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Stable isotope composition of rainwater as a proxy to delineate recharge

processes to Mediterranean coastal aquifers



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MAIN PROBLEMATIC

Mediterranean coastal areas :

- Intense touristic, industrial and agricultural activities
- Low seasonal recharge conditions

Case study = Bonifacio aquifer (Corsica island, France) :

- Unique available water resource
- Faces a large crowd in summer
- Complementary surface water resources needed during the summer

Insofar as no seawater intrusion is yet detected in the Bonifacio aquifer, the isotope composition of groundwater is expected to reflect the signal of rainwater

Is the stable isotope composition of rainwater a relevant proxy to delineate recharge processes to Mediterranean coastal aquifers?



STUDY SITE

Granites

Carbonate plateau

Bonifacio aquifer

- Miocene carbonate plateau
 - → mean elevation : 80 m asl

Bounded by granites at the East and the West

→ max elevation : 243 m asl



Monthly Oxygene-18 and deuterium analysis in :

- → Groundwater samples: 15 boreholes up to 270 m deep, 5 wells and 4 springs
- → Rainwater samples (3 rain gauges)

DEVELOPED RESULTS

1. Aquifer quantitative recharge

2. Rainwater isotopic composition in time and space

3. Groundwater origins and aquifer recharge periods

4. Input signal effects on aquifer hydrodynamics

Session 6.03 – Recharge 4:40 – 5:00 pm *E-poster* Spot 3