



THE FORMATION OF THE CAVE

About 130 million years ago (Cretaceous Period), the sea covered this area and, in its depths, the reef limestones seen in this cave were formed, as they were in the neighbouring caves of Urdazubi-Urdax and Sara, the three forming the flank of an east-west synclinal. When the sea receded, the rivers began to excavate the caves.

Infernuko erreka brook

To the south of Zugarramurdi stand the mountains of Peña Plata and Aizpara, formed mainly by clays and sandstones from the Triassic. The thrust of these materials folded and fractured the limestone of the cave. Numerous fractures and faults defined areas of subsidence and uplift, among which the complex that forms the Zugarramurdi cave stands out.

During the last ice ages, the level of the nearby Cantabrian Sea suffered significant ups and downs. As a result, the Infernuko erreka brook gradually dug out the different levels of its course, visible from here.

The 'giant's pots'

The stream continues its work today. Limestone dissolves in the water and is worn down by the force of the current, forming the peculiar 'giant's pots': more or

less circular cavities in the rocky bottom of the stream, bored by pebbles spinning in rapids which grind and polish the bed.

