

Myanmar Cave Documentation Project 2014



Water cascades in front of the Namun Spring Cave

Pinlaung in Southern Shan States 2.-15. February 2014

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Acknowledged as FSE EuroSpeleo Project



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1. Introduction and Summary

The main objective of this year was further exploration of the Namun Spring Cave and descending the entrance shaft of the suspected sink Te-Toke-Taung. The distance between both caves is 6 km with an altitude difference of 500 m. The second objective was checking for caves in the villages north and east of Pinlaung and descending an in 2012 located shaft with a disappearing stream.

Result: The team surveyed 13 caves with an initial length of 3.0 km. The table below gives an overview:

No.	Name	Coordinates (WGS 84)	Altitude	Village / Ban	Township	Length (m)	Depth (m)
1	Namun Spring Cave	N 20,01905° E 96,62597°	381	Namun	Pinlaung	1.466	108
2	Road Cliff Cave	N 19.985250° E 96.654910°	667	Leinli	Pinlaung	10	
3	Nga Pyaw Thor Cave (Banana forest cave)	19.982260° 96.685030°	676	Nam Pam	Pinlaung	158	
4	War Lee Kwey Cave (Resurgence)	19.971489 96.668015	578	Nam Pam	Pinlaung	326	
5	War Lee Kwey Cave (Lake)	19.973897 96.671272	709	Nam Pam	Pinlaung	58	
6	War Lee Kwey Cave (Sink)	19.974425 96.670951	700	Nam Pam	Pinlaung	122	
7	War Lee Kwey Cave (Upstream)	19.974990 96.671820	720	Nam Pam	Pinlaung	13	
8	Lower Spider Cave	20.03415 96.76028	1402	Nam Pam	Pinlaung	210	
9	Upper Spider Cave	20.034590 96.761680	1414	Nam Pam	Pinlaung		
10	Big Bang Cave	20.17188 96.79065	1555	Tar Kge	Pinlaung		
11	Buddha Head Cave	20.226913, 96.841415	1280	Nounbi	Pinlaung	12	
12	Young Twint Cave	20.23970 96.84509	1436	Nounbi	Pinlaung	31	
13	Dragon Cave	20.195192, 96.706314	1500	Hlaings	Pinlaung	247	
14	Te Toke Taung	20.065970° 96.652570°	785	Phinton	Pinlaung	100	
15	Resurgence Te Toke Stream	20.089444 96.678333	1070	Phinton	Pinlaung		
16	Hti Ngut	20 07 58.9 , 96 48 28.8	1636	Hti Hwali	Pinlaung	246	157
17	Namun Spring Wall Cave	20.018170° 96.626100°	425	Namun	Pinlaung	7	
18	Resurgence Te Toke Stream II	20.093090° 96.674170°	1002	Phinton	Pinlaung		
						3.006	

The Namun spring cave was surveyed in three days to a final length of 2.6 km. It is now the 2nd longest cave in Myanmar after the Stone Cave in Ywangan. It has the character of a vertical cave with large horizontal overflow passages and active streams. The end of the caves is marked by a sump. New explored passages twisted towards the entrance or connected to formerly open passages. The cave entrance might flood in future due to the filling of the Upper Paulang dam reservoir. Leinli was the last village due for relocation in 3 month in the Paulaung river valley.

When returning from Leinli to Pinlaung, one villager showed us three river caves with partially large entrance portals. They are through caves cutting 100-400 m wide ridges. The War Lee Caves could not be connected due to dangerous intense water flow in a narrow passage with an enormous 8 m waterfall. The location is on the lower end of the same valley that hosts the Te-Toke-Taung Sink. A connection has to be clarified by further study of topographic maps.

The team split for 5 days into two groups to cover a larger area.

The Pinlaung team visited villages north, east and west of Pinlaung on roads identified on Google Earth. Four caves (Spider, Dragon, Buddha Head, Young Twint) of up to 250 m length were visited and partially mapped. They are located on the top of small ridges or in isolated hills with low potential. Surprisingly the hill top maze cave Young Twint was divided into 11 sections which each marked with additional arrows every few meters pointing towards the exit.

