

MA07HI

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Saltwater spring of Sa Font de s'Almadrava

Location



Municipality:

Pollença

U.T.M. coordinates
(31N ETRS89):

X: 505420
Y: 4413652



Difficulty and duration



5 min

1 2 3

Access

From Pollença, take the path to s'Almadrava from beside the sports hall. After 3.5 km you reach a detour to the right that crosses a bridge over the s'Almadrava stream. The SGI is on the left, on the other side of the stream, just 200 metres from the detour.

At present, access to the SGI is difficult, the most practical way being to cross the bed of the S'Almadrava stream when it is dry or has little water (summer), but then you will not see the upwelling in action.

Principal interest

Hydrogeological

Secondary interest

Geomorphological

Description of the locality

Near the coast of the Bay of Pollença is this singular upwelling, caused by the fluctuations of salinity undergone during the year. In reality, it corresponds to several neighbouring springs known as *Ulls de Rec*.



Two general views of the zone of Sa Font de S'Almadrava in spring

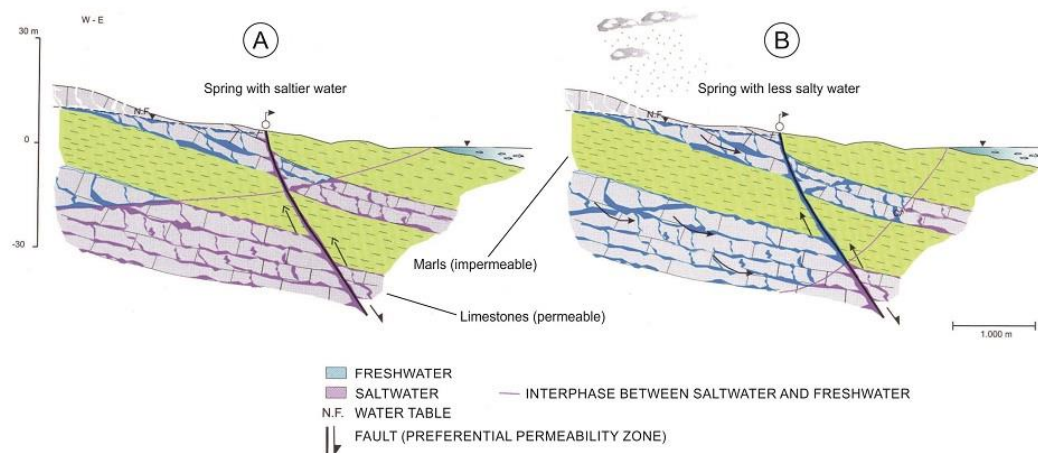


Appearance of Sa Font de S'Almadrava in summer. Notice the karstic ducts through which the water emerges.

Due to its location close to sea level, the freshwater from the aquifers of the Tramuntana range mixes with the seawater that impregnates the permeable materials of the subsoil, which makes saltwater emerge from the spring instead of freshwater. However, the percentage of saltwater varies considerably throughout the year, the concentration of salts being approximately nine times more in the dry season. The contact between the two types of water is called interphase.

In spite of its modest appearance, in reality the Font de S'Almadrava has an annual flow that is enough easily to exceed those of the reservoirs of Cúber and Gorg Blau. Occasionally its flow can reach almost 8,500 litres per second. This is the water that supplies S'Albufereta.

As tends to be habitual in the springs of Mallorca, the natural duct by which the water rises to the surface in a particular zone is a fault, in this case a normal fault that allows the water to pass through impermeable materials which would otherwise impede the upwelling.



The Font de S'Almadrava in dry season (A) and rainy season (B). Note how the interphase between freshwater and saltwater changes with the rainfall, giving different percentages of salts during the year (Mateos Ruiz R.M. et al, 2009).

For more information

Mateos Ruiz, R.M. & González Casasnovas, C. (Eds.) 2009. *Els camins de l'aigua de les Illes Balears. Aqüífers i fonts*. Govern de les Illes Balears. 267 pp.

Recommendations

Warning: it is dangerous to cross the stream in rainy periods.

Do not miss the opportunity to visit the nearby SGI of S'Albufera.