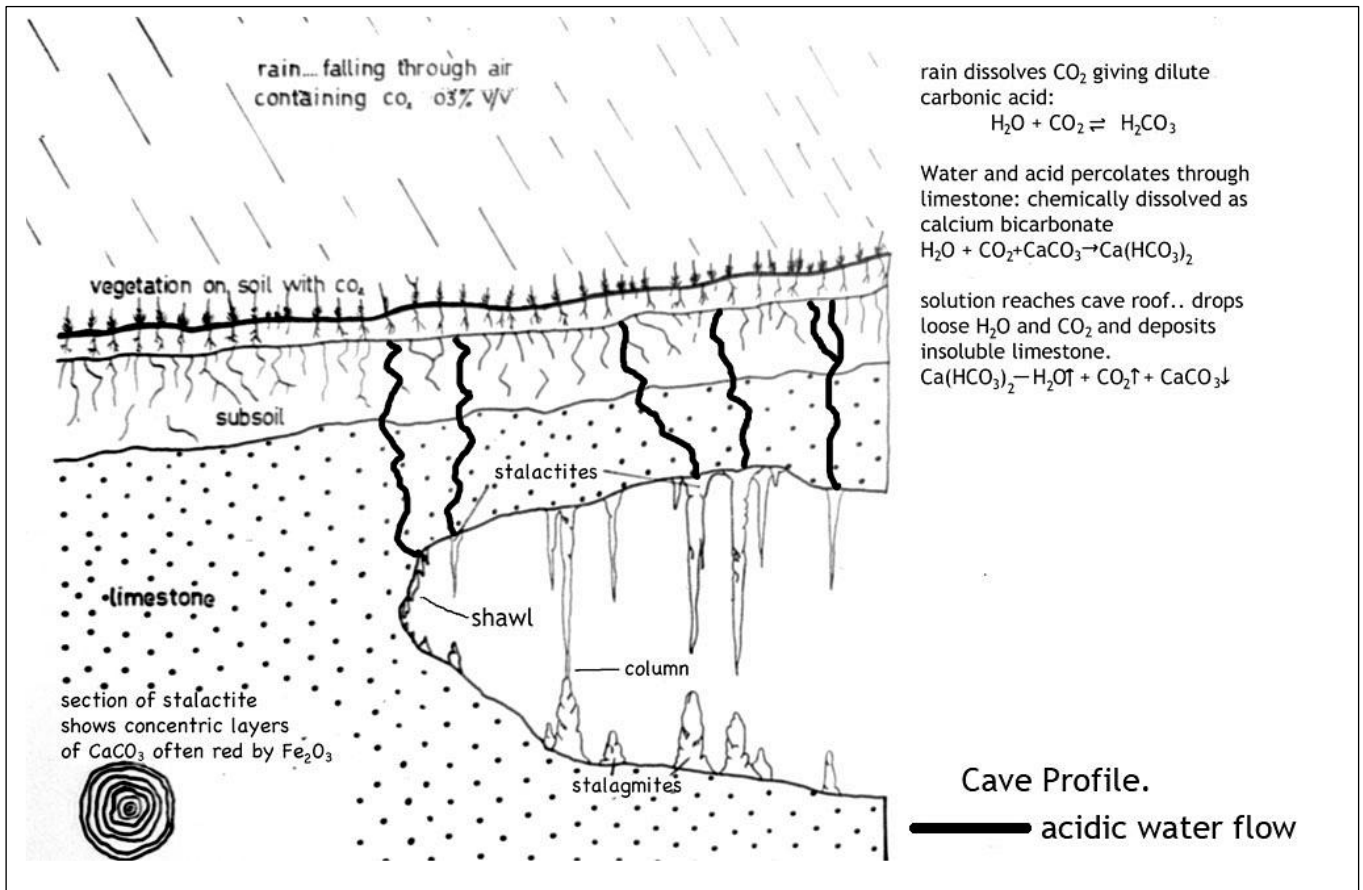


Landscape photography is a fairly popular photographic genre. All the subjects have been provided by geology – lakes, waterfalls, hills, rocks, valleys, escarpments, etc. and they all sit there in daylight. But there is another landscape that people rarely see in exhibitions or salons. It is built by the same forces, though it is not in daylight – it is underground. Where the rock is limestone, water from rain or surface streams penetrates the limestone, chemically dissolving it, as explained in this sketch.