The Pinhton team relocated into the remote village of Pinhton by motorcycle. The main aim was the

descent into the Te-Toke-Taung river sink. The permission for an entrance camp was not given by the village authorities and it required a 5 hour return hike. The entrance was rigged and the waterfall bypassed until a depth of 100. Then the narrow passage filled with a strong current prevented any further continuation. It requires a tremendous logistical effort with uncertain outcome to further push the cave. The completion of Namun Spring cave and the discovery of the War-Lee river caves could mean that Te-Toke discharges likely along the valley in South-East direction and not into the Paulaung river.

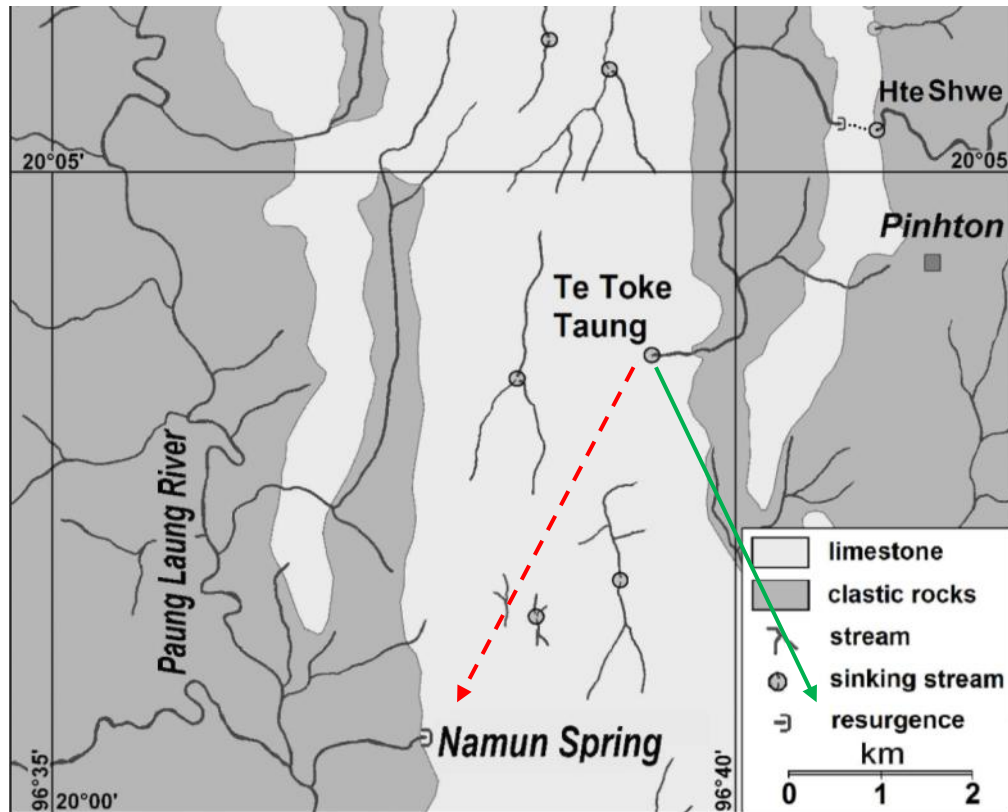
The last two days were spent on the Hti Ngut sink only few km from Pinlaung with a small active stream disappearing in the entrance. It turns out to be a real vertical cave with a 80 m deep entrance pitch ending in a large hall. Immediately a 2nd pitch of 55 m follows to a surveyed depth of 157 m with an undescended 9 m pitch. This cave has a good potential to become the deepest cave of Myanmar. A revisit is planned.

Overview of schedule:	2.2.	Transfer Yangon to Pinlaung via Heho
	3.2. - 6.2.	Leinli-Bridge
	7.2.	Transfer to Pinlaung with scouting
	8.2. - 12.2.	Team 1: Pinhton
		Team 2: Pinlaung
	13.2. – 14.2.	Pinlaung
	15.2.	Transfer Pinlaung – Heho Airport

