

# Tree mould caves within the framework of cave genetic classification

**Pavel Bella and Ľudovít Gaál**

Slovak Caves Administration

*Hodžova 11, 031 01 Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia, e-mail: bella@ssj.sk, gaal@ssj.sk*

## Abstract

Tree mould caves originated by several geological/geomorphological processes in various solid rocks are remarkable natural phenomena. But existing knowledge about these caves is not precise and is inconsistent with the basic principles of cave genetic classification, related to geomorphological processes of origin and enlargement of underground hollows. On the basis of field observations of tree mould caves formed in volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks (Japan, Central Europe) and travertine (Central Europe), a genetic classification of tree mould caves (syngenetic – pyrogenic, epigenetic mechanical weathering and biogenic destructive types) is proposed and discussed.

## Key words

Physical speleology, tree mould cave, cave genetic classification, syngenetic and epigenetic caves, speleological terminology.