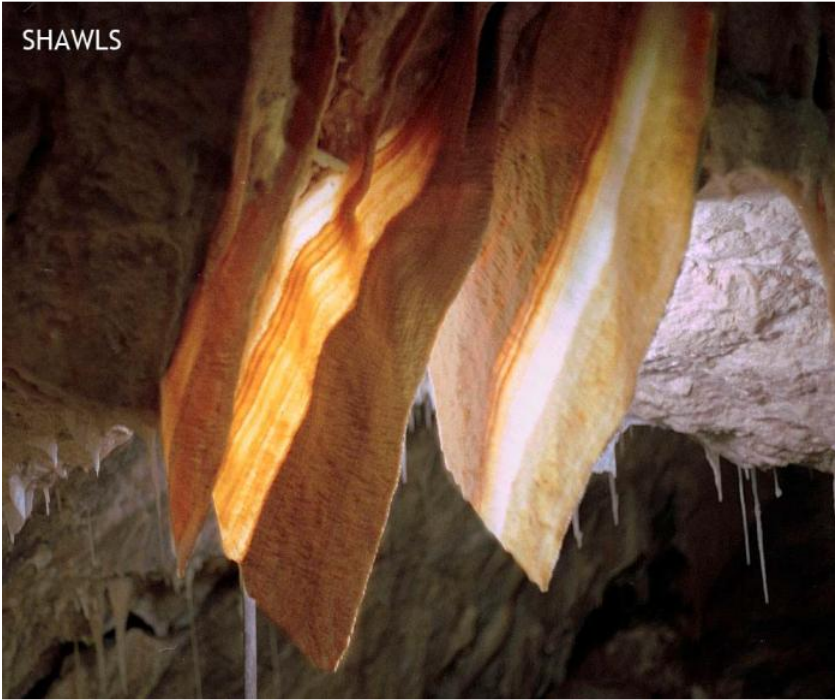


In many places around the world this geological weathering results in caves with incredibly shaped formations: stalactites, stalagmites, columns, shawls, flowstone and many more. They are popular as tourist attractions and tend to be enhanced by artificial light, which is also a help for people who suffer from claustrophobia.



At M18 Lake, Western Australia by Tony Healy ARPS

SHAWLS



Stalactites, spelt with a 'c', come down from the ceiling of a cave. Stalagmites, spelt with a 'g', rise up from the ground. Should their growth mean they meet in the middle, they are then known as a column. Water, in its various forms, gravity and evaporation are the three main forces that create these forms. Should water run down the side of a slanted wall, it can develop a shawl.

At Yalin by Tony Healy ARPS

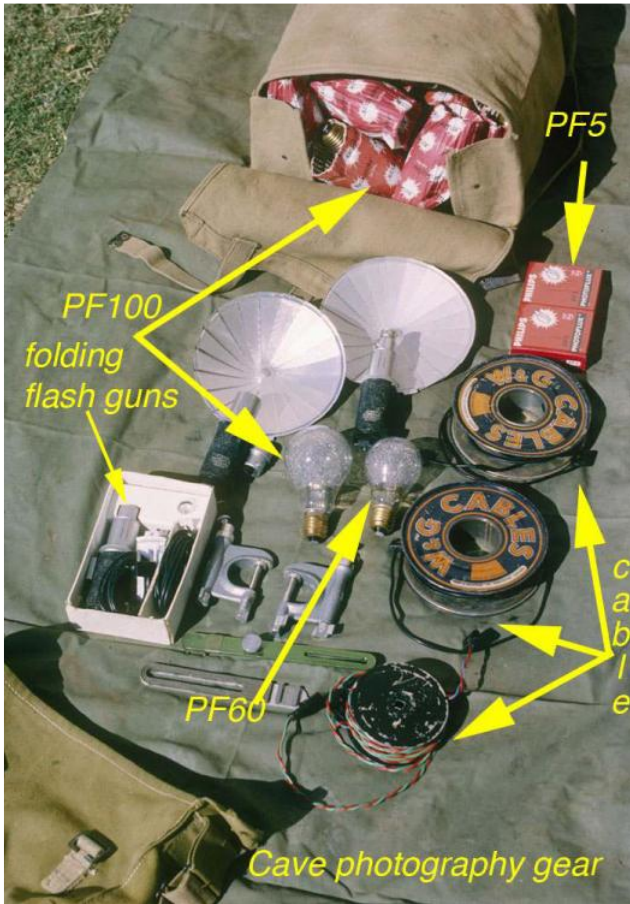


Flowstones at Jenolan Caves by Tony Healy ARPS



A Helictite by Tony Healy ARPS

Each of these images was only as you see it for 1/250 of a second. In the case of the large flowstone image, the miner's lamp in the model's hand, was the only light available before and after the flash went off.



Finally, the photo here shows the equipment used to capture these underground landscape images, using old-style equipment.

Image by Tony Healy ARPS