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## **► To cite this version:**

C. Bicalho, C. Batiot-Guilhe, J.D. Taupin, N. Patris, S. van Exter, et al.. A conceptual model for groundwater circulation using isotopes and geochemical tracers coupled with hydrodynamics: A case study of the Lez karst system, France. Chemical Geology, 2017, 10.1016/j.chemgeo.2017.08.014 . hal-01883170

**HAL Id: hal-01883170**

**<https://hal.science/hal-01883170>**

Submitted on 7 Mar 2022

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# A conceptual model for groundwater circulation using isotopes and geochemical tracers coupled with hydrodynamics: a case study of the Lez karst system, France

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## Abstract

Geochemical and isotopic tracers ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta^2\text{H}$ ,  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDC}}$ ) were used to constrain origins and chemical evolution of groundwater in a Mediterranean karst system. The Lez spring is the main perennial outlet of this karst system and supplies the metropolitan area of Montpellier (southern France) with drinking water. Groundwater samples were collected at the Lez spring and surrounding springs and wells under different hydrodynamic conditions during two hydrological years, from June 2008 until May 2010. The results show that multiple hydrological compartments interact through an important network of fractures and faults. They notably reveal connections between the main Jurassic limestone aquifer and the overlying Cretaceous (Valanginian) compartment, and between the surface and deep levels of the karst system. Isotopic tracers provided information about atmospheric recharge origins, lithological signatures and chemical evolution of waters. Long residence-time groundwaters, issued from deep layers have a Triassic hydrochemical fingerprinting, being enriched in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDC}}$  and characterized by high concentrations in  $\text{Cl}^-$  as well as high  $\text{Sr}/\text{Ca}$ ,  $\text{Mg}/\text{Ca}$  and  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios. Evidences suggest that these waters mix with waters from the lower layers of the main Jurassic aquifer constitute an intermediate storage compartment prone to rise through piston-flow mechanism. A two-end member hydrograph separation based on EC-TDS was used to determine the proportion of the deep compartment's contribution to the Lez spring outflow. On average over the study period, the main aquifer compartment and the deep aquifer compartment are estimated to contribute 92.6% and 7.4 % of groundwater flow at the Lez spring, respectively.

**Key words:** hydrogeology, karst, hydrochemistry, natural tracing, isotopes, hydrograph separation

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## 1 - Introduction

Investigations on karst systems aim at establishing water origins (Bouchaou, Michelot, Qurtobi, Zine, Gaye, Aggarwal, Marah, Zerouali, Taleb and Vengosh, 2009; Desmarais and Rojstaczer, 2002; Wong, Mahler, Musgrove and Banner, 2012), evaluating quantitatively and qualitatively water resources and understanding karsts vulnerability to contamination (Charlier, Bertrand and Mudry, 2012; Massei, Mahler, Bakalowicz, Fournier and Dupont, 2007; Mendizabal and Stuyfzand, 2010). Geochemical and isotopic properties of groundwaters in karst systems reveal water-rock interactions and water mixing processes, occurring along flowpaths in the aquifer (Barbieri, Boschetti, Petitta and Tallini, 2005; Celle-Jeanton, Travi and Blavoux, 2001; Frondini, 2008; Millot, Petelet-Giraud, Guerrot and Négrel, 2010) and give information about transit time and origin of groundwater flow. The monitoring of physicochemical and chemical parameters provides insightful information about the reactivity and vulnerability of the aquifer to pollution and transfer processes. Temporal variations observed in groundwater chemistry are usually related to the physical characteristics and carbonate permeability of the aquifer, and help to identify hydrodynamic behaviour (Geyer, Birk, Liedl and Sauter, 2008; Kilroy and Coxon, 2005; Wittenberg, Kutiel, Greenbaum and Inbar, 2007). Coupling hydrodynamics and hydrochemistry by using mixing equations allows assessing solute transport for conservative compounds (Aquilina, Ladouche and Dörfliger, 2006; Batiot, 2002; Beven, 2001; Drever, 1982; Emblanch, Zuppi, Mudry, Blavoux and Batiot, 2003; Garry, 2007; Hartmann, Weiler, Wagener, Lange, Kralik, Humer, Mizyed, Rimmer, Barberá, Andreo, Butscher and Huggenberger, 2013; Katz, Catches, Bullen and Michel, 1998; Ladouche, Probst, Viville, Idir, Baqué, Loubet, Probst and Bariac, 2001; Long and Putnam, 2004; Petelet-Giraud and Négrel, 2007; Ribolzi, Moussa, Gaudu, Vallès and Voltz, 1997; Wang, Guo, Su and Ma, 2006). This approach is often used to assess the multiple end-members participation in water flow by using natural tracers. Mixing models based on mass conservation describe water contributions using isotopic or chemical tracers from rainwater, pre-event water and flow hydrograph.

The Lez Spring, one of the major karst springs in France, supplies water to the metropolitan area of Montpellier, France, since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Former studies have shown this karst system to be a complex and heterogeneous system in terms of structure and functioning (Fleury, Ladouche, Conroux, Jourde and Dörfliger, 2009; Joseph, Rodier, Soulte, Sinégre, Baylet and Deltour, 1988; Karam, 1989; Marjolet and Salado, 1976; Thierry and Bérard, 1983). Since 2008, the Lez Spring has been continuously monitored. Recent observations showed that the Lez spring flow can be described with different water types resulting

