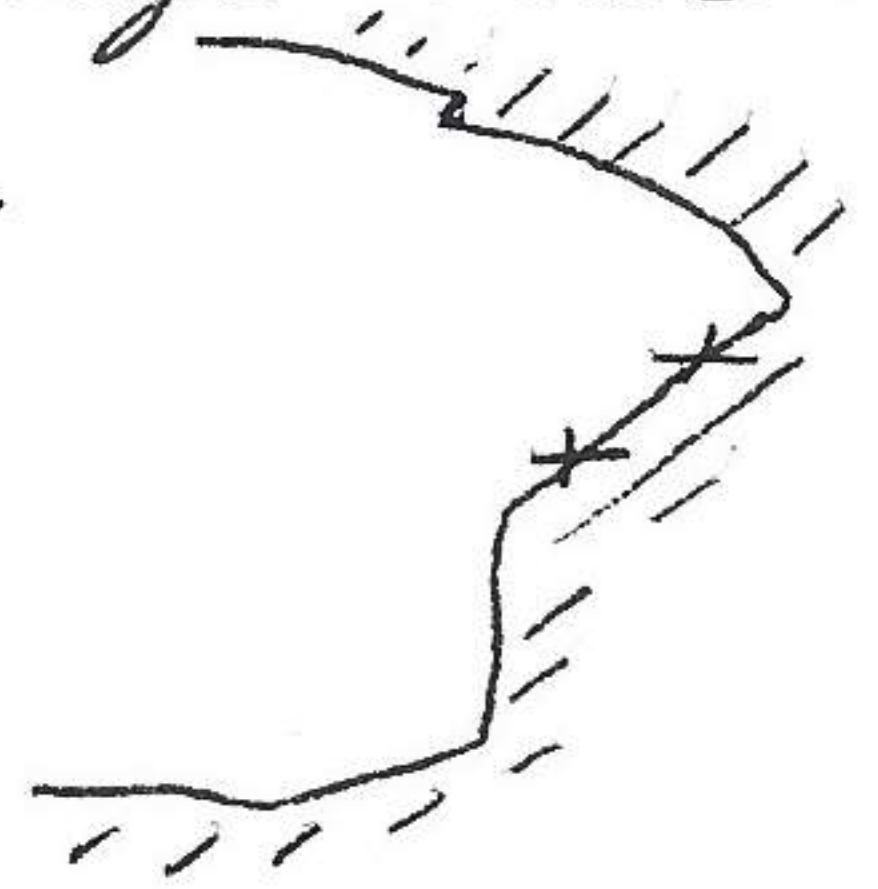


Ozark Underground Laboratories, Taney Co., Missouri

July 8, 1973

Spent this A.M. in Cave. One of the unusual observations was the tracks and imprints of claw marks of a large bear (?) on a ledge slope beneath favorable bat perches. There were 7 or 8 imprints of feet and several examples of claw marks recorded as the bear slid and walked across the slope. These imprints appeared fresh but were covered with a thin but solid layer of drapstone. These marks were removed some distance from the cave entrance. It would appear that the bear was attempting to capture bats on the a ceiling ledge which would be within reach of the bear.



The Ozark ~~Cave~~^{blind} salamander (*Typhlotriton spelaeus*) when found near water is well developed and agile, falling over itself when touched whereas when associated with bat guano is thin and lethargic, not responding to touch. Its crawl is slow and deliberate. It is believed that these differences are ones of age. There is a possibility; however, that they are different species. The diptera of the web formation type, was associated with the bat guano areas. Millipedes were common on old limbs or man introduced stems. Collembola most common on boards, especially those covering experimental water barrels. Crickets were most commonly observed near entrances. The snail *Antrobia culveri* is common under rocks of stream but were confined to 20 or so feet of stream bed. According to Byron Leonard, it is questionable whether this is a new genus. Some isopods were present.

The following are suggestions for better management of the cave.

1. The four gas lamps raise the temperature of the cave in some restricted areas and fumes collect to the point where head lamps cut the atmosphere like corpuscular rays. The odor is noticeable and has a quality of kerosene. In some recesses not affected by air currents, this pollution is a decided unhealthy condition for cavernicoles. Electric lamps should be used and the illumination should be reduced to a minimum, especially when viewing the animals.

2. The areas developed with trails has been severely modified and although trails ~~are~~ people are supposed to be confined to trails, there is a general trompling of the entire area, the worst offenders being researchers who take the liberty to traverse all surfaces.