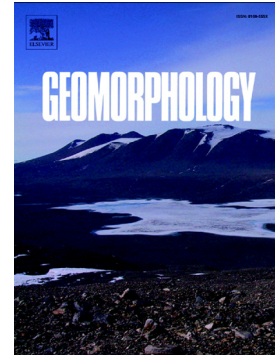


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(Eastern Alps, Austria)

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A Pleistocene landslide-dammed lake indicated by karren features (Eastern Alps, Austria)

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Abstract

Numerous enigmatic tube-shaped holes in the limestone ceilings of overhangs and small caves in a restricted area north of the village St. Aegydt am Neuwalde (Lower Austria) have been known at least since 1933, but so far, no detailed study concerning their origin has been conducted. The vertical holes occur in Middle Triassic limestone and they are almost perfect cylinders tapering gently to a rounded apex. Their diameters are up to 5.5 cm and their depths reach 45 cm. They occur on both sides of the Unrechtraisen valley located in the north-eastern part of the Northern Calcareous Alps. Almost identical features were described from the shores of lakes in western Ireland and termed *röhrenkarren* or *tube karren* (Simms, 2002). According to Simms's model, they have formed by condensation corrosion within air pockets trapped in limestone overhangs by rising water levels during floods. The occurrence of these features is surprising, because presently, there is no lake and so far, no palaeolake has been known from this area. Based on high-resolution airborne laser scanning data and detailed

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