

Journal
of the
British Speleological Association

CAVE SCIENCE

No. 51

April 1973

A single dry passage, 40m below Cueva de Covalanas. Grid ref. 6191 9602. (The Sievekings (1962) apply this name to what appears to be the Cueva del Rio.) (Asociation Espeleologica Ramaliega, 1968 & 1971 - survey in latter.)

19. Cueva de Covalanas. Length 160m. Above the Muro del Eco, at the side of the path leading up the hill. The entrance is gated - a guide is available in Ramales. The passage forks just inside the entrance - the left hand fork leads to a chamber while the right hand passage has exceptionally fine paintings at the end. (Sieveking, 1962 - includes survey)

20. Cueva del Rio. Length 300m. A through-cave with three entrances, a floodway or oxbow to the Rio Calera, explored by AER in 1963 and surveyed by them in 1968. It is near the Muro del Eco, at river level below the bridge. Grid ref. 6194 9599. (Davies, 1970; Asociation Espeleologica Ramaliega, 1971 - includes survey)

21. Cueva de las Aguas. Length 230m, depth 28m. A large chamber, with various side passages, containing permanent pools of water, but no stream. The cave is well known locally and was surveyed by AER in 1968. It is part of the karst system known as El Moro, above the Calera valley 1.5km from Ramales. Grid ref. 6195 9607. (AER, 1971 - includes survey)

22. Cueva Rompida. Length 180m. A single large chamber with beautiful formations, forming part of the Moro system. Well known locally; explored and surveyed by AER in 1963 and 1968. Grid ref. 6199 9607. (AER, 1971)

23. Cueva Baranda. Length 220m, depth 45m. A large chamber with two entrances and various side passages. This is also part of the Moro system, 1.5km SE of Ramales. Grid ref. 6193 9607. (AER 1971 - includes survey)

24. Cueva Converuz. Length 170m. A very narrow entrance leads to a lofty rift passage. The cave is on the flank of Monte San Vicente, above the Gandara valley, near the hutment of Manzaneda. Grid ref. 6168 9586. (Mugnier, 1969)

25. Cueva del Aspío. Length 1km (?). The cave consists of a large main passage, 400m long, with various side passages. It was explored by the Grupo de Exploraciones Subterráneas (Barcelona) and AER, between 1961 and 1964. The cave is high in the side of the Asón valley, 3km west of Ramales. Grid ref. 6153 9622. (Mugnier, 1969)

Matienzo.

The village of Matienzo (grid ref. 6085 9675), 10km NW of Ramales, is situated in the centre of a large closed depression, formed of three connected poljes. This depression has been the subject of a detailed study by the Sección de Espeleología del Seminario Sautuola (Santander) and volume 2 of Cuadernos de Espeleologia has been devoted to the results

of this project, involving archaeological and zoological work as well as description and geomorphological study of the caves.

More recently, Manchester University Speleological Society have visited the region. Their expeditions of 1970 and 1971 have explored part of the main drain system of the polje. There still seems, from their reports, a tantalizing large amount of cave waiting to be found.

26. Cueva de la Codisera. Length 710m. A wide, obvious entrance leads to a spacious dry system, which also connects with several surface shafts. The cave is in Monte Beralta, above the area known as Las Bernillas. Position $43^{\circ}18'N$ $3^{\circ}34'15''W$. (Fernandez, 1966)

27. Cueva de Cuatribu. Length 205m. A dry cave in the Hoyo Hondo, 500m from Ozana, in the side of Monte Mullir. The entrance is surrounded by a group of trees. Position $43^{\circ}18'20''N$ $3^{\circ}33'15''W$. (Fernandez, 1966)

28. Cueva del Orillon. Length 600m. An active cave taking the drainage from a series of dolines, in the region known as Torcas de Orillon, near Ozana. Position $43^{\circ}18'10''N$ $3^{\circ}33'45''W$. (Fernandez, 1966)

29. Cueva de la Loca. Two caves in the Hoyo Frio, near a bend in the road. Position $43^{\circ}18'18''N$ $3^{\circ}33'52''W$

I. Length 70m. The resurgence of a small stream.

II. Length 800m. A complex series of large and small dry passages. (Fernandez, 1966)

30. Cuevas de Jivero. A system of three caves, carrying the same stream and separated by collapse dolines. They are in the Hoyo de Jivero, position $43^{\circ}18'15''N$ $3^{\circ}34'17''W$.

