

## **Norsk Grotteblad nr 7, 1981**

### **Er Hammernesgrottene en del av ei kjempegrotte?**

Are the Hammernesgrottene caves a part of a gigantic cave system?

The individual caves in the Hammerneset cave complex are listed. If they could be connected by exploration, the total system would probably exceed 5 km by length. Members of the mountaineering group in Rana Turistforening have undertaken an exploration and survey project aiming at a connection between these caves. In the late 1980, the Pallangrottene caves were visited and their cross-sections are much smaller than Hammernesgrottene themselves, indicating that they are not connections but tributaries. The sumps south in The Hammernesgrotten proper have been passed by locals under low water conditions, and extensions beyond the existing survey are known. Digging the chokes is another alternative, but this needs a lot of people cooperating for a long-time project. The surface above the Caves has deep shafts and numerous dolines, which are under investigation. Our main theory is the existence of a great master cave system not yet discovered. This area has been neglected by British caving expeditions, and we hope that the exploration this time will be managed by Norwegian cavers!