

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

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\*\*\* N E W S L E T T E R \*\*\*

No. 5

November, 1958.

Please address all Correspondence to -  
PLEASE RETURN TO  
VICTORIAN SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
P. O. BOX 5425 CC G.P.O.  
MELBOURNE, 3001

Hon. Secretary,  
C/o Brotherhood of  
St. Laurence,  
67 Brunswick Street,  
FITZROY, N.6.  
Victoria, Australia.

Rodent Remains.

Jack Mahoney, Dept. of Geology, Sydney University, convener of the Federation sub-committee on Bat Research, is also interested in the Australian Rodents. Any society desiring identification of rodent bones is invited to send these to Jack, who, in turn, is very anxious to see them.

"Amberat"

This is a black or dark brown glassy or bituminous substance often found on cave walls, especially in dry areas or in bat caves. Its nature and origin is uncertain, and is at present being investigated by the Western Speleological Institute, Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A. Any specimens of this should be sent, with details of locality within the cave, existence of bats, climatic conditions, etc. To date, the only specimens known to the Institute are from Western U.S.A., so if you are familiar with this peculiar mineral, please co-operate.

Isopods

A letter has been received from Prof. A. Vandel, Faculte des Sciences, Toulouse, France, offering to identify Cave Isopods. Prof. Vandel is a specialist in this group, and is interested to see any specimens.

Molluscs

Specimens of land molluscs, especially gastropods, are often found in cave earths, or elsewhere in caves. These can be sent for identification, and possibly dating, to B. C. Cotton, C/o S.A. Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia.