

passages, which have not yet been explored, as they are nearly closed by stalactital concretions; these cavities occur where the roof is intersected by fissures, which are continued for a few feet, but are gradually lost in the superincumbent limestone, and are thickly lined with stalactites. The true floor was only seen near the entrance, for in the interior the whole was covered with a bed of hardened mud or clay, about a foot in average thickness. The surface was perfectly smooth and level when the cave was first opened, except where stalagmites had formed upon it by infiltration from the roof. Where stalactitic matter incrustated the sides, it also extended over the bottom like a thin coat of ice; and therefore must have been formed since the mud was introduced. This mud or clay was filled with fragments of bones belonging to a great variety of animals; and some of the bones exhibited marks of having been gnawed. From many corroborative circumstances these appearances are, with much probability, supposed to have been occasioned by hyenas. The bones thus preyed upon belong to the tiger, bear, wolf, fox, weasel, elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, horse, ox, and deer. Bones of a species of hare or rabbit, water-rat, and mouse, with fragments of the skeletons of ravens, pigeons, larks, and ducks, were also imbedded with these remains.

From these facts it is inferred that the cave was inhabited by hyenas for a considerable period,