65 from a mixing of various end-members: recently infiltrated waters; main aquifer compartment (mainly  
66 Jurassic limestone), and a deep aquifer compartment (Caetano Bicalho, Batiot-Guilhe, Seidel, Van Exter and  
67 Jourde, 2012). According to hydrological conditions, each compartment contributes in various proportions to  
68 the Lez spring flow. In particular, (Caetano Bicalho, Batiot-Guilhe, Seidel, Van Exter and Jourde, 2012)  
69 showed that waters with high TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) flow as a response to extreme hydrological  
70 conditions in relationship with intense rainfall over the watershed. This phenomenon has often been observed  
71 and reported by several works undertaken on karst terrains (Blavoux, Gilli and Rousset, 2004; Desmarais and  
72 Rojstaczer, 2002; Emblanch, Blavoux, Puig and Couren, 1998; Grobe and Machel, 2002; López-Chicano,  
73 Bouamama, Vallejos and Pulido-Bosch, 2001; Rosenthal, Zilberbrand and Livshitz, 2007). The deep  
74 karstification observed in some Mediterranean karst systems (e.g. the Lez and the Vaucluse karst systems) is  
75 generally put forth to explain the existence of long residence-time and relatively high TDS concentration  
76 waters flowing at the springs, especially after intense rainfalls. This specificity adds more complexity to karst  
77 systems situated in this context whereas other karst systems, that did not undergo a deep karstification  
78 process, are commonly crossed by waters in a rapid flow, i.e. with low residence times.

79 The present paper aims to i) understand the behaviour of the whole karst system together with the  
80 functioning of the various springs by using supplementary tracers, such as stable isotopes of water ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
81 and  $\delta^2\text{H}$ ), strontium isotopes ( $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ) and Total Dissolved Inorganic Carbon isotopic composition  
82 ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$ ), ii) assess both the origin and dynamics of groundwater within the different compartments of the  
83 system, iii) deepen the comprehension of groundwaters chemical evolution over the hydrological cycle, and  
84 iv) accomplish a preliminary hydrograph separation in order to estimate the proportions of deep water  
85 outflowing at the Lez spring.

86

## 87 **2 - Study Area**

### 88 **2.1 - Geology**

89 The Lez Spring (43.718°N, 3.844°E), located 15 km north of Montpellier and 28 km from the  
90 Mediterranean Sea, is the main perennial outlet of the Lez karst system, with maximum groundwater  
91 discharge around 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s, and a mean annual discharge of 2.0 m<sup>3</sup>/s (1963-2008, (Jourde, Batiot-Guilhe,  
92 Bailly-Comte, Bicalho, Blanc, Borrell, Bouvier, Boyer, Brunet, Cousteau, Dieulin, Gayrard, Guinot,  
93 Hernandez, Kong, Siou, Johannet, Leonardi, Mazzilli, Marchand, Patris, Pistre, Seidel, Taupin and Van-

94 Exter, 2011)). The Lez karst system also discharges at intermittent springs (Lirou, Restinclières, Fleurettes,  
95 and Gour Noir springs) (Fig. 1). Restinclières, Fleurettes and Gour Noir used to be perennial springs before  
96 1962, when pumping within the Lez spring started to supply Montpellier and its metropolitan region with  
97 drinking water. The hydrogeological basin of the Lez spring is located between the Hérault and Vidourle  
98 river valleys and covers about 380 km<sup>2</sup> (Thierry and Bérard, 1983), while the recharge catchment through the  
99 Jurassic limestone outcrops located by the western and north-eastern limits of the basin is only about 188  
100 km<sup>2</sup> (Leonardi, Jourde, Dausse, N.Dörfliger, Brunet and Maréchal, 2013). Indeed, most of the  
101 hydrogeological basin is confined by low-permeability aquitards (Marjolet and Salado, 1976). Local  
102 recharge also occurs through fractures and sinkholes within the basin, especially through the major fault of  
103 *Corconne-Les Matelles* (Fig. 1) located in the northern part of the basin (Dubois, 1964).

104 The lithology of the Lez karst system corresponds to massive limestone of the Upper Jurassic  
105 (Kimmeridgian) and Early Cretaceous (Beriasian) with a 650 to 1100 m thickness (Fig. 2). The marls and  
106 marly-limestones of the Middle Jurassic (Callovodian-Oxfordian) constitute the lower boundary of the  
107 aquifer. The marls and marly-limestones of the Early Cretaceous (Lower Valanginian) constitute the upper  
108 boundary of the aquifer, causing low permeability and a partly confined system. The major tectonic events  
109 that influenced the Lez aquifer were the Hercynian/Variscan orogeny, the Pyrenees formation, and the  
110 opening of the Lion Gulf (Bousquet, 1997).

111 A perched aquifer located within the Upper Valanginian layer (Fig. 2,) overlies the Lez aquifer (Pane-  
112 Escribe, 1995). The communication of this perched aquifer with the Jurassic layer is very limited due to the  
113 low permeability of the marls that compose it. However, point-source infiltration occurs from the  
114 Valanginian aquifer towards the Lez aquifer (Boinet, 2002). Indeed, groundwater outflowing from springs  
115 that drain the Valanginian aquifer (Lauret, Dolgue, and Lavabre springs) locally recharge the Lez karst  
116 system along the *Corconne-Les Matelles* fault (Boinet, 2002).

117 The Lez karst system was described by Avias (1992) as a Vaucluse-type system deeply developed  
118 below the present-day spring level. This results from an intense karstification (i.e. conduit enlargement  
119 caused by low-acidified water weathering over limestones) that reached several hundred meters during the  
120 Messinian Salinity Crisis- from 5.96 to 5.33 Ma (Celle-Jeanton, Travi and Blavoux, 2001; Cita and Ryan,  
121 1978; Clauzon, 1982; Joseph, Rodier, Soulte, Sinégre, Baylet and Deltour, 1988; Ryan, 1976). The  
122 karstification network is mainly oriented along NS and EW directions in zones where tectonic deformation is

123 weak and NE-SW near major tectonic changes (Leonardi, Jourde, Dausse, N.Dörfliger, Brunet and Maréchal,  
124 2013). The Lez system is highly karstified, but the presence of impermeable Pliocene marine and continental  
125 sediments preserved it from seawater contamination (Bakalowicz, 2005; Fleury, 2005; Fleury, Bakalowicz  
126 and de Marsily, 2007).