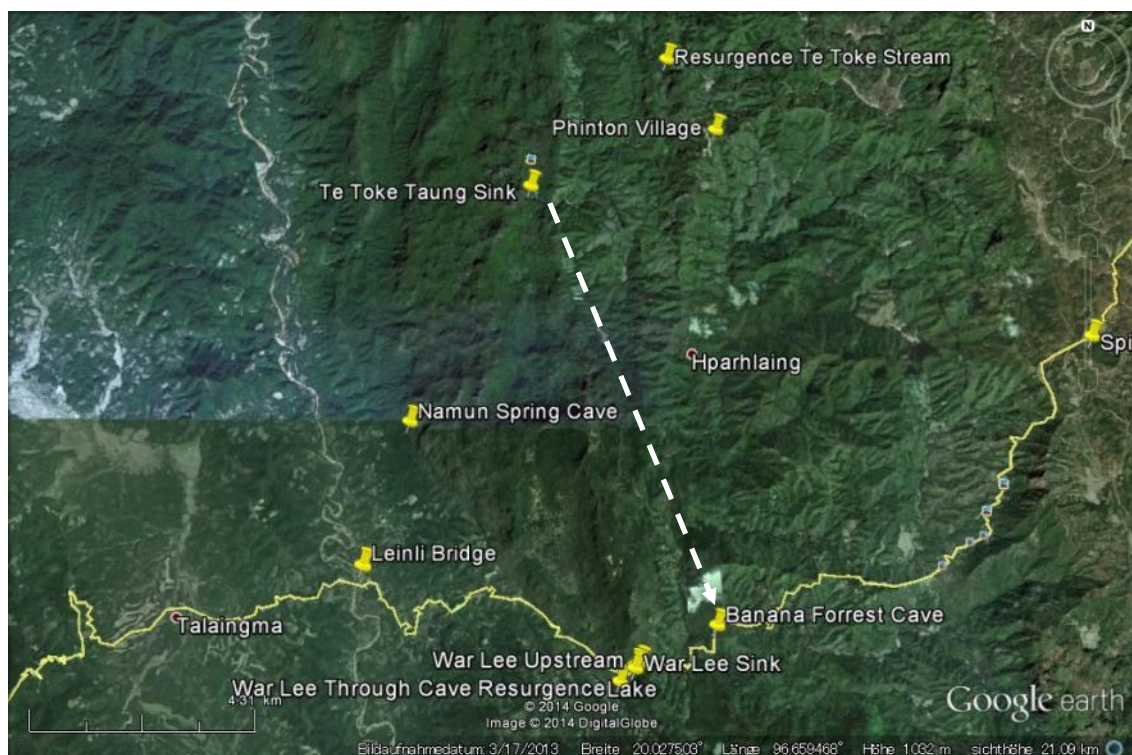
2. Caves by area

a.) Leinli-Pinhton area: Namun Spring Cave – Te Toke Sink – River through Caves

The below maps shows the formerly predicted relation between Te Toke Taung Cave and Namun Spring Cave (dashed red arrow) and the new suspected water flow (solid green arrow).



Map by La Venta 2006



Pictures of Leinli & Pinthon:



View from Leili bridge on Leili village with the karst hills hosting the Namun Spring in the background..



