

25/7

23/11

Steve, Tim

94

Returning with a ladder and some rigging gear, Tim rigged the pitch and descended to see what happened! So for the second time today, I sat still and got cold. Eventually Tim returned and told me to come and look, visibly happy. After climbing down the ladder (which is somewhat exposed) onto boulders, ~~then~~ you can climb down to the streamway. The water flows through a beautiful, meandering rift which at first we could walk through, but which later involved flat-out crawling. We pushed as far as an awkward manoeuvre, which was later to be named "Pmax". From here, Tim insisted that the echo indicated a chamber just around the corner - a very wise place to terminate a pushing trip! We were both pretty stung out by this point, feeling that we'd done enough pushing for one day. So we exited, feeling pretty exhilarated at having pushed a going cave.

I thought the air down the cave was considerably colder than it had felt in 8/11 a few hours earlier, an observation I reported enthusiastically at Aris after the trip. I considered this to be an interesting piece of speleology and tentatively hypothesised that this could mean that the cave did ^{something} slightly more interesting and original than simply connect with 8/11. The only response I received was from Jim, who accused me of reaching new heights (depths?) of bullshit.

Thanks, Jim.

Steve

12

3/17

20/11 → 8/11

Chris, Steve, Andi, Rivo

With 20/11 having become the 4th entrance to Sistema Sierra Forcada two days earlier, our brief was to investigate it thoroughly and, if there was sufficient time remaining, to look at some of the leads in 8/11.

Setting off down 20/11, we had a fairly thorough look at the cave as we progressed.

Nothing we looked at went, apart from the way into 8/11. At the bottom of the 4th pitch, we enthusiastically clambered through boulders until Chris suddenly reported the discovery of a sizeable rift going in both directions. I came to look and no sooner was the rift starting to look familiar than Chris excitedly 'discovered' a three-way junction.

Yes, you've guessed it, this was 8/11. We'd taken the awkward route from the 4th pitch, rather than simply traversing across from the bottom.

Having established where we were, we headed for the Very Big Chamber. I attempted to find Timo ^{just beyond the squeeze below Regent Pitch} lead and asked Rivo if he knew where it was. I think there must have been a misunderstanding, because he then proceeded to show me the way down the pitch into the Very Big Chamber. As a result, we simply proceeded to spend some time exploring and admiring the chamber. Andi found a piece of rock she liked so much that Chris brought it out for her. Rivo found a spot where he liked the view so much that he wouldn't

move for 15 minutes. However, I soon decided it was time to leave if we were going to make our call out.

Back in the boulder choke at the top of the pitch, I followed Tim's direction as I understood them to his lead. I found a small, draughting hole through boulders with rift visible through continuing for a metre or so. To get through would require digging a very large, very loose, very lethal boulder choke. Just removing a few small stones to get a better look, a ~10 kg boulder landed on my left hand, fortunately without causing any serious damage. To get to this dig, contour round to your left after emerging through the squeeze through the boulder choke until you meet a wall. Then climb up the boulders a few metres to get to the draughting hole.

Our exit took place at a reasonable pace, but I realised that we would get back to Ario very close to our 9 pm call out. To meet a rescue, I sent Chris, who was leading on the way out, to leave the cave and get back to Ario as quickly as possible by himself. The rest of us returned to Ario at 9.05pm and since we didn't meet any rescue party, I assumed that Chris had got back OK and stood down any rescue. However, as I started to eat my evening meal, I realised that Chris was not in fact there. Oh dear! I suddenly remembered that Chris Vernon was the man who, last time he walked back from 8/11 by himself, had

ended up in area 4! Paul set off into the clog with a whistle but returned later, to no avail. I commented that at least when Chris last got lost he did at least discover a new cave entrance, even though he did then proceed to lose that.* Just when we were beginning to lose hope, Chris emerged from the clog at 9.50pm, having taken an impressive 1hr 40 mins to walk back from 20/11 - quite a feat! He had apparently been miles away when he had heard Paul's whistle in the distance and turned towards it. The moral of this story is presumably never to send Chris into the mountains by himself.

A note on 20/11 by the way - there are a few places in the cave where you have to be careful of loose boulders. The short climb down above the ~~3rd~~^{4th} pitch requires especial care - plenty of loose stuff just waiting to be dislodged. Nonetheless, the cave provides a much easier and pleasanter entrance to 8/11. The top of the 3rd pitch will not be missed!

Stone

37/4

* 99/4 Pozu Brigadoon [or Pozu del Vernon]

Location: Can only be found by ~~climbers~~^{cavers} lost at night in clog. Rumoured to only appear one day every hundred years.

Description: Unmarked entrance approximately 1.5m x 2.5m. Only visible from a very small

area [sic] Boulderly slope leading down into darkness. Pheromonal draught in entrance; barely possible to stand up.

Scientific note: Only surviving sample of Speleosauros plasticus inflatabilis located just within entrance. Returned to Ario for dissection.

