

Geology of the Lian Cave area, Sabah

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The Lian Cave lies in the Crocker Range on the northwestern part of the Keningau Plain in interior Sabah. It occurs within a limestone body embedded in a marine clastic sequence. A few larger limestone blocks were discovered on the western ridge of the adjacent river in the area. No cavern system were developed in these blocks.

Stratigraphically, these occurrences are assigned to the topmost part of the Crocker Formation. The limestones are essentially carbonate build-ups and they indicate protected and back-reef environments. A diverse fossil assemblage that consists of forams, algae, echnoids and bivalves are present in the limestones. They suggest a late Eocene age. The marine clastic sequence, generally exhibit typical deeper marine medial-distal turbiditic features. However, possible shallower marine indications just below the limestones are observed.

The possible origins of these limestones will be discussed.