



BRIEF BACKGROUNDS

BLACK MOUNTAIN, COOKTOWN

This enormous heap of boulders is not a result of a volcanic eruption, but has accumulated during the weathering and decomposition of a body of granite rock known as the Trevethan Granite.

The granite was originally intruded as a molten mass deep below the surface, where it solidified about 240 million years ago in Permian times. Erosion gradually removed the rocks above and exposed the top of the granite body. This was sparsely fractured, and weathering and decomposition could advance further only down these few weaknesses, to leave large rectangular corestones in between.

Once isolated by removal of the weathering debris, the corestones suffered little further deterioration, apart from rounding of their corners.

As erosion and lowering of the surrounding land surface proceeded over millions of years, more and more corestones were left piled up over the granite mass.

Other smaller boulder mountains are known in north Queensland and appear to be a feature of humid tropical climates. The black colour is only a coating of lichens and inside the granite is pinkish grey.