5/8/93

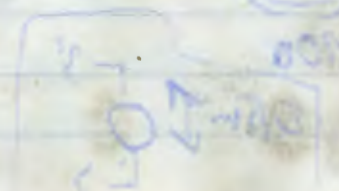
The locusts descend from top camp, eat everything - run away
HOT HA

Sam Steve Gavin
Richard

6/8/93 2:40am

Rob and Steve return safely from their 8/11 pushing trip. 25m pitch leads to new chamber and a rift heading down with a 7-second rattle. Please don't disturb us too early! By the way, we bought Paul and Wilkins' messages back from 26/11.

Steve

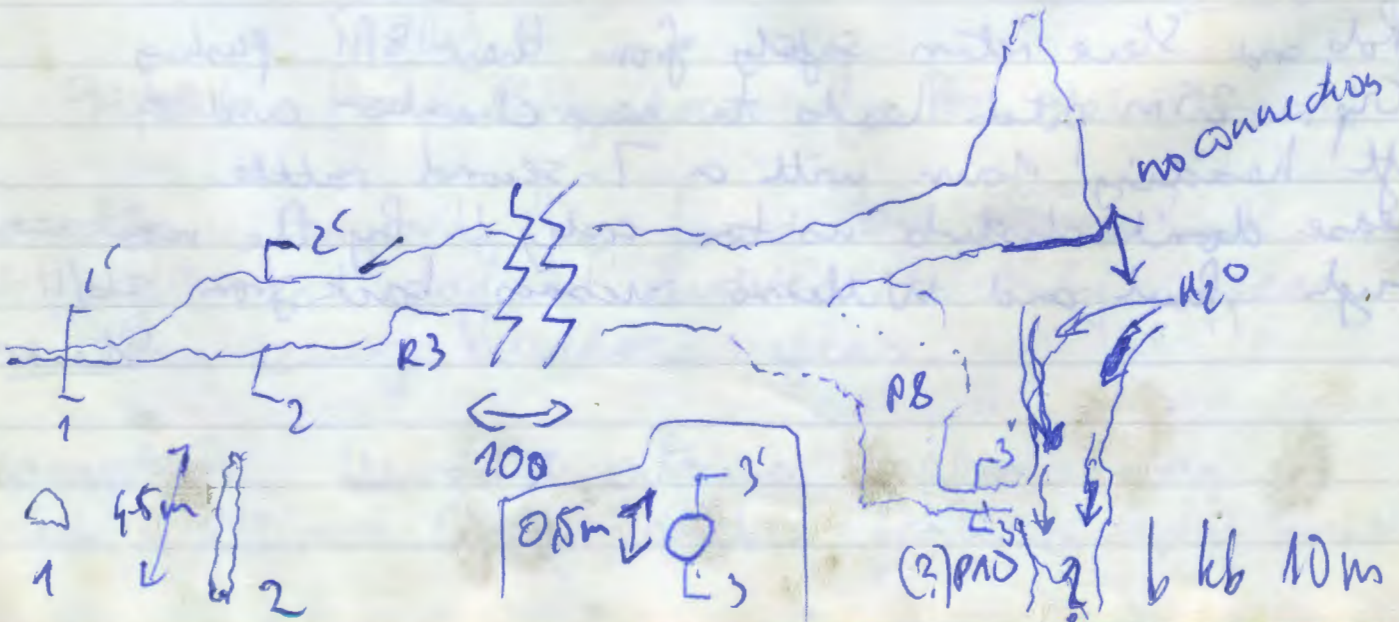


09/08/93 Kutzja - Pivo Xitri
Williams-bit - new part

After the Moha's explanation they found the big mud swamp and the windy side passage. They went about 50-100m in the narrow meander when was a little climb up. After Pivo fall down he staged there and waited. Kutzja pushed alone. The meander was about 200m long the last part was really nasty. At the end the meander ~~started~~ suddenly began to slope down (so here it was like an outlet) and ended a 8m pit. Kutzja climb down and at the bottom of the pit found a 1/2m ϕ tube which lead to a next pit which is active. The water amount approximately same the I. Steamway's water. But of course it is sure it isn't the I. Steamway!

Sketch

by Moha² after Kutzja explanation



$$\Delta N = r \cos \text{bear} \cos \text{inc}$$

$$\Delta E = r \sin \text{bear} \cos \text{inc}$$

$$\Delta \text{Up} = r \sin \text{inc}$$

5 Aug '93

Shaft Boring in Area II

Paul had promised me my first trip in Sistema Sierra Focada, but we felt lazy & walked down slowly in the hot afternoon sun. On our way down, we noted a small closed depression overlooking Mohandi containing many diggable/hummocky earrows.

One such was: 30/11 Small Shaft in small N-facing depression 10m below top of ridge (on Cabeza Julayua site). Entrance climb of 2m leads to further 1 1/2 m down with crawl. Doesn't look as if cave contains narrow crawl. Cylones through through crawl into small chamber gives 1m deep. Looks if caved readily.

