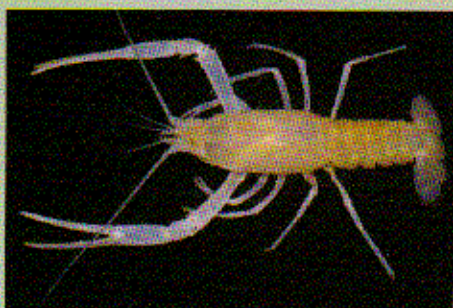




ALDEMARO ROMERO is Chair and Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Arkansas State University. He has authored more than 500 publications and his interests lie in questions in science that require an interdisciplinary approach.

Biospeleology has a tremendous potential to inform many aspects of modern biology; yet this area of knowledge remains largely anchored in neo-Lamarckian views of the natural world in both its approaches and jargon. Written for academic researchers and graduate students, this book provides a critical examination of current knowledge and ideas on cave biology, with emphasis on evolution, ecology, and conservation. Aldemaro Romero provides a historical analysis of ideas that have influenced biospeleology, discusses evolutionary phenomena in caves, from cave colonization to phenotypic and genotypic changes, and integrates concepts and knowledge from diverse biological viewpoints. He challenges the conventional wisdom regarding the biology of caves, and highlights urgent questions that should be addressed in order to get a better and more complete understanding of caves as ecosystems.

Cover illustrations: front – vegetation nearby caves can be abundant and does have an influence on the cave biota, courtesy of Danté Fenolio; back – photograph of *Procambarus lucifugus*, courtesy of Danté Fenolio.

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UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-0-521-53553-3



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