



Scialet Michellier



Description and rigging guide

Location	Vassieux, Isere	Map	TOP25 Combe Laval
Lambert & GPS co-ordinates	840,29 X 3289,50 X 1125 GPS: 687.844, 4970.766	Date of last visit	23 rd August 2005
Depth	-100m	Length	1000m

Access:

Take the D615 out of Vassieux and take the left fork (spot height of 1063 on the Top 25 map) and head for Marcel. Follow the road through Marcel heading towards Col de Vassieux. At the next junction (spot height of 1125 on Top 25 map) take the right fork and look for a group of trees on the left. Park on the right just after the trees. Immediately across the road from the trees you will see some rough grass in the cultivated field, about 30m from the road. The manhole entrance is hidden in the rough grass.



Description:

Please refer to Speleo dans le Vercors Tome 2 for survey and more detail. Please note that rigging information presented here could have changed since this report was written.

Oil drum entrance leads immediately to a small chamber containing the first pitch (17m). Do not descend to the bottom of this pitch, but swing across to obvious ledge to gain second pitch (9m). The third short pitch (a narrow slot) of 4 metres leads to a narrow rift degrading to an awkward crawl to the head of the fourth pitch (31m) This fine circular shaft contains many chert nodules (or “kidneys”). There is a deviation about two thirds down the pitch.

A short crawl leads off from the bottom of the pitch. At the junction, turning left quickly takes you to the superb Galerie des Vertacomicroiens, a large fossil passage containing many

fine sediment and mud formations (*extreme care needed here*). The gallery ends at a good sized chamber with two ways on. The low and long Meandre Tadebogenoux and the superb Salle Sophie, which is gained by ascending the 7 metre pitch (rope usually in place) into this quite spectacular passage. Great care is needed to avoid damage to the many fine formations. This section of cave ends in several areas of breakdown and one is left with the feeling that there is still more cave to be found.

Equipment:

P17 28m rope 4 hangers

P9 & P4 19m rope and 4 hangers

P31 36m rope and 4 hangers plus sling and hanger for deviation

REFERENCE: SPELEO 22 April/June 1996. Vertacorix: Bulletin du CHV No1 1966