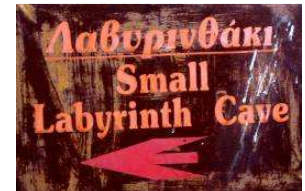




**Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:**  
**Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:**

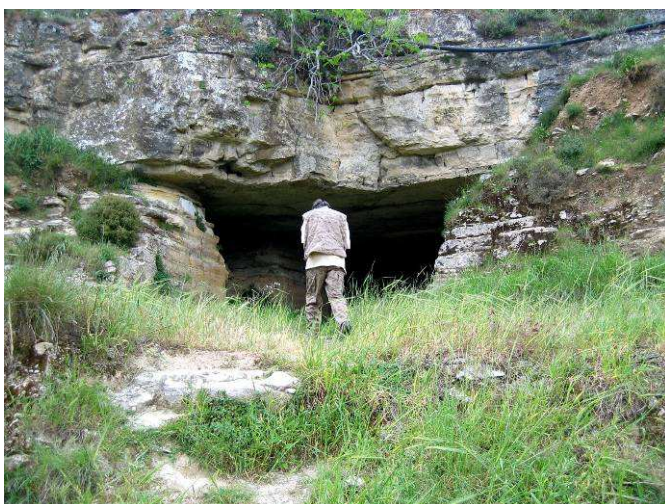
**Excursion to the "Labyrinth Cave" at Moronio**  
- a underground stone pit from prehistoric time!  
**Cabbage White (*Pieris brassicae*)**



The "Labyrinth cave" is located in Central Crete (Heraklion Prefecture), to be reached from *Zaros* [Ζαρός] towards *Aghii Deka* [Αγιοι Δέκα]. The route leads through several small villages, so through *Moronio* [Μορόνιον] (next village is called *Plouti* [Πλουτή]). Almost 1 mile after the village *Moronio* a small, rusted, and easy-to-be-overlooked metal plate on the right indicates the way to the cave. At this point follow the right bend slope for around 1 mile until the end point, a kind of turning circle. The cave entrance is 30 metres away.

The cave isn't a cave in the true sense - it's more likely a tunnel system already used in prehistoric times (and disruptive) until the 19 Century for the production of slate stone as "underground quarry". The cave system consists of several interconnected large tunnel with identical, very low ceiling height of approx. 180 cm everywhere. The slate rock was mined according layer packets (whose split-level tiers are clearly recognizable). Left standing individual packages act as "Supporting pillars"; see also subsequent figures with description. A professional evaluation of this "cave" would be a worthwhile task for mining archaeology [Montan archaeology].

The mining archaeology is the branch of archaeology which uses information from landmarks and findings of the mountain- and metallurgy (= mining engineering) to interpret. It does not feel bound to certain periods, but the use of archaeological methods during excavations about (and as in our case) underground.



The "cave entrance" (not more than 180 cm in high) do not show the full extent of this underground mining area representing the inside with impressive proportions. The picture right shows the "Cave entrance" from inside. Left part of the picture shows clearly the layer packets; which have prescribed height and surface of the construction.

**Photos: U. Kluge 2004**





The left figure shows (square, probably "modern") tunnels which really are a single surface and are serene "partitions" (pillar blocks) by the impression of many labyrinth courses. The right figure shows a (terraces, flat rounded) pillar block, with beginning travertine education and calc-sinter at its front. Signs of a prehistoric age of this mining area.

Photos: H. Eikamp 2004

### The Large White, also called Cabbage White (*Pieris brassicae*)

The main difference between *P. rapae*, the Small White and *P. brassicae*, the Large White is the significant difference in size. In advance the first distal fleck almost reaches the edge of the discoid cell of the front wing.

The moth is a typical synanthrope and does occasionally extensive hiking flights within his large range. In the spring, yellow eggs are individually (or in small groups) stored on wild growing cruciferous; however, in summer, preferred in mirror from 200 to 300 units on collard, usually on the bottom of the sheet. The base of fine hirsute Caterpillar is dirty yellow, densely black patched. The back and page lines are yellow, abdominal green-yellow and the head is black. The grubs prefer areas of settlement to pupate at walls to hibernate. The yellow-green belt doll is covered with black dots; it bears two yellow bars on the back. The large white is to be found regional on Crete in lower and middle altitudes; its frequency varies from year to year.



The figures are showing moth, eggs, grubs and doll of *P.brassicae*.

The figure to the right shows the **wavyleaf sea-lavender**, a plant from the family of the *Plumbaginaceae*. *Limonium sinuatum* is a multi-year, up to 10 cm high plant with dense inflorescence, white or purple. Flowering period May to September, to be find primarily in coastal but also in the Middle mountains.