecting passages.

The Aurora Caves system, carved in limestone by water erosion and chemical reaction, is dated at 30-35 million years old. This process of cave formation is still continuing.

The lower and more recently formed Te Anau Glowworm Caves section is dated at less than 12,000 years old, making it young in geological terms.











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The limestone is moderately hard and fine grained and composed of around 80% calcium carbonate. It is a coarse rock, composed of foraminifera (tiny calcareous sea dwelling creatures) and broken shell fragments, with many recognisable fossils. It probably formed as a shell bank in a shallow sea, thus preserving its structure. Acid dissolved in percolating groundwater has slowly sculpted the caves, which now form a magnificent cavern, easily accessible near the entrance. Take care around the

entrance as the rock can be slippery where water dripping from stalactites has left a wet film on the rock below.





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