## 127 **2.2 - Rainfall**

128 The precipitation data used in this study come from three Météo France meteorological stations,  
129 (Valflaunès, Saint-Martin-de-Londres, and Prades) all at a distance lower than 12km from the Lez spring  
130 (Fig. 1). The hydrological year begins in September, after 2 to 3 months of relative dryness. The wet season  
131 (high stage) lasts from September to May and the dry season (low stage) from June to August. Over the last  
132 40 years, the average annual rainfall calculated at the Valflaunes station was 942 mm with a minimum of 474  
133 mm (year 1985) and a maximum value of 1,620 mm (year 1972). During the study period, the annual  
134 rainfalls were 849 mm for 2007-2008, 1,266 mm for 2008-2009 and 666 mm for 2009-2010. For the 1970-  
135 2010 period, the intra-annual rainfall distribution was: 37% in autumn, 27% in winter, 22% in spring, and  
136 13% in summer.

137

## 138 **3 - Materials and Methods**

139

### 140 **3.1 - Continuous monitoring and sampling**

141

142 Samples were collected at the Lez spring for chemical and isotopic analysis twice a month, with daily  
143 sampling during high discharge events from June 2008 to May 2010. At Lirou, Restinclières, and Fleurettes  
144 springs, sampling was carried out during the wet season only, from September to May. An automatic sampler  
145 with 24 bottles (1l acid-cleaned polyethylene bottles) was used for water sampling at the Lez spring during  
146 high flows.

147 Additional samples were collected during low stage period from: 1) adjacent systems that are  
148 potentially connected to the Lez karst system, including Fontbonne and Sauve springs (Fig. 1), Valanginian  
149 springs and wells, including Boinet, Olivier, and Lavabre wells but also Lauret, Lavabre, and Dolgue  
150 springs, and 3) wells within the Lez spring hydrogeological basin (referred to as Lez KS wells): Fontanes,  
151 Laudou, Bois des Roziers, and Gour Noir (Fig. 1).

152 Temperature (T), pH, and Electrical Conductivity ( $EC_{T_{ref}=25^{\circ}C}$ ) were measured in the field using a  
153 pH meter and conductivity meter (WTW 330 i) on each sample. Continuous data were obtained from  
154 automatic measurement. Temperature, turbidity, EC, and Groundwater Level (GW level) were measured at  
155 an hourly time step at the Lez Spring with an automatic data logger (CTD diver, SDEC) and hereafter  
156 referred to as Lez Well. Temperature, EC, and groundwater level measurements were performed at an hourly  
157 time step at the Lez Spring spillway and Lirou Spring (CTD diver, SDEC).

158 Rain waters were regularly sampled (monthly to bi-monthly) for water isotopes analysis from an  
159 underground tank connected to raingauges at Viols-le-Fort and Sauteyrargues stations (Fig. 1) between May  
160 2009 and May 2010. To complete the lack of rainwater isotopic data at the beginning of the study period, the  
161 monthly average rainfall isotopic composition at the Montpellier raingauge, located 9 km downstream the  
162 Lez spring and sampled daily over the whole study period, was used as a reference for the input signal. The  
163 interpretation took into account the limitations related to the observed differences in the rainfall isotopic  
164 composition between Montpellier and the karst system recharge area.

165 49 samples were collected for  $\delta^{13}C_{TDIC}$  measurement on dissolved carbonate at the following springs:  
166 32 at the Lez spring, 8 at the Lirou spring, 6 at the Restinclières spring and 3 at Fleurettes spring. Water  
167 samples were collected in glass bottles and quickly sealed on the field with gas tight rubber/teflon plugs.  
168 Three  $\delta^{13}C_{CO_2}$  measurements from soil covers were carried out in April 2010 over the Lez spring catchment  
169 in order to characterize the main vegetal and pedogenic covers: (1) vineyards developed on Quaternary  
170 deposits (2) scrublands over Jurassic limestones and (3) olive grove developed on Tertiary deposits.

171

### 172 **3.2- Analytical methods**

173

174 Total alkalinity was measured at HydroSciences Montpellier (HSM) laboratory, by acid titration with  
175 HCl 0,01N. Major ions ( $Cl^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Na^+$ , and  $K^+$ ) were analysed by ionic chromatography  
176 (DIONEX ICS 1000) on filtered samples ( $0.22\mu m$ ) with an analytical accuracy of 5%, after an acidification  
177 with 1‰ suprapur  $HNO_3$  for cations. Trace elements (Li, B, Al, V, Cr, Mn, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, As, Rb, Sr, Mo,  
178 Cd, Ba, Pb, and U) were analysed using Q-ICPMS X series II Thermo Fisher at the AETE (Analyse des  
179 Eléments en Trace dans l'Environnement) technical platform of University of Montpellier on filtered and  
180 acidified samples ( $0.22\mu m$ , 1‰ suprapur  $HNO_3$ ), with a greater than 8% accuracy. Samples with ion balance

error greater than 5% were excluded from the dataset. Samples for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) were collected in dark glass bottles previously combusted for 6 h at 550°C, acidified with 1‰ H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> and analyzed with catalytically aided platinum 680 °C combustion technique (Shimadzu VCSH).

Isotopic compositions of water carbonate  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  and soil  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  samples were analysed at *Université d'Avignon et des Pays de Vaucluse* (UAPV) Hydrogeology Laboratory on a Finnigan Mat Delta S mass spectrometer after acid digestion of the dry precipitate of carbonate. Isotopic carbonate values are reported relative to the V-PDB scale, with an overall uncertainty of  $\pm 0.05\text{‰}$ .