Team in the last left restaurant in Leinli



Entrance of Namun Spring Cave



Entrance of War-Lee Resurgence

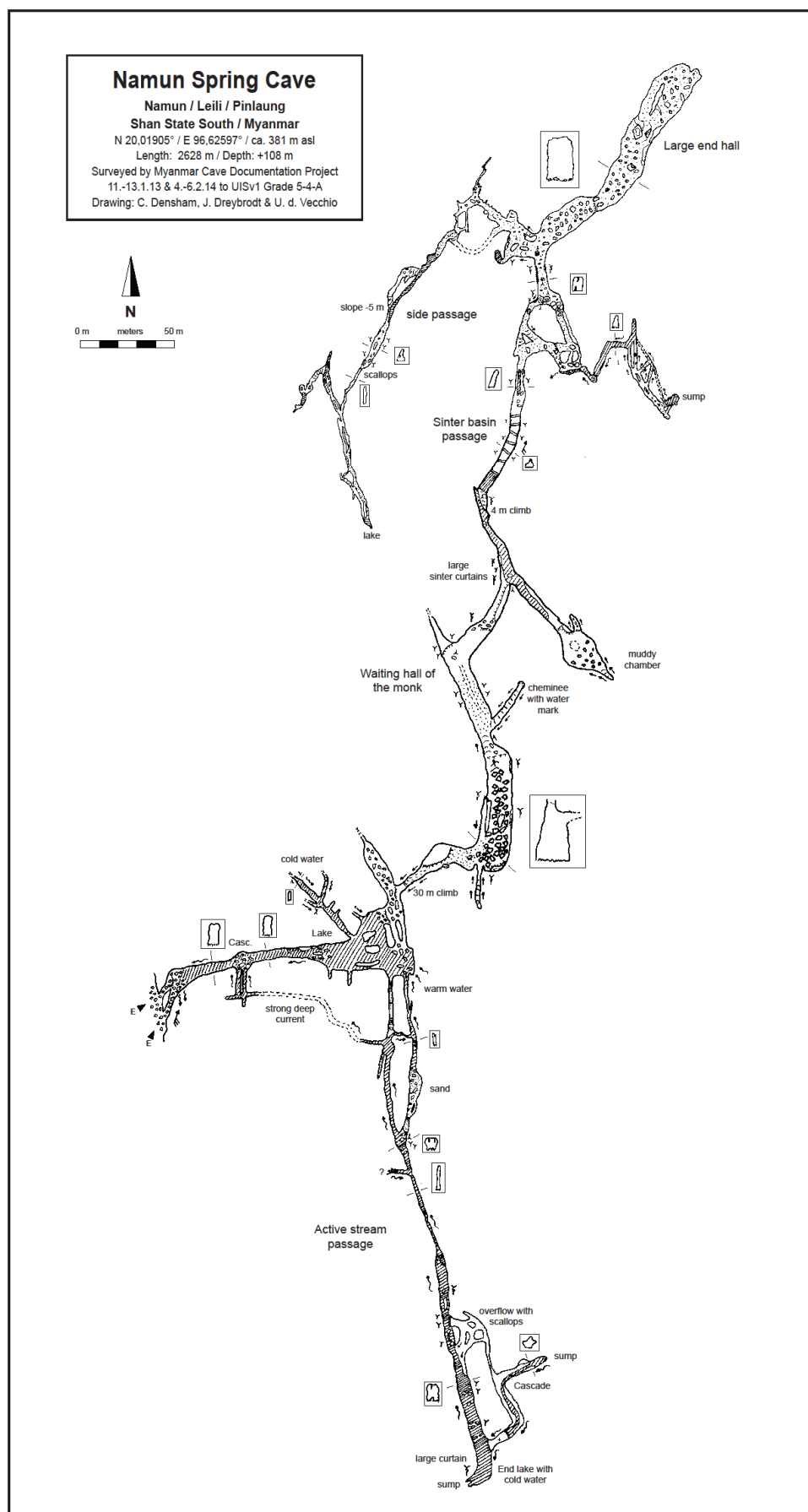


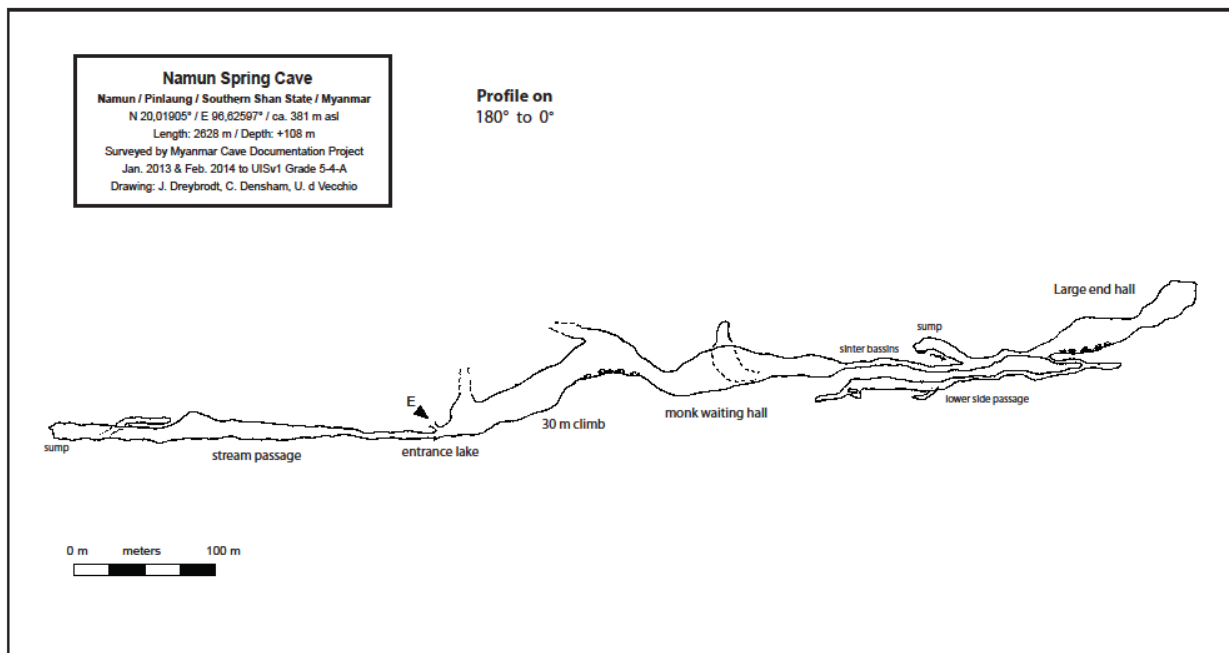
The Pinhton team leaving for 5 days field on motorcycles