30/11 Entrance Win: Top of ridge 10m from cave gives bearings & inclinations:

Cabeza Julayua	139 1/2°	+21°	
Area II Survey Cabin	166°	+16°	(8/11 in line with cave)
Cabeza Formica	219°	+12°	
Cabeza las Campanas (?)	281°	+6°	

[We had survey gear for the trip & thought we might as well use it.]

Also on the way to 26/11 entrance we noted a small, strongly draughting crawl at base of cliff on the ridge above 26/11. ~~Noted~~ [31/11], Surveyed back to entrance of 26/11.

Stn 0 WIS head starting on 26/11 below. (ie. +1.7m above ground)

Stn E Middle of top of 31/11 Entrance.

	Dist	bear	inc	ΔN	ΔE	ΔUp
1 → 0	29:44	007	-24 B	+26.69	+3.28	
1 → 2	30:50	197	+25 F			[Co-ordinates in Survey Book]
E → 2	10:29	359	-8 1/2 B		P.S. 31/11 lies 63.3 m N, -11.18 E and 28.08 m Up.	

We also noted a small closed valley below 26/11 in the direction of Cabeza las Campanas (ie. to right of 31/11). It is at least 10°C colder than the surrounding area & has strongly draughting entrance which need looking at. It also makes a good place to change on a hot day.

William

98

5th August '73

William & Paul detachments

Systema Sierra Forcades rift, and things.

(26/11 → 20/11, with 23/11 inserted)

We eventually made it underground after much surface probing. This was William's first trip into the system, so I had to put on my best rock finding head.

Our mission was to seek, survey & detach (i.e.) no easy task. We bumbled along to October, where our work began. Here we found a large, fiddle dump, too big for the BDH we'd brought for the purpose - blue plastic bags were ~~deployed~~ deployed. The three pibbles were detached effectively, but I couldn't get all the rope into the tackle bag, this caused problems throughout the rest of section of rift.

We arrived at ladder pit, where we sorted ourselves out for surveying etc. We loaded back down the rift, William managing to retrieve the tape I'd dropped several days previous. We then surveyed the 15m of cave between our 23/11 survey station & the 8/11 marked survey station, only 5 legs, only 2 in 23/11. We then sorted ourselves out again, detached ladder pit, and loaded up the rift, now carrying 3 tackle bags, one of ropes and ladders, and one of carbide pellets. At V.B. chamber we dumped the carbide tackle bag, taking the BDH of rubble up with the ladders. The first ascent up of the cave can be best described as a long hard slog, the rope tackle bag being notably heavy lump; I had to do Pean's crawl backwards to

get it through. With much hauling and passing of
backpacks we eventually surfaced just after midnight,
completely knackered - and with more ~~problems~~ in my
oversuit! ~~As~~

Rob

Arrived back in Camp ~~to find~~ at 12:30 am - 1/2 hr before fall over to find
Hungarians had prepared a wicked *perulasta* (Thanks) ~~at~~ that Top Camp had indeed
while we were out & that my nearly full bottle of *Cuore* y *Toro* had been
drunk by persons unknown, the latter justifying their actions by ^{crossing} ~~marking~~ my
initials on the bottle & writing "Kitty".

W.

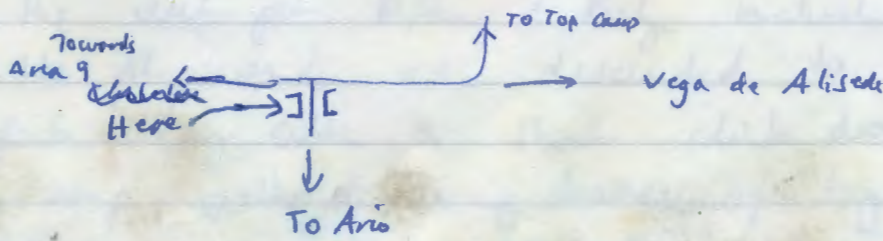
Note for 20/11 surveyors.

Precise survey station in 8/11 is top of
boulder at junction.

Please be the survey round to the 8/11
entrance bolt. (only 3 legs from the 20/11 entrance).
- the survey bolt is at the top of the first pitfall
climb on the ~~right~~ left hand side. Alternatively,
if you can't find the bolt, the ^{aluminum} *cooca* bag is slightly
lower on the right hand wall, survey to its centre.

Rob

6/8/93 Walked to Top Camp with Steve & Paul. Met Gerhard near. On the way
back, Steve noticed that the boulder choke in the little rocky wash jcty the
Vega de Alischa path is loosening strongly. Looks as if it could be dug. A
hole was seen after removing a few stones



100

William - sorry about the 43.

Chris was meant to tell you
where it was. ---

Hope anticipation will sweeten the
taste "in finem."

--- it was found in the end in
Munc est Sibendum! ---

Horrid & claggy walk up- (~5pm)
No better here - We will try top camp.

Star

NB/. Handled Tammes & Pulley on cord
belong to Chris Kershaw and he would
be glad if they were returned to
him. They are on the gear pile in the
Ario tent.

NB/. William - I'll be back at Ario in a couple of
days and we can sort the train ticket out then.
Lithard.