Water stable isotopes ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^2\text{H}$ ) were analysed at the LAMA mass spectrometry laboratory of HSM on an Isoprime mass spectrometer.  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  was measured with the classical CO<sub>2</sub> equilibration method, with an overall uncertainty of  $\pm 0.1\text{‰}$ .  $\delta\text{D}$  was measured in continuous-flow mode with a Eurovector Pyr-OH analyser converting H<sub>2</sub>O to H<sub>2</sub> on Cr at 1070°C, with an overall uncertainty of  $\pm 0.8\text{‰}$ . All isotopic water values are reported in this paper relative to the V-SMOW scale.

Strontium isotopic composition was measured on 16 samples collected across the whole system.  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios were measured at the Rennes University using the Faraday cups of a five-collector Finnigan MAT 262 mass spectrometer.  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  was separated using a cation exchange column (Dowex AG50X8) with HCl<sub>2</sub>N as eluent. All measured  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios were normalized to  $^{86}\text{Sr}/^{88}\text{Sr}=0.1194$ . Initial  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios were calculated using  $^{87}\text{Rb}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios as determined by the isotope dilution method (Petelet, Luck, Ben Othman, Negrel and Aquilina, 1998). High-precision  $^{84}\text{Sr}$  and  $^{87}\text{Rb}$  spikes gave maximum errors of 2%.

199

## 4 - Results and Discussion

201

The Lez spring flow is composed of different water types resulting from a mixing of various hydrologic end-members. These water types were described by Caetano Bicalho et al. (2012) using a specific terminology that is applied in the present text and graphs: 1) “High waters” discharge during high water stages and are associated with high groundwater levels and EC oscillations; 2) “Low waters” discharge during low stage periods and are associated with low groundwater levels and high, stable EC; 3) “Dropping waters” discharge during the transition between the high and low stages and are associated with a decrease in groundwater level and an increase in EC. Extreme values of high or low EC were respectively referred to as



209 4)“Piston-flow waters” ( $EC > 780 \mu S/cm$ ) and 5)“Dilution waters” ( $EC < 600 \mu S/cm$ ) (Caetano Bicalho,  
210 Batiot-Guilhe, Seidel, Van Exter and Jourde, 2012).

#### 211 **4.1 - Hydrochemistry and water isotopes**

212  
213 The complete dataset collected from the karst springs is presented in Table 1 and Table 2. Table 3  
214 presents the average values and range of variations for the dataset.

215 EC indicates generally higher TDS in groundwater at the Lez spring than at other springs: the mean EC  
216 measured during both the fall and spring seasons was  $711 \mu S.cm^{-1}$  at Lez spring,  $661 \mu S.cm^{-1}$  at  
217 Restinclières spring,  $655 \mu S.cm^{-1}$  at Fleurettes spring and  $581 \mu S.cm^{-1}$  at Lirou spring. During the same  
218 period, Restinclières and Fleurettes springs generally presented higher values of temperature than the Lez  
219 spring (average temperatures of 17.0, 16.0 and 15.7°C, respectively) (Table 2). Restinclières and Fleurettes  
220 springs had a very similar geochemistry mostly associated with the presence of limestones (Chamayou and  
221 Auroux, 1992). Lirou waters had the lowest TDS ( $516 mg.l^{-1}$  in average) and temperature (mean value of  
222 14.3°C), which indicates a large participation of recent infiltration waters, suggesting rapid groundwater  
223 circulation. Hydrochemical facies of Lez (Table 1) and Lirou springs (Table 2) indicate different  
224 groundwater flowpaths for these springs, despite their geographical proximity. The Lirou spring drains a  
225 karst catchment characterized with fast infiltration and rapid groundwater transfers; it has a carbonated  
226 facies, i.e., concentrations are high in bicarbonates and low in  $Cl^{-}$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$  and trace elements. Peaks of  
227 TOC concentration confirm rapid infiltration and a potential high vulnerability to superficial contamination.

228 The water isotopic input signal was calculated from three raingauges located at Sauteyrargues, Viols le  
229 Fort and Montpellier (Table 4). In the  $\delta^2H$  vs.  $\delta^{18}O$  diagram (Fig. 3), rainwater showed a wide range of  
230 composition, mostly distributed between the Global Meteoric World Line (GMWL) and the Mediterranean  
231 Meteoric World Line (MMWL). Likewise, most groundwater samples lied about these lines, indicating that  
232 they originated as meteoric recharge (Grobe and Machel, 2002; McIntosh and Walter, 2006).

233 The local meteoric water line was calculated from 22 rainwater samples collected during a hydrological  
234 year at the Lez basin raingauges (Sauteyrargues and Viols-le-Fort) by using linear least squares, and was  
235  $\delta D = 7.3 * \delta^{18}O + 7.8\text{‰}$ . The relatively low slope (7.3) and y-intercept (+7.8‰) observed, suggest that partial  
236 evaporation of raindrops may have a measurable influence on the isotopic input signature over the area  
237 (Ladouche, Luc and Dörfliger, 2009). In order to consider only the air masses origins and condensation  
238 processes that control the isotopic composition of meteoric water, and excluding fractionation linked with

239 evaporation of water during the raindrops fall to the ground, nine evaporated rainwater samples (identified  
240 with low deuterium excess  $d < +8\text{‰}$ , with  $d = \delta^2\text{H} - 8 \times \delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) were removed from the previous dataset. This  
241 allowed the determination of a Local Meteoric Line (LML) of non-evaporated rainwaters:  $\delta\text{D} =$   
242  $7.5 \times \delta^{18}\text{O} + 12.5\text{‰}$ . The y-intercept of this LML is  $+12.5\text{‰}$ , indicating that rainwaters in the Lez basin  
243 typically resulted from vapour transports temporally alternated from Mediterranean ( $d > 12\text{‰}$ ) and Atlantic  
244 origins ( $d = 10\text{‰}$ ) (Celle-Jeanton, Travi and Blavoux, 2001; Ladouche, Luc and Dörfliger, 2009).

