

M. SALT RIVER GORGE

Field Note M4c1. Morphology - Koleskloof



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Koleskloof is a unique, huge morphological theatre, measuring about 800 x 800 metres between the rims of the opposing walls (Figures 1 and 2). It bears no similarity to any of the ravines in the area. It does not deliver water from any catchment area or rivulets above it and was not shaped by karst processes, as a dry valley. The word 'kloof' is a misnomer in this case. The north wall is the steepest (Figure 3) and joins the west wall at a nearly right angle (Figure 4).



Figure 1. Satellite image of Koleskloof (arrow).



Figure 2. Koleskloof has a rectangular shape. View to the south-east from the western rim.



Figure 3. Topographic map of Koleskloof. The yellow arrow points to the rim of the north wall; the white arrow points to the rim of the south wall.



Figure 4. The southwest corner of Koleskloof, view to the north. The nearly right angle between the walls is indicated by a dashed yellow lines. Yellow arrows indicate scarps, which may be of tectonic origin. See Figures 1-5. White arrow points to the rock shown in Figure 5.

A huge rock (Figures 5 and 6) is composed of thin laminae of aeolian sand. Whereas this is very typical of the calcified dunes, it is the only rock of its kind observed in Koleskloof or anywhere around the gorge. Its position is quite awkward.



Figure 5. Tilted block next to the southwest corner of Koleskloof. View to the north.

Other Features in Koleskloof are a 'park' (Figure 6), a weir (Figure 7) and little caves (Figures 8 and 9). There are two springs, described in the Field Note about the fountains in the gorge.



Figure 6. The park, with tall trees and grass at the bottom of Koleskloof.



Figure 7. Limestone weir at the bottom of the north wall.



Figure 8. A very small cave at the bottom of the north wall.



Figure 9. Honeycombs (~ 600 mm from top to bottom) at the entrance to one of the caves.