I. Length 34m.

II. Length 150m.

III. Length 150m. (Fernandez, 1966)

31. Sima-Cueva de Risco. Length 4km. An extensive system consisting of a main stream passage and a series of upper levels, with an extensive tributary, the Galeria Pinto, which rivals the main streamway in length. The system, first explored by SESS, is entered by a shaft, known locally as the Torca del Sedo. Position $43^{\circ}18'54''N$ $3^{\circ}34'36''W$. There are two associated caves, both short, the Cueva de la Puerta and the Cueva de Carrasquilla. (Fernandez, 1966 - includes survey)

32. Cueva de la Tiva. Length 608m. The main passage of this cave is a floodway for the stream met in its lowest part. There is also an ancient abandoned upper level. Position $43^{\circ}18'55''N$ $3^{\circ}34'56''W$. (Fernandez, 1966 - includes survey)

33. Cueva de Cofresnedo. Length 250m. A single very large passage, containing magnificent formations. Near Valle Ciego, in Monte Enaso. Position $43^{\circ}19'0''N$ (?) $3^{\circ}35'25''W$. (Fernandez, 1966)

34. Cubio de la Reñada (de la Mantequilla). Length 250m. An active stream cave, associated with the source of the Rio Clarion (Rio de Matienzo), the actual rising of which lies to the east, 200m away. Position $43^{\circ}18'40''\text{N}$ $3^{\circ}36'37''\text{W}$. (Fernandez, 1966)

35. Cueva del Comediate (Cueva del Clarín). Length 300m. A large resurgence. The water emerges from a sump only 25m inside the cave, but a spacious dry passage continues. The cave is associated with Cubio de la Reñada. Position $43^{\circ}18'40''\text{N}$ $3^{\circ}36'33''\text{W}$. (Fernandez, 1966)

36. Cueva del Agua. Length 350m. An influent cave, taking a large stream. The cave consists of a single large streamway, which has not been completely explored. The resurgence (La Cueva, or El Yuro) is 850m away, and 30m lower than the sink; a sump is met just inside the entrance. Attempts to dive this sump were unsuccessful, though a depth of 20m was reached. The system passes through the flank of Monte Enaso; Cueva del Agua is at $43^{\circ}18'58''\text{N}$ $3^{\circ}36'53''\text{W}$. (Fernandez, 1966)

37. Cueva del Volvo. Length 120m. The lowest resurgence cave in the Matienzo depression. It lies to the east of the road, near kilometre stone 21. Position $43^{\circ}19'50''\text{N}$ $3^{\circ}35'33''\text{W}$. (Fernandez, 1966)

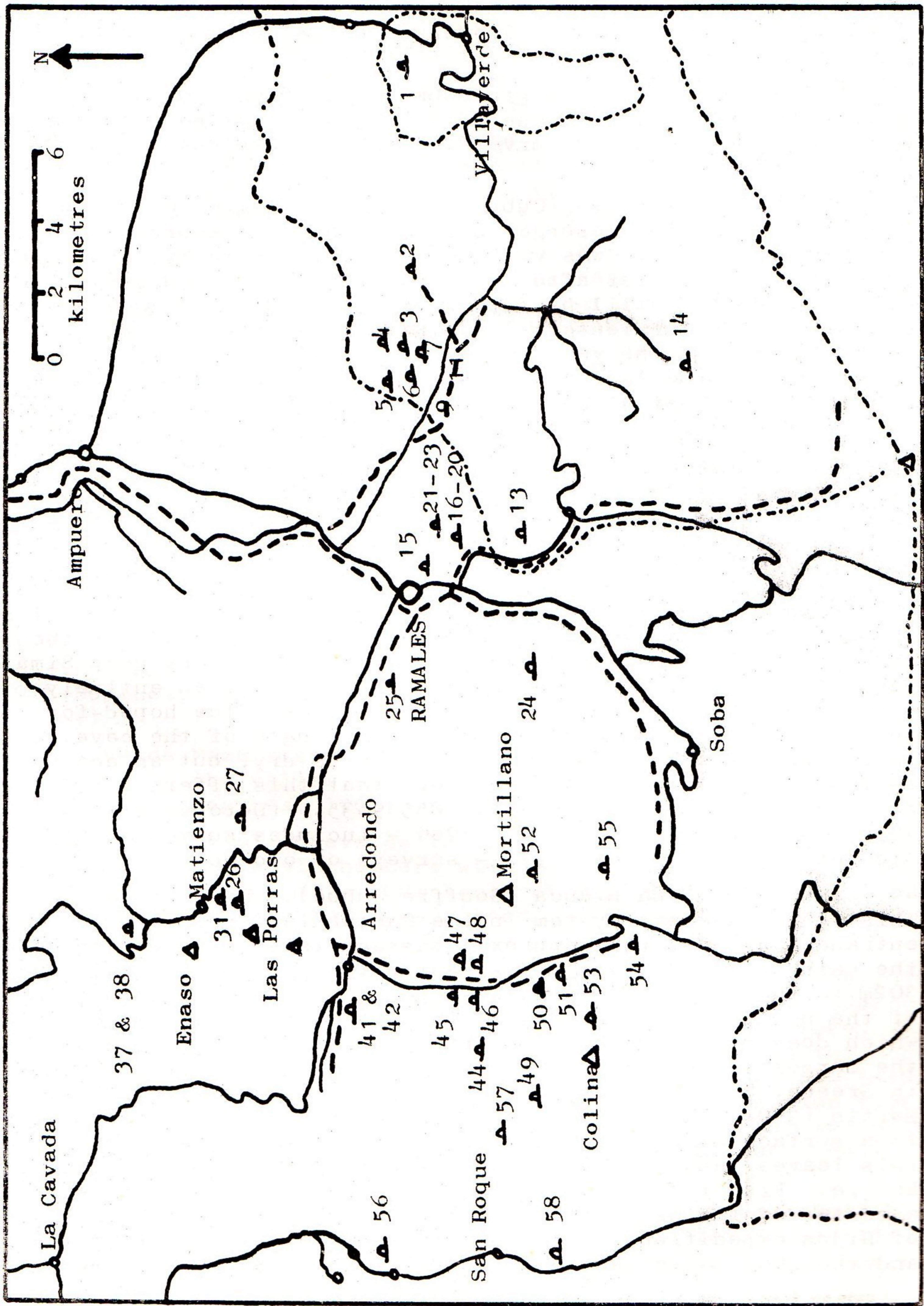
38. Cueva de los Emboscados. Length 240m. A dry cave ending in a boulder choke, in the flank of the mountain called Fuente de las Varas. Position $43^{\circ}19'56''\text{N}$ $3^{\circ}35'15''\text{W}$. (Fernandez, 1966)

39. Cueva de Carcavueso. Length 300 plus (?). The main sink of the Matienzo river, which resurges at San Miguel, 5km away. The cave was explored by the MUSS expeditions of 1970 & 1971. (Beardmore & Lenartowitz, 1972)

The Val de Asón - Arredondo to Soba.

The headwaters of the Rio Asón have been the centre for a large number of French expeditions. The Spéléo-Club de Dijon have organized annual expeditions to the region since 1958. Accounts of their work have appeared in their own journal 'Sous le Plancher' and in various other publications, but the fullest account of the caves and other karst features is given in Claude Mugnier's geomorphological thesis 'El karst de la región de Asón y su evolución morfológica', published in Spanish translation as Cuadernos de Espeleología 4. The Spéléo Société de Bourgogne have also organized several expeditions to the region, while the Spéléo-Club de Paris has been active on a smaller scale.

Arredondo lies about 12km west of Ramales. From Arredondo, the Rio Asón curves abruptly southward, eventually all but meeting its own tributary, the Arroyo Gandara, which rises on the opposite side of a narrow saddle, Los Collados. The circle thus formed encloses a group of peaks, the Sierra de Hornijo or Macizo de San Vicente. West of the Asón is the Macizo de Porracolina, which contains the major caves.



Sketch Map of Region V.