245 The temporal variability of EC and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (Fig. 4) shows how  $^{18}\text{O}$  isotopes varied during rainfall events  
246 on the monitored springs with respect to the rainfall water entry (infiltration) signal. The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  weighted  
247 average of rainwater in the study period was about  $-6.2\text{‰}$ , while for the Lez waters the average was  $-5.7\text{‰}$ .  
248 In general, the groundwater samples showed a much reduced variability in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  when compared to rainwater  
249 inputs (Fig. 4). The monthly rainwater means calculated for Montpellier station presented a relatively large  
250  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  amplitude ( $-9.0\text{‰}$  to  $+0.6\text{‰}$  over the period); on the other hand, seasonal isotopic variations were  
251 strongly reduced at the springs, especially at the Lez and Restinclières springs, which showed a significant  
252 attenuation of the signal variability, typically about  $1.5\text{‰}$  in amplitude.

253 Despite the dampening of the signal and a low variability,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  varied as much as  $+1\text{‰}$  during the first  
254 high flows of autumn 2008 (zoomed  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  scale on Fig. 4). This variation is low but is still important enough  
255 to suggest that rapid infiltration waters participated to the Lez spring discharge, considering the isotopically  
256 enriched rainwaters during the same period ( $\delta^{18}\text{O} = -3.78\text{‰}$  for the corresponding 4-day long event at  
257 Montpellier station). Restinclières and Fleurette springs also presented dampening of the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  signal which  
258 denotes a residence-time at least equal to the period of the input function, i.e. one year. This indicates the  
259 existence of an important storage component and an efficient mixing of infiltrated waters with stored waters,  
260 which suggests an important autogenic recharge through diffuse percolation of precipitation waters deposited  
261 directly onto the karst landscape. Consequently, the seasonal behaviours and recharges are difficult to  
262 identify solely from the springs characteristics (Barbieri, Boschetti, Petitta and Tallini, 2005; Long and  
263 Putnam, 2004; Négrel and Petelet-Giraud, 2005).

264 Unlike the other springs of the system, the Lirou spring showed a remarkable  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  variability,  
265 especially during the storms of October 2008 (Fig. 4) characterized by a relatively large rainfall amount (121  
266 mm registered during the first day of a storm that lasted 3 days). This important rainfall input has triggered a  
267 large infiltration and an immediate hydrologic response of the Lirou spring, where a marked groundwater EC

decrease was observed. This behaviour illustrates the great reactivity of Lirou spring compared to the other springs, indicating that it is effectively under a comparatively stronger influence of recent rainfalls, and presents short residence times through a shallow groundwater flow-path within the limestone bedrock.

## 4.2 - Carbon isotopes

The use of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  as a natural tracer in karst systems can help differentiating water originated from the unsaturated zone from water sourced from the saturated zone (Emblanch, Zuppi, Mudry, Blavoux and Batiot, 2003). In the unsaturated zone, the system behaves like an open system with regard to biogenic  $\text{CO}_2$  from the soil (Clark and Fritz, 1997; Desmarais and Rojstaczer, 2002; Emblanch, Zuppi, Mudry, Blavoux and Batiot, 2003; Gillon, Barbecot, Gibert, Corcho Alvarado, Marlin and Massault, 2009; Gonfiantini and Zuppi, 2003; Yoshimura, Nakao, Noto, Inokura, Urata, Chen and Lin, 2001). Soil  $\text{CO}_2$  was thus investigated under three different environments across the basin in April 2010. The mean results obtained for three different vegetal and pedogenic covers tested over the Lez system were as follow: (1) vineyards developed on Quaternary deposits:  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2} = -22.28\text{‰}$ ; (2) scrublands over Jurassic limestones:  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2} = -21.69\text{‰}$ ; and (3) olive grove developed on Tertiary deposits:  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2} = -20.42\text{‰}$ . At each site, values presented little variability compared to the differences observed between different covers. Former studies over the Mediterranean karst basin of Vaucluse showed low seasonal variations on  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  in soil covers (Batiot, 2002) (Emblanch, Zuppi, Mudry, Blavoux and Batiot, 2003). Thus, the input  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  signal can be considered constant. The mean  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  value of  $-21.06\text{‰}$  was used as the local biogenic soil  $\text{CO}_2$  value.

The Lez spring displayed remarkable variations in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  values in the range  $-10.06\text{‰}$  to  $-14.73\text{‰}$  (Table 1). The most  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$ -enriched waters, associated with high EC, corresponded to the fall periods of October 2008 and October 2009 (Fig. 5). A slow and progressive  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  enrichment was observed during the dry season, extending from the 2008-2009 winter until the first recharge event in 2009 (autumn). Higher  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  values indicate a comparatively larger contribution of groundwater marked with water-rock interaction ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{rockcarbonate}} = 0\text{‰}$  to  $-2\text{‰}$ ) occurring in closed condition within the saturated zone. The most negative values were observed during the middle of the wet season, where  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  as well as E.C. presented a sudden decrease (Fig. 5). These low  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  values measured in groundwaters at the Lez spring suggests flushing of infiltration waters.

The variability of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  at the Lez spring supports the hypothesis that different compartments of the system contribute to the flow, with an enhanced participation of groundwater associated with higher water-rock interaction signature during the dry season, but also during the first flood events of the wet season. The contribution of freshly infiltrated waters to the Lez spring flow was observed to be more important during the entire humid season, especially after recharge events.

### 4.3 - Reactions controlling water chemistry

Isotopic ratios of C and Sr were coupled with water chemistry to characterize the chemical evolution of waters, comparing the behaviour of the various springs to one another and the chemical variations during dissimilar hydrological situations. The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  ratios in groundwater are affected by carbonate dissolution that is linked to the degree of openness to soil  $\text{CO}_2$ . The  $\text{CO}_2$  gas/water isotopic exchange is a very quick process. Consequently, if the chemical equilibrium within the aquifer is attained under open conditions regarding the gaseous phase, the soil  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{CO}_2}$  determines the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  of groundwater (Appelo and Postma, 2005). If the system is closed to soil  $\text{CO}_2$ , TDIC can be derived up to about equal proportions from the dissolution of  $\text{CO}_2$  (g) and from the  $\text{CaCO}_3$  weathering (Appelo and Postma, 2005).