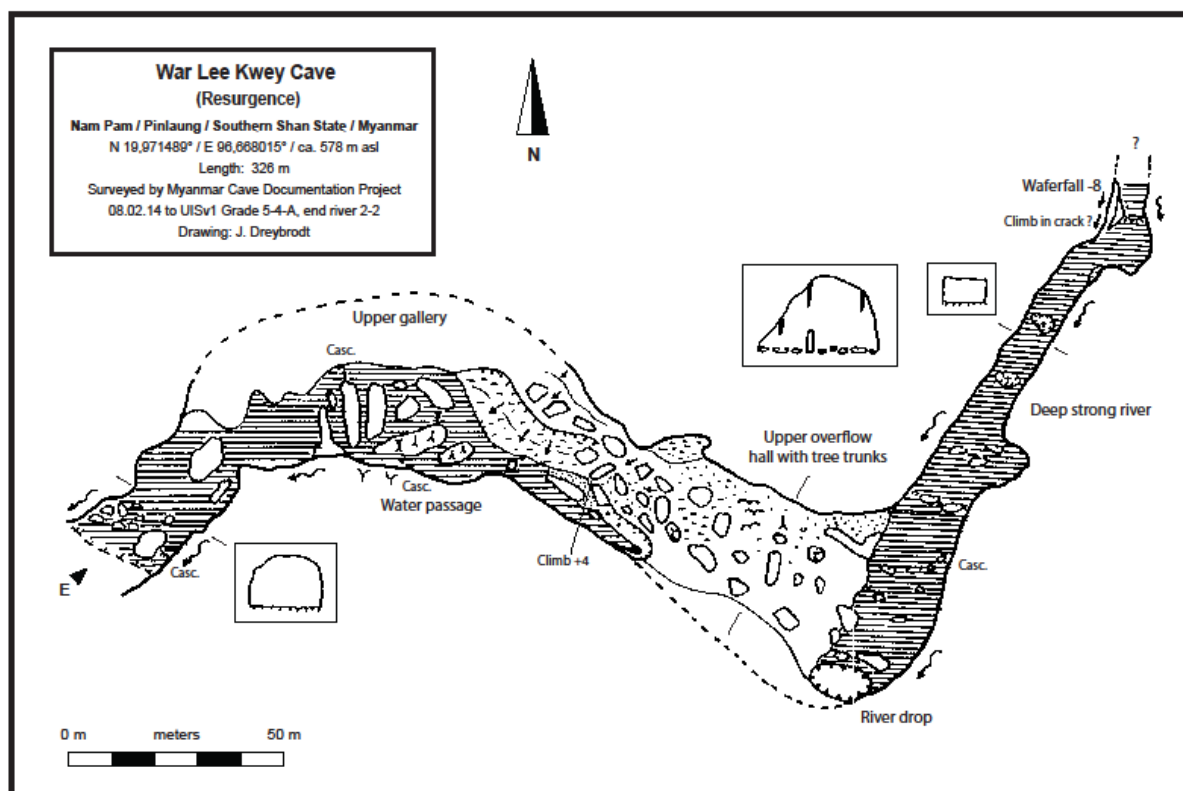
Waterfall before the entrance of Nmun Spring Cave is reached

