

Ixtacxochitla, Sierra Negra, México

Javier VARGAS G.
Juan A. MONTAÑO-HIROSE
et al. ¹

¹GEU, Asociación de Montañismo y Exploración de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Ciudad Universitaria, Coyoacán, 04510 México, D.F., México, Tel.: 5622-0602, e-mail: espeleo99@yahoo.com

Abstract

In 1989, our group started prospecting and exploring the region of Ixtacxochitla ("land of white flowers") in Sierra Negra, Mexico. Exploration was suspended in 1995 because of local conflicts and it was not until 2000 that we took it up again. As a result of the work carried out by numerous cavers, up to date nearly 300 Ha have been prospected in which we have found 91 cave mouths. All mouths have been located on a chart and most of the caves have been fully explored. The caves explored vary in depth from a few meters up to 500 m. The most relevant systems include Iztacxochitla (6 mouths, 171 m deep, 1,834 m long), Platanitos (2 mouths, 218.5 m deep, 789 m long), El Encanto (5 mouths, 371 m deep, 2,719 m long, not finished) and Tlaloc (3 mouths, 250 m deep); other important caves are El Andrajo (315 m deep, 360 m long, containing abrasive concretions), Los Idolos (2 m high, 37 m long, with archaeological findings) and El Alquimista (with beautiful formations).