Covariance of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  with Mg/Ca and with Sr/Ca (expressed as molar ratios in Fig. 6) indicates an evolution trend for the Lez system: the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  became more enriched as Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca increased (Fig. 6).  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  was comparatively more enriched in the Lez system samples (except Lirou spring) than in the Valanginian ones, with the exception of Lauret and Boinet wells which were closer to typical Lez waters. Lirou generally showed  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  values more depleted than other samples across the Lez system, which together with the high variability of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , confirms the shorter water residence time, with a flowpath taking place in the shallow aquifer where the influence of soil  $\text{CO}_2$  is comparatively more important than limestone dissolution. The coupling between  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  and elemental ratios (Fig. 6) reflects different processes or origins for the groundwater outflowing at the Lez system springs on one hand and Valanginian springs on the other hand. The concomitant increases of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$ , Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca observed at the Lez spring (particularly well demonstrated during “Piston-Flow waters”) suggest that groundwater possibly evolve via carbonate minerals dissolution under closed system conditions, i.e. with limited influence from surface waters. This reflects the relative isolation of the reservoir feeding Lez spring waters from shallow groundwater, and

324 indicates longer residence times. On the other hand, the relatively higher Mg/Ca and higher Sr/Ca ratios  
325 observed in Valanginian waters are most likely due to the lithology of the drained compartments: the  
326 Cretaceous marls and marly-limestones are richer in  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  than the Jurassic limestones, causing  
327 comparatively higher Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios without coincident  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDC}}$  enrichment (Harrington, Herczeg  
328 and Le Gal La Salle, 2008; Moral, Cruz-Sanjulián and Olías, 2008; Stuart, Maurice, Heaton, Sapiano,  
329 Micallef Sultana, Gooddy and Chilton, 2010).

330 Among the various spring waters draining the Lez aquifer, the water described at the beginning of  
331 section 3 as “Piston-flow Water” (characterized by  $\text{EC} > 780 \mu\text{S/cm}$ ) at the Lez spring has the highest  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$   
332 concentration. Strontium concentrations are highly correlated with  $[\text{SO}_4^{2-}]$ ,  $[\text{B}]$  and  $[\text{Li}]$  ( $R^2 = 0.70, 0.80$  and  
333  $0.76$ , respectively). It also shows a good correlation with  $[\text{Cl}^-]$ , but only when peaks of  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  concentrations  
334 are observed, which indicates a common origin for both elements in this specific case. Several possible  
335 parameters can have a control on  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  concentrations in waters, e.g. initial (atmospheric) inputs, mineralogy  
336 along flowpaths, mineral dissolution characteristics or residence time. Moreover,  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  concentration could be  
337 influenced by multiple reactions, e.g. re-crystallization, incongruent dissolution or celestite precipitation  
338 (Bernasconi, 1999; Tellam, 1995). Two possible mechanisms can be proposed to describe the chemical  
339 reactions controlling  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  concentration in Lez spring groundwater with high TDS. (i) The dissolution of  
340 dolomite promoting calcite precipitation led by evaporite salts dissolution, which enriches the fluids in both  
341  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  with respect to  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . Indeed, during the calcite recrystallization, Sr/Ca increases in  
342 groundwater because the calcite lattice favours  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  over  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  during the precipitation (Jacobson,  
343 Blum and Walter, 2002; McIntosh and Walter, 2006; Négrel and Petelet-Giraud, 2005; Nisi, Bucciatti,  
344 Vaselli, Perini, Tassi, Minissale and Montegrossi, 2008; Stuart, Maurice, Heaton, Sapiano, Micallef Sultana,  
345 Gooddy and Chilton, 2010). In this case, high Sr/Ca ratios indicate that waters have been extensively altered  
346 by the incongruent dissolution of carbonate minerals and the dissolution of evaporites (Jacobson and  
347 Wasserburg, 2005; McIntosh and Walter, 2006; Samborska and Halas, 2010). (ii) The evaporite dissolution  
348 may enrich fluids in  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  because they contain more  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  than calcite and dolomite (Grobe and Machel, 2002;  
349 Jacobson and Wasserburg, 2005; McIntosh and Walter, 2006; Petelet, Luck, Ben Othman, Négrel and  
350 Aquilina, 1998; Wu, Xu, Yang, Yin and Tao, 2009). As  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  concentrations increase, Mg/Ca ratios also  
351 increase, suggesting progressive water-rock interactions (McIntosh and Walter, 2006).

352 Sr isotopes were used to test these hypotheses, focusing on the highly mineralised waters of the Lez  
353 spring. The combined use of major elements, mineral saturation state, elemental ratios and  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  help  
354 identifying the reactions that control the evolution of the waters chemistry, such as incongruent dissolution  
355 of dolomites and calcite precipitation (Jacobson and Wasserburg, 2005; Katz, Catches, Bullen and Michel,  
356 1998; Kloppmann, Négrel, Casanova, Klinge, Schelkes and Guerrot, 2001; Nisi, Buccianti, Vaselli, Perini,  
357 Tassi, Minissale and Montegrossi, 2008; Oetting, Banner and Sharp, 1996; Wang, Guo, Su and Ma, 2006).

358 The upper panel of Figure 7 represents  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  as a function of  $1/[\text{Sr}]$ . The water samples from the  
359 Valanginian aquifer are clustered around a straight line pointing at an isotopic signature of  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  between  
360 0.7073 and 0.7075 for high  $[\text{Sr}]$  values, representative of Cretaceous and Jurassic formations. A few samples,  
361 notably the Lez water sample identified as “Piston-flow” (Caetano Bicalho, Batiot-Guilhe, Seidel, Van Exter  
362 and Jourde, 2012), and to a lower extent the Lirou and Lez Low Waters (Fig. 7), presented a relatively  
363 enriched  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio with high to median Sr concentrations. This behaviour indicates either possible extra  
364 sources of Strontium with different Sr isotope ratios along the flowpath, or chemical reactions involving Sr  
365 addition or removal (Grobe and Machel, 2002).

