



Texas Cave Life

Texas caves are the home to a number of different and interesting caves related species. Some of the species such as the Raccoon visit the cave from time to time, however, they largely live outside. Others such as the cave cricket live in the cave but come out at night to eat. The rare cave beetle, the Rhadine *Persephone* never leaves the cave. Here are a few of the Texas cave creatures.



The photos identified by the asterisk * were taken by Piers Hendrie, Austin cave photographer.

Cave Cricket
Myotis velifer Bat *
Texas Cave Conservancy Logo
Centipede *
Millipede *
Rhadine persephone beetle *

Class Insecta
Class Mammalia

Class Chilopoda
Class Diplopoda
Class Insecta



Spider *
Beetle *
Texas Rattlesnake
Bats *
Harvestman *

Class Arachnida
Class Insecta
Class Reptilia
Class Mammalia
Class Arachnida



Cave Crickets Mating *

Centipede *

Raccoon

Spider *

Anne Richardson Bridge- (Congress Street) Austin, Texas

San Marcos Blind Salamander

Class Insecta

Class Chilopoda

Class Mammalia

Class Arachnida

Class Amphibia

Austin Area Cave Related Endangered Species

Species

<i>Texella reyesi</i>	Bone cave harvestman Most common of the Austin area cave species.
<i>Texella reddelli</i>	Bee Creek Cave harvestman
<i>Neoleptoneta mysopica</i>	Tooth Cave spider
<i>Tartarocregris texana</i>	Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion
<i>Texmaurops reddelli</i>	Kretschmarr Cave mold beetle
<i>Batarisopes texanus</i>	Coffin cave mold beetle
<i>Rhadine persephone</i>	Tooth Cave ground Beetle

Glossary

Biospeleology- The study of cave life and its relations to the surface and subsurface environment.

Borehole- In this work, a vertical hole drilled in bedrock for sampling karst fauna. Referred to as “corehole” in certain documents.

Cavernicole- A species occurring only in caves, not necessarily eyeless and depigmented.

Dark zone- The permanently dark zone of the deep cave environment where no light penetrates, as opposed to twilight zone.

Hydrogeology-The study of water dynamics in relation to geology, especially groundwater.

Karst- A terrain characterized by landforms and subsurface features such as caves and sinkholes

Troglobite- An animal that completes its lifecycle and spends its entire life in caves.

Troglophile- An animal that spends most of its life in opening underground but it may also be found above ground.

Trogloxene- A cave-dwelling animal that leaves the cave on a regular basis to feed, such as bats and cave crickets.

Twilight Zone- The cave zone in which light from the entrance is still visible.

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Last modified: 02/15/10