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NEW SPECIES OF PSEUDOSCORPIONS FROM GLENWOOD CAVERNS & HISTORIC FAIRY CAVES WAS NAMED IN 2010

*Specimens of *Cryptograegris steinmanni*, recently named in honor of biospeleologist Dave Steinmann, traveled from Glenwood Springs to Denver to New York to Australia and back, and now reside at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.*

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. (Jan. 24, 2011) — A new species of pseudoscorpion unique to Glenwood Caverns and Historic Fairy Caves, living caverns near Glenwood Springs, Colo., was named and described by William Muchmore in New York and Mark Harvey in Australia in 2010. Specimens of *Cryptograegris steinmanni*, named in honor of biospeleologist Dave Steinmann, traveled the globe during the process — from Glenwood Springs to Denver to New York to Australia and back — and now reside at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.



The Glenwood Caverns pseudoscorpions, which are about one-half inch in length and have poison in tips of their claws to help catch prey, live their entire lives in total darkness. These ancient predators, which evolved to live underground millions of year ago, are at the top of the cave food chain and eat smaller cave creatures. They were originally spotted in 2000 by Micah Ball, a tour guide at Glenwood Caverns at the time. Ball notified Steinmann, a wetlands and cave biologist, or biospeleologist, who collected the specimens and sent them on to specialists. Steinmann reports that there are several more new invertebrate species from Glenwood Caverns still to be named.

This is not the first scientific discovery at Glenwood Caverns. In 1999, Michelle Lyons, a graduate of Rifle High School and an honors premed student at Liberty University, Virginia, discovered and preliminarily identified seven previously unknown bacteria gathered from water in the caves.

The rigorous scientific preservation methods employed by owners Steve and Jeanne Beckley help protect the pristine environment at Glenwood Caverns. Airlocks, as well as temperature and humidity monitors, ensure the integrity and continued growth of the formations in both the public and the closed sections of the caves. The Beckleys welcome continued research from the scientific community.

Dave Steinmann is a Zoology Department Associate with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. His cave research was funded by the Lloyd David and Carlye Cannon Wattis Foundation through the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

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About Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park

Located in scenic Glenwood Springs, Colo., midway between Aspen and Vail, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park offers a one-of-a-kind mountain-top adventure for families and outdoor enthusiasts. The Adventure Park features a gondola ride, three different tours of Glenwood Caverns & Historic Fairy Caves, dining, and attractions including an alpine coaster, 4-dimensional theater, laser tag, giant swing, a climbing wall, gemstone sluice box mining, simulated Conestoga wagon experience, bungee trampolines and more. Ideal setting for groups and birthday parties. For the most up-to-the-minute news, follow us on Twitter, www.Twitter.com/GlenwoodCaverns, or become a fan on Facebook, www.Facebook.com/GlenwoodCaverns. Go to www.glenwoodcaverns.com for more information, to sign up for our enewsletter, or to request a brochure. 800-530-1635