366 Meteoric waters generally have high  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios but low Sr concentrations, while carbonate rocks  
367 usually present low  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio (Négrel and Petelet-Giraud, 2005; Oetting, Banner and Sharp, 1996).  
368 However, according to the groundwaters’ chemical properties and on the basis of Sr concentrations, the  
369 meteoric water influence can be ruled out.  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  sources are therefore mostly related to the dissolution of Sr-  
370 rich minerals and/or the chemical evolution of waters, leading  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  concentration to high values.

371 The Lez water samples corresponding to “Piston Flow” and to “Low Waters” also presented the highest  
372  $\text{Cl}^-$  concentrations together with the highest  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios observed in the Lez system. The most radiogenic  
373  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  was observed at the Sauve spring, at the northern limit of the Lez catchment (Fig. 1), which is  
374 connected to an adjacent granitic system. This isotopic ratio in this case is probably associated to a granitic  
375 bedrock fingerprinting, this lithology being present on the upstream part of the Sauve catchment, unlike in  
376 the Lez basin. The lithology that could explain a common origin for high  $\text{Cl}^-$  and radiogenic  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  at the  
377 Lez spring corresponds to the Triassic bedrock: the  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  evolution curve peaked during Triassic (with a  
378 ratio  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} \sim 0.708$ ) and then continuously decreased from Late Triassic to Late Cretaceous rocks  
379 (Koepnick, Denison, Burke, Hetherington and Dahl, 1990). Oetting *et al.* (1996) also found higher  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$   
380 ratios in waters from carbonate and evaporite aquifers, indicating a source of  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  from underlying units.

381 These elements confirm the hypothesis presented by Caetano Bicalho et al. (2012) of a piston flow  
 382 mechanism involving a deep water compartment, especially active at the onset of the humid season.

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#### 385 **4.4 - Hydrograph separation at the Lez spring**

386 Mass balance calculations were accomplished in an initial attempt to quantify mixing proportions at the  
 387 Lez spring using a simple mixing model. The resolution of the end-member mixing, taking into account  
 388 multiple hydrological reservoirs and water types is beyond the scope of the present paper. The intention of  
 389 this mass balance calculation is to estimate the proportion of deep waters participating to the Lez outflow  
 390 during the whole study period. Calculations were thus performed (Eq. 1 to 5) assuming a simple mixture of  
 391 two end-members (deep and main aquifer compartments) that could be unambiguously identified by one  
 392 parameter: EC. The choice of EC as tracer is justified by both the good representativeness of this parameter  
 393 and the high frequency of the available data (continuous EC monitoring at the hourly time-step at the Lez  
 394 spring).

395 The two end-members considered are defined as follows. (1) The main aquifer compartment, roughly  
 396 corresponding to a water bearing the mean characteristics of the high stage season ("High Waters" and  
 397 "Dilution waters" as defined by Caetano Bicalho et al. (2012)), with  $EC = 650 \mu S/cm$ , corresponding to the  
 398 baseline value of EC at the Lez spring during the wet season (Fig. 4). (2) The deep waters compartment,  
 399 characterized by an EC value of  $1,840 \mu S/cm$  corresponding to that of the Bajocian underlying aquifer which  
 400 was measured (16-day average, corrected for temperature) in the 1200 m deep Antigone borehole  
 401 (productive levels between 843 and 953 m) in the city of Montpellier (Chamayou and Auroux, 1992).

402

403 The contributions are calculated following Eq. 1 to 4:

404

$$Q_{spring} EC_{spring} = Q_{deep} EC_{deep} + Q_{main.aquifer} EC_{main.aquifer} \quad (1)$$

405

$$x_{deep} + x_{main.aquifer} = 1 \quad (2)$$

406

$$EC_{spring} = EC_{Main.aquifer} \times (1 - x_{deep}) + EC_{deep} \times x_{deep} \quad (3)$$

407

$$x_{deep} = \frac{EC_{spring} - EC_{main.aquifer}}{EC_{deep} - EC_{main.aquifer}} \quad (4)$$

408

Where:

$Q_{\text{spring}}$ ,  $Q_{\text{main.aquifer}}$ ,  $Q_{\text{deep}}$  : water discharge at the spring, main compartment discharge, and deep compartment discharge at the spring;

$EC_{\text{spring}}$ ,  $EC_{\text{main.aquifer}}$ ,  $EC_{\text{deep}}$  : electrical conductivity measured at the spring; main compartment and deep compartment electrical conductivities as defined above;

$X_{\text{main}}$ ,  $X_{\text{deep}}$  : end members contributions to the water discharge at the spring.

Figure 8 presents the two end-member separation achieved by the application of the equations 1 to 4, using the water discharge at the Lez spring and the EC measured, on a daily time-step, from the beginning of January 2008 until the end of May 2010. The mean contribution to the outflow at the Lez Spring is estimated to be 92.6% for the main aquifer compartment and 7.4% for the deep aquifer compartment. Winters are characterised by a lower participation of the deep compartment to the Lez outflow, about 5.3% compared to 10% during summer and about 6.2 % during autumn and spring. During the low stage, the average contribution of the deep compartment is remarkably stable. During the high stage this contribution is more variable and can reach peak values of 21.8%, immediately followed by a steep decrease. On average though, high-stage deep compartment contributions are proportionally lower (Fig. 8).

