

## **OPERA IPOGEA - JOURNAL OF SPELEOLOGY IN ARTIFICIAL CAVITIES**

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The idea of the journal “Opera Ipogea” was launched in 1995 by the National Commission for Artificial Cavities of the Italian Speleological Society. The first issue, published in 1999, was a monograph entitled “The underground cities of Cappadocia”. Since then the magazine is sold by subscription and until 2004 it was printed by the Erga publishing house; in 2005 the Italian Speleological Society, owner of the journal, became also its publisher.

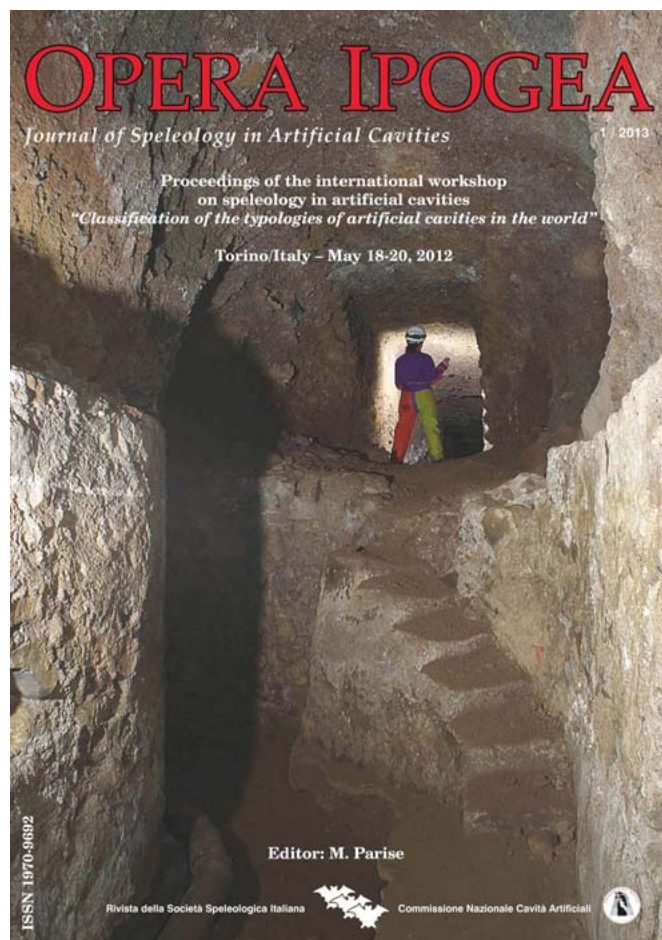
In 2013 Opera Ipogea opens a window on the web ([www.operaipogea.it](http://www.operaipogea.it)): adapting to the challenges of communication 2.0, it becomes easily trackable by all, makes available with free download an archive of the past issues, offers contents and images, and provides information about subscription.

The initial purpose was and remains to interlace and coordinate international studies and researches to summarize the complexity and richness of the underground cavities: urban speleology, speleology in artificial cavities, underground archeology, speleology for archeology, anthropogenic underground sites of historical interest. Sixteen years later Opera Ipogea is still here, having changed its format from medium size book to a journal style. Some numbers: 254 articles, 264 different Italian and foreign authors, 22 miscellaneous, 7 monographs, 3 conference proceedings and 2 supplements.

A well coordinated and collaborative network of partnerships and a scientific committee with leading international experts support the journal editorial staff of Opera Ipogea, that has become the leading journal in the world as concerns speleology in artificial cavities. For this reason, since few years, the original title has been extended to “*Journal of speleology in artificial cavities*”, and the journal enriched with several articles in English.

Different ways and different skills produced an activity that, starting from the ground of our country, has reached Turkey, Tunisia, Jordan, Libya, Israel, Malta and China.

The importance of this now known as “*speleological journal*”, thanks to the interest that is acquiring in the international field, is undoubtedly linked to the ability to make available to scholars and researchers a systematic and organic documentary archive of extraordinary importance about underground anthropogenic structures over the centuries.



From this extraordinary descriptive, documentary and photographic data-base stories of hundreds of underground places are emerging, not just those best known to the general public, but also those less known that could certainly identify, in the published studies, new and important opportunity to promote the history, culture and tourism of its territory.

Following this editorial line our audience has expanded and have joined, over the years, readers particularly interested on the most evocative aspects of the historical and archaeological underground heritage. Today our journal has become also an essential bridge between archeology and “not just speleology”.

There is still much to do, to document and to say: Opera Ipogea has chosen the quality and commitment way to do this.

### **Opera Ipogea**

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