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Hotspots of Subterranean Biodiversity

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Message from the Guest Editors

Thousands of species are known exclusively from caves and associated subterranean habitats. Many of these species are without eyes or pigment, and have adaptations to life in darkness. Collectively, they are one of the best examples of convergent evolution known. Globally, the number of caves is in the thousands, but only a very few harbor more than a handful of species. We provide an update on these hotspot caves, first enumerated by David Culver and Boris Sket in 2000. After an overview by the editors, approximately ten of these hotspot caves will be described and the fauna enumerated. The included caves will have 25 or more stygobionts, 25 or more troglobionts, or will be one of the richest caves in a large region, especially the tropics.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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