

The karstic phenomena in the limestones of the Lower Cambrian Punta Manna Formation (Southwest Sardinia-Italy)

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In the South-West of Sardinia (Italy) an important Cambrian sedimentary succession crops out, starting with metasandstones, followed by metalimestones and dolostones and terminating with shales. In the upper part of the metasandstones of the so-called Nebida Group (Lower Cambrian) the 80 meter thick Punta Manna Formation can be distinguished containing oolitic limestones and calcareous sandstones followed by sandstones with carbonatic fossiliferous lenses and strata. These carbonatic rocks are the oldest in Italy and in this study the Authors describe the karstic phenomena in these metamorphised limestones. These phenomena can be related mostly to the Plio-Pleistocene karstic cycle that has interested all carbonatic outcroppings of the region.