Esta ponencia fue presentado por el Dr. George Veni
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KARST BIOLOGY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Physical attributes of cave ecosystems

No sunlight

Little food, low quality food

Stable temperatures and humidity

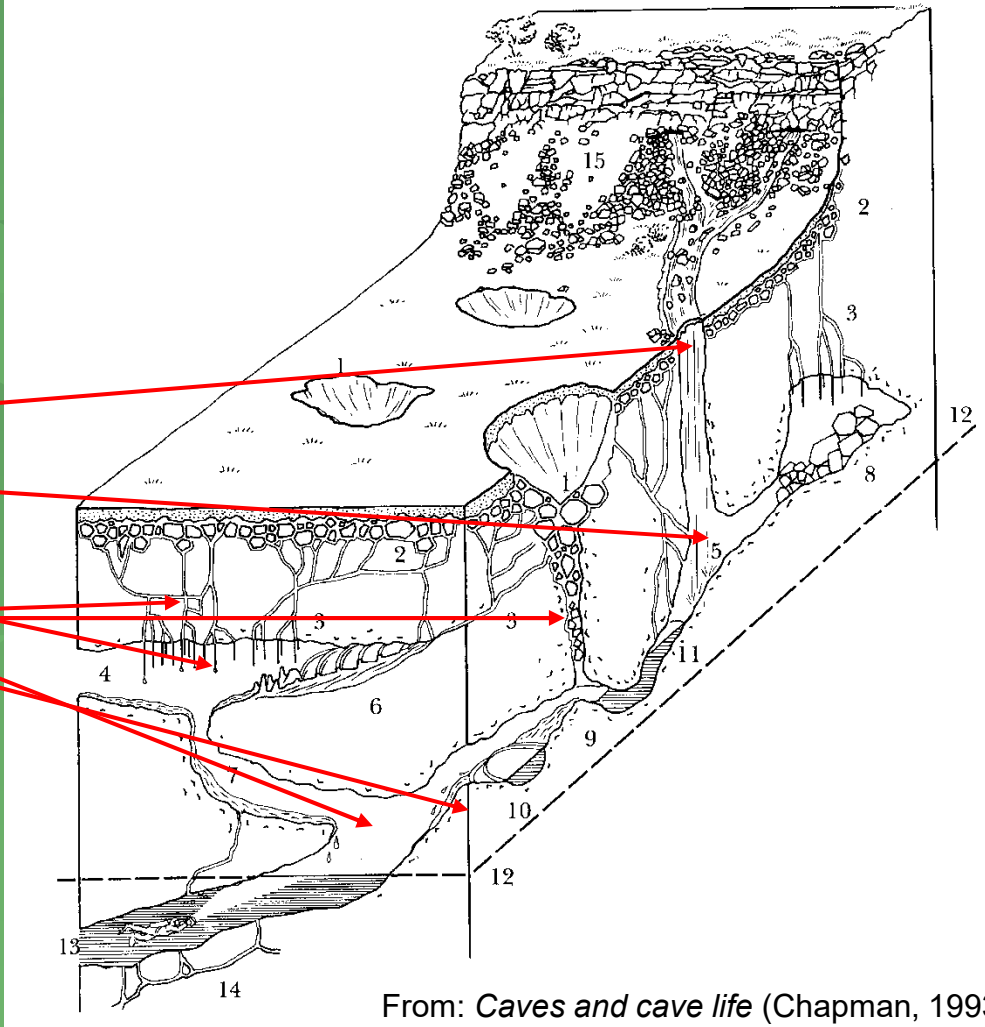
Karst ecosystem zones:

Entrance

Twilight

Dark

Interstitial



From: *Caves and cave life* (Chapman, 1993)

Classes of cave species:
Based on degree of adaptation to the cave environment

Accidentals

Classes of cave species:
Based on degree of adaptation
to the cave environment

Accidentals
Trogloxenes

Classes of cave species:
Based on degree of adaptation
to the cave environment

Accidentals
Trogloxenes
Troglophiles

Classes of cave species:
Based on degree of adaptation
to the cave environment

Accidentals
Trogloxenes
Troglophiles
Troglobites/stygobites

Photo: courtesy of Jean Krejca

Photo: courtesy of James Cokendolpher

Most cave species evolve by retreating into caves for shelter as surface conditions change and become less favorable

Many are relicts of past climates with no surface relatives or relatives in far away areas

Troglobites as well as less cave adapted species often prove new species to science

Protection of forests and agriculture

Benefits from cave species Tourism

Medicines and indicators of healthy ecosystems

Photo courtesy of Jason Pielemeier