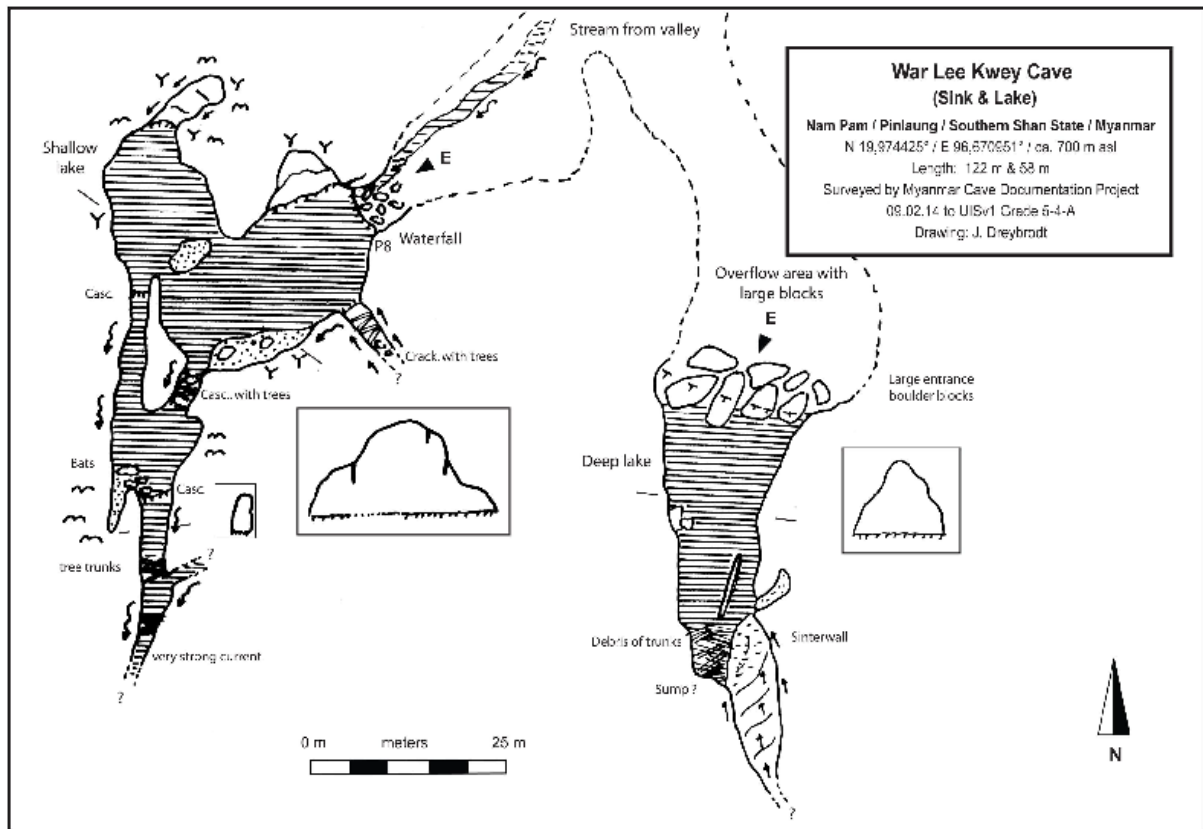
Map of Namun Spring Cave:



