

Isgrotta i Grønliflåget i Rana kommune

Isgrotta Grønliflåget, Rana, Nordland.

David & Shirley St. Pierre visited a cave they called Ice Cave in the Grønli cliff in September 1963. Near an unnamed cave now called Langrotta numerous entrances gave access to a network originally formed under conditions of complete water filling and then subject to some vadose modification. The passages are round shaped 1-2 m high, with trenches in the floor and dry boulder strewn stream beds.

At one of the lowest points it was blocked by ice and the walls, roof and floor had a complete covering about 5cm thick. At the blocked end an ice shelf, 2 cm thick and 50 cm wide spanned the passage.

Maybe the ledge of ice was formed over a sump which had drained away but more likely the ledge once formed the roof covering and the slow gravitational flow of ice carried it down intact. To one side some excellent erratic forms of ice crystals occurred. Several minutes stay raised the temperature so that ominous creaking noises came from the ice. To preserve the beautiful ice formations a hasty retreat was made.

The network connects with Langrotta but is generally at a lower level as seen in the higher parts where many of the oval shaped passages are truncated by a flat mica schist roof.

It appears that the numerous entrances are the result of the glacial erosion of the cliff face which has broken into the network.

There are two photos of the ice shelf, a plan of the cliff and a bibliography of 4 articles referring to Isgrotta published 1965-1979.