

## Glossary of Mexican— Geographic— and Geologic Terms

William R. Elliott

anticline— a fold in geologic strata in the form of an arch

arroyo— a wet weather streambed

Cañon de Servilleta— the river canyon NW of Cd. Mante, through which flows the Río Ocampo (Boquillas), which becomes the Río Comandante

carbonate platform— a flat-topped reef with limestone-forming marine life

Ciudad or Cd. Mante— a city near the northern Sierra de El Abra and the Nacimiento del Río Mante

Ciudad or Cd. Valles— a city near the southern end of the Sierra de El Abra

cueva— a walk-in cave as opposed to a sótano or pit (vertical) cave

Cretaceous— the geological period from about 145-100 mya (million years ago)

dolina or doline— a large sinkhole

El Abra— literally “the opening” or pass, refers to two, now-dry river passes at the northern and southern ends of the Sierra de El Abra

Gómez Farías— a small town at the northern end of the region

gruta— a large cave

karst— landscapes formed by the dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone, dolomite, and gypsum, with underground drainage systems, caves, sinkholes, dolines, and springs.

joint— a more-or-less vertical crack in bedrock, along which caves often form through dissolution by groundwater

Micos caves— three fish caves south of Micos and Las Crucitas, S.L.P.

Huastecan Province— synonymous with “Sierra de El Abra region”

msl or amsl— above mean sea level

nacimiento— literally “birth”, a large spring (manantial) or resurgence (see Table 2)

ojo de agua— literally “eye of water”, synonymous with nacimiento or manantial

poza— a pool

pozo— a well or deep pit cave

resumidero— a swallet cave that takes much runoff

río— a river

San Luís Potosí or S.L.P.— a northeastern Mexican state containing the southern half of the Sierra de El Abra

Sierra, a mountain range (literally “saw”)

Sierra Cucharas— literally “spoons”, a local name for the northern Sierra de El Abra and the foothills of the Sierra de Guatemala

Sierra de El Abra— a low range in the eastern Sierra Madre Oriental, between Cd. Mante and El Pujal

Sierra de El Abra region— the subject of this chapter, including the El Abra, lower parts of Sierra de Guatemala (Cucharas), northern Sierra de Tamalave, and the Micos cave area

Sierra de Guatemala— a higher range north of Ocampo and Gómez Farías, Tamaulipas

Sierra de Tamalave— a range west of the Sierra de El Abra, also called Nicolás Pérez

Sierra de Tanchipa— a local name for the Sierra de El Abra from south of the northern El Abra pass to the southern El Abra pass near Ciudad Valles

Sierra Madre Oriental— the large mountain range in eastern Mexico, continuous with the Rockies

sima— a chasm or abyss

speleogenesis— cave development

sótano— literally “cellar,” commonly applied to a deep pit cave in Mexico

sumidero— a sinkhole or pit cave that may not take runoff

swallet— stream-capture cave

Tamaulipas or Tamps.— the northeastern Mexican state containing the northern half of the Sierra de El Abra (see Figs. 1.1 and 1.22 in chapter 1)

Tertiary— the geological period from 66-2.58 mya

tinaja— a water jar or water hole

type locality— the place from which a new species is described