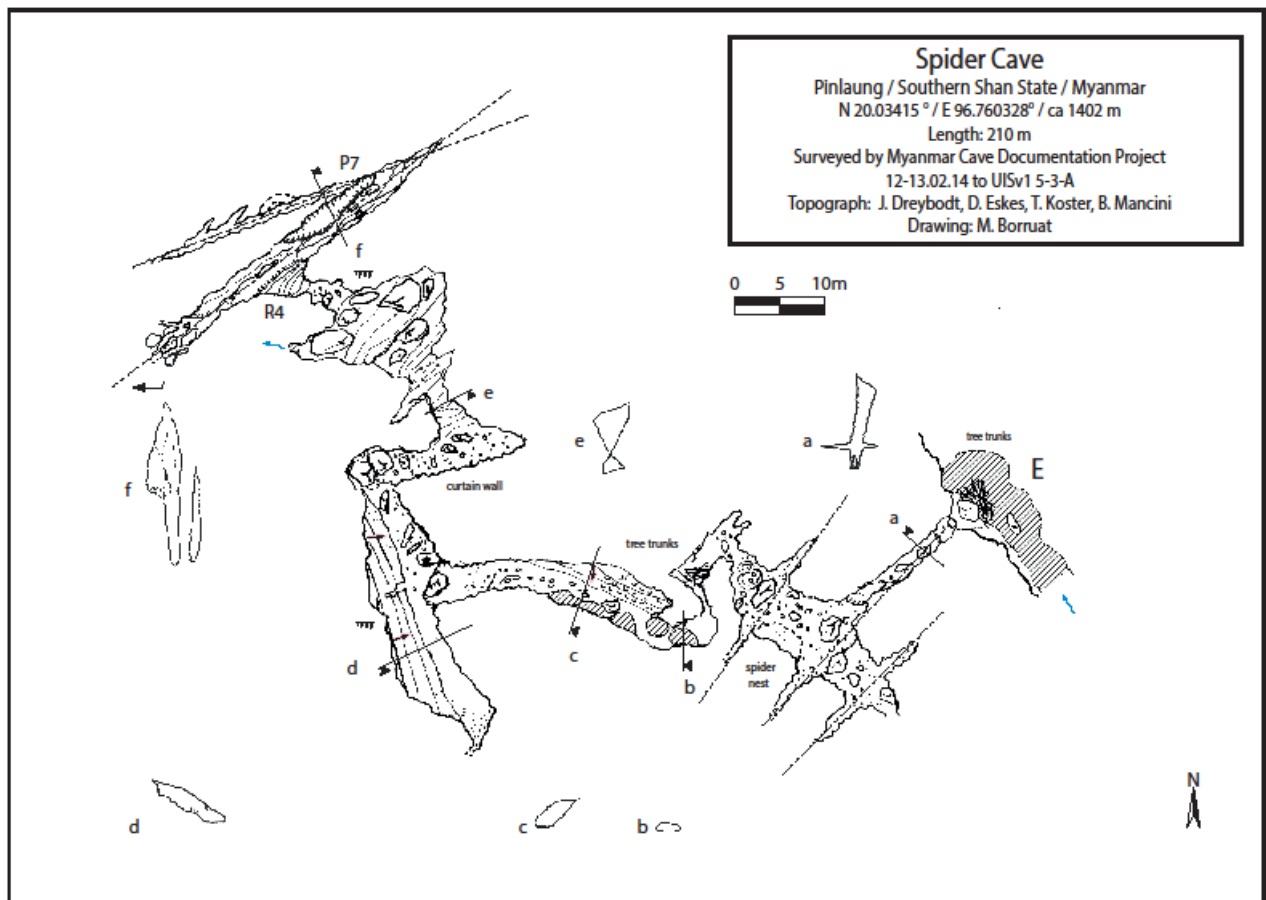


Map of the War Lee Caves:











Map of Spider Cave



b.) Karst around Pinlaung

The karst around Pinlaung hosts several smaller caves in the ridges.

