

# E3TALK

October 21

12h00

Room 3.2.15, Ciências ULisboa

## Ecology of Anchialine Caves: life lessons and adventures from a marine biologist

My research on marine caves began accidentally in 1977 when I obtained a job at the Bermuda Biological Station. Near my home, I found numerous caves extending down to tidal, saltwater pools, with submerged passageways. Upon obtaining training and certification in cave diving, I began systematic exploration and investigation of the caves, discovering unexplored realms inhabited by a wealth of rare and endemic cave-adapted fauna.

I organized a cave diving expedition to Lanzarote in 1983, followed by the South Pacific in 1985-1987, first to Palau, and then island hopping from Tahiti across the Pacific to the Solomon Islands over a year-long period. In 1989, I obtained a faculty position at Texas A&M University where I spent the remainder of my academic career. I discovered more than 250 new cave species, published 276 journal articles and book chapters, and was featured in 20 TV documentaries.

My research resulted from collaboration with scientists in a wide variety of disciplines including geology, taxonomy, phylogeny, ecology, evolution, neuroscience, and conservation. It was only with team effort that we were able to succeed. Over my lifetime I learned that it is essential to: 1. be curious; 2. explore more; 3. collaborate; 4. save caves.



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