This hydrograph separation illustrates the temporal distribution of both end-members under a wide range of hydrological conditions, denoting their strong variability. The limitation of this calculation relies on the definition of the so-called deep compartment. The middle Jurassic layer taken as a reference point may result from a mixing between water circulating in Inf. Jurassic layers and a deeper flux which seems to rise through faults from deeper Triassic levels, carrying Cl-rich waters with higher TDS. This may constitute an intermediate storage compartment prone to react quickly through a piston-flow mechanism to a steep recharge.

#### **4.5 - Conceptual model: Groundwater circulation within the Lez karst system**



436 The results obtained in this work improve the argumentation presented by Caetano Bicalho *et al.* (2012)  
437 who suggested that the Lez spring water contains a small proportion of groundwater issued from deep layers.  
438 Apparently, a shallow buffering zone (Fig. 9) allows the storage of rising waters from deep origin. The water  
439 from this zone mainly participates to the outflow at Lez spring during high recharge events.

440 Water stable isotopes indicated that the Lez system springs (Lez, Lirou, Restinclières and Fleurettes)  
441 have a common recharge origin. The Lirou spring is the most sensitive to shallow infiltration waters among  
442 the springs. Groundwater flowpaths of Lirou spring are basically located on Jurassic limestones and outflow  
443 in the contact zone with the Valanginian layer. Thus it can be proposed that Lirou groundwaters do not flow  
444 bellow the Valanginian overlying unit in accord with the results obtained from chemical tracers (lower  
445 Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios), water stable isotopes (high variability),  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio (lower values) and depleted  
446  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$ .

447 The hydrochemical characteristics of Restinclières and Fleurettes springs are very similar in terms of  
448 EC, elemental ratios and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$ , and can be mostly related to interaction with limestones and marly-  
449 limestones from Upper Jurassic and Early Cretaceous, indicating groundwater circulation bellow the  
450 Valanginian covering of the aquifer.

451 Lez, Restinclières and Fleurettes springs have rather similar properties during Lez spring high-flow  
452 periods, i.e., when all springs discharge simultaneously. The low-flow Lez waters tend to get progressively  
453 enriched in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$ . Indeed, at the beginning of high-flow periods, groundwater at the Lez spring are distinct  
454 from all the other springs, presenting higher chemical evolution, marked by longer water-rock interaction  
455 and possibly the presence of an evaporitic signature in a low percentage, i.e. a depleted  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  Triassic  
456 signature. Finally, Lez spring waters corresponding to the “Piston Flow” waters (Caetano Bicalho, Batiot-  
457 Guilhe, Seidel, Van Exter and Jourde, 2012) have a specific hydrochemical fingerprint (high  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$ , Mg/Ca  
458 and  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios), which clearly differentiate them from Restinclières and Fleurettes spring waters.

459 The results obtained from the hydrograph separation allowed to estimate the temperature of the deep  
460 end-member. Using a mean deep-water contribution of 7.4% ( $\pm 1\%$ ) ; and considering the temperature of the  
461 high TDS waters at the Lez spring (17.4°C) and the annual air temperature average for the study area  
462 (16.1°C, at Montpellier Collège F.Rabelais meteorological station) (Hérault, 2009), by application of Eq. (4)  
463 and replacing EC with T, we obtain a temperature of the deep waters equivalent to 33.7°C ( $\pm 2.1^\circ\text{C}$ ).  
464 Considering the average geothermic gradient of 1.8°C/100m for our study zone (Lucazeau, 1979), we obtain

a characteristic depth of about 978 ( $\pm 115$ ) meters. This estimate is consistent with the hypothesis presented earlier of a storage compartment located within the mid-Jurassic calcareous formation, and acting as a buffer zone between the deep compartment and the main aquifer.

## 5 - Conclusion

In the present study, elemental geochemical tracers coupled with isotopic ratios ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta^2\text{H}$ ,  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDC}}$ ) were used to understand groundwater origins and hydrochemical evolution in the Lez Karst system (southern France). Groundwater samples were collected from the Lez spring and surrounding springs and wells under various hydrological conditions during two years (from June 2008 until May 2010).

Water stable isotopes evidenced that the Lirou intermittent spring flow is more responsive to freshly infiltrated waters than the other springs of the system, denoting as a consequence shorter groundwater residence times. For the other springs, on the contrary, important signal attenuation is observed, indicating the existence of a mixing of infiltrated waters with longer residence time groundwater stored in the aquifer.

The similar fingerprinting of water stable isotopes measured at the various springs (Lez, Lirou, Restinclières and Fleurettes) indicates that their recharge has the same origin. However, the relative disparity of their water chemistry indicates that recharge waters flow along distinct flowpaths. The hydrochemical characteristics of Restinclières and Fleurettes springs are very similar to one another and can be mostly attributed to interaction with limestones and marly-limestones from Upper Jurassic and Early Cretaceous, indicating groundwater circulation below the Valanginian overlying unit. At the Lez spring, the high-TDS groundwaters ("Piston-Flow waters" with  $\text{EC} > 780 \mu\text{S}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) issued from deep layers have probably been extensively modified by evaporite dissolution, calcite precipitation and incongruent dissolution of dolomite. This phenomenon was evidenced by: (i) high  $\text{Mg}/\text{Ca}$  and  $\text{Sr}/\text{Ca}$  ratios concomitant with an increase of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDC}}$ , possibly via calcite dissolution and incongruent dissolution of carbonate minerals under closed system conditions driven by evaporitic minerals dissolution; (ii) high  $\text{Cl}^-$  concentration positively correlated with  $[\text{Sr}^{2+}]$  and presumably of evaporitic origin; (iii) high  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio of the  $\text{Cl}^-$ -rich waters at the Lez spring, suggesting a Triassic signature, and (iv) high  $\text{Sr}/\text{Ca}$  ratio, which can be explained by calcite recrystallization involving a continuous addition of  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  induced by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  depletion in water solution.

A simple 2-end member hydrograph separation was used to determine the relative proportions of the deep water