

## Rediscovery of *Pseudotremia cavernarum* Cope in Virginia

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*Pseudotremia cavernarum*, a cavernicolous diplopod, has been rediscovered in three caves in southwestern Virginia.

The cavernicolous diplopod *Pseudotremia cavernarum* Cope was described by Cope (1869) from Erhart's Cave near Ellett, Montgomery County, Virginia. Erhart's Cave (elevation - 1630 ft.) is in the drainage of the North Fork of the Roanoke River. The type locality has remained the only known locality for over 100 years. The status of this species was clarified by Hoffman (1958).

Erhart's Cave was located in a commercial rock quarry. Quarrying operations during the 1960s and 1970s gradually destroyed the cave. Ferguson (1979) stated: "The only known cave habitat at Ellett in Montgomery County was recently destroyed by a quarrying operation. It is not known if the species survives in adjacent underground habitats." *Pseudotremia cavernarum* was classified as Recently Extinct or Extirpated in Virginia at the first Symposium on Endangered and Threatened Plants and Animals of Virginia (Ferguson, 1979).

On August 15, 1981 the author and his sons were exploring and mapping Dave's Cave (elevation - 1800 ft.) located on the author's property approximately two miles north of Erhart's Cave. Neither Douglas (1964) nor Holsinger (1975) list Dave's Cave as being among Virginia's 2300 + known caves. This previously undescribed dry cave consists of approximately 100 feet of passageway. Several specimens of *Pseudotremia cavernarum* were observed along a moist crawlway, but only one specimen was collected. Identification of this specimen was subsequently confirmed by Richard L. Hoffman. On August 17, 1983 six *Pseudotremia* were observed along the same crawlway. No specimens were collected.

Based on the 1981 specimen, this species was reclassified as being Endangered in Virginia at the second Symposium on Endangered and Threatened Plants and Animals of Virginia in April, 1989 (Hoffman, in press).

Subsequent investigations by the author and his son during May and June, 1989 have revealed *Pseudotremia cavernarum* in two additional caves - Nellies Hole (elevation - 2080 ft.) and Heartbeat Cave (elevation - 2050 ft.). These caves are located along Virginia Route 681 approximately one mile southwest of Dave's Cave. Four specimens were observed in Nellies Hole and one in Heartbeat Cave. Identifications of all specimens were confirmed by Hoffman.

### LITERATURE CITED

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