

Abstract:

The Formation of Volcanic Caves

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This paper discusses the formation of caves in volcanic rocks, particularly basalt. Lava caves form in flows by the processes involved in the draining of still molten material from beneath a solidified crust and also by the crusting over of surface lava channels that have fluctuating lava levels. The variety of underground and surface features which form in these circumstances are discussed in the context of the western Victorian lava province.

Recent information on the formation of volcanic caves is found in Grimes & Watson (1995) and Grimes (1994).

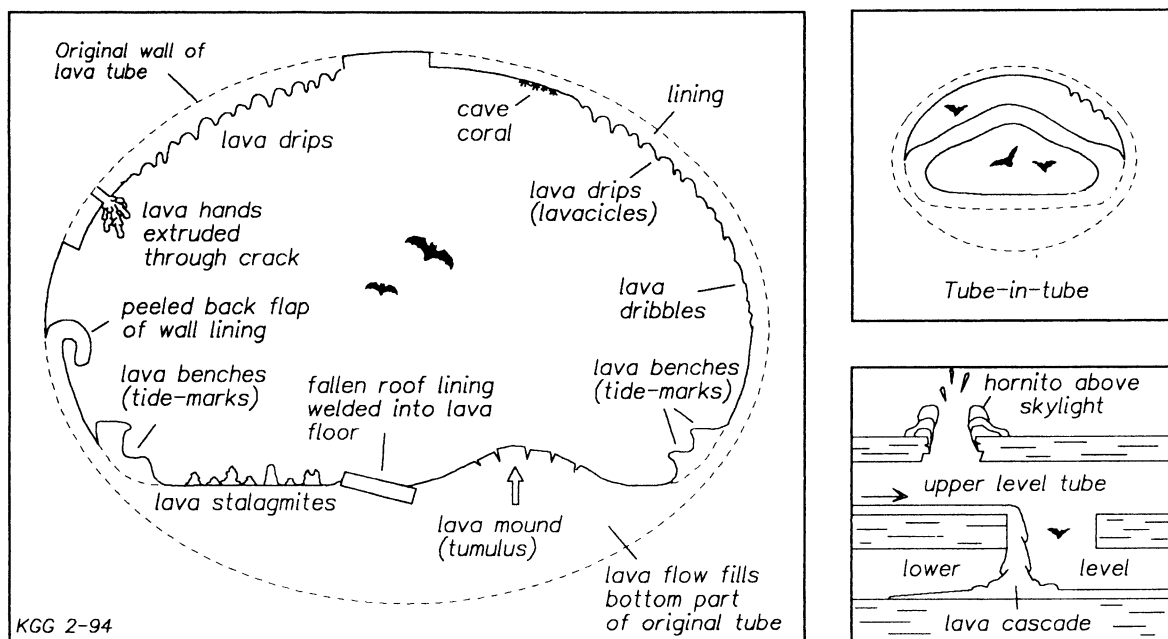


Figure: Features and 'Decorations' found in Lava Tubes

References

- GRIMES, K.G., 1994, The Volcanic Caves of Western Victoria, *Australian Caver* 136: 9-14.
- GRIMES, K.G., & WATSON, A., 1995: Volcanic caves of Western Victoria. IN: BADDELEY, G., (ed.), 1995, *Vulcon Guidebook*, Vict. Speleo. Assoc. Inc., Melbourne, pp 39-68