	
<p>Tower karst near Pinlaung</p>	<p>Entrance of Spider Cave</p>
	
<p>Buddha Head Cave</p>	<p>Entrance of Dragon Cave</p>
	
<p>Swiss Hotpot Style Fondue on the last evening</p>	<p>Equipment storage</p>

Hti Ngut Shaft

Hti Hwali / Pinlaung / Southern Shan State / Myanmar

N 20,132167° / E 96,809750° / ca. 1636 m asl

Length: 246 m / Depth: 157 m

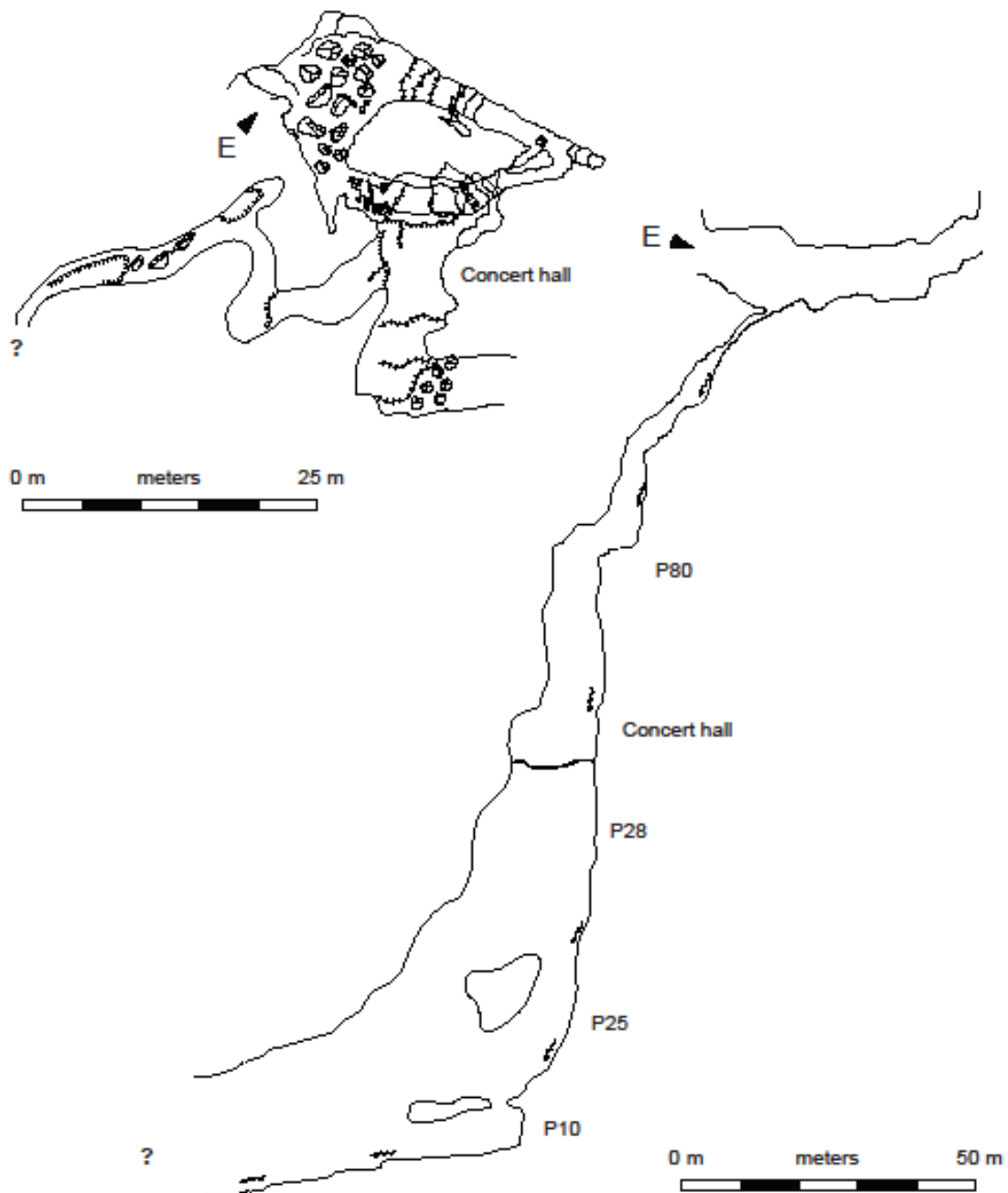
Surveyed by Myanmar Cave Documentation Project

13.-14.02.14 to UISv1 Grade 5-3-A

Drawing: J. Dreybrodt, U. d. Vecchio



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Myanmar Documentation Project - Expedition Team 2014

We are a group of International cavers from national caving societies in each country. The members are experienced cavers and have participated in several international expeditions in Europe, Asia and Africa. The project was established in 2010 out of the Northern Lao - European Cave Project and is open to serious cavers from any country.

Our Mission is to achieve an overview of caving areas and to provide a proper documentation of caves and karst to the Myanmar authorities.



The Team with Ven.Thu Seik Tha (Abbot Leinli Monastery)

From left to right: Chris Densham (UK), Ferdinando Valentino (I), Manuel Borruat (CH), J. Dreybrodt (co-ordinator, D), Barbara Manchini (I), Umberto del Vecchio (I), Khun Soe Kham (Guide, MY), David Eskes (NL), Timme Koster (NL).

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the cooperation of the Ministry of Hotels & Tourism and the Myanmar Tourism Promotion Board. Especially we thank U Phyo Wai Yar Zar for supporting the project and arranging logistics.

The valuable equipment support of the European Speleological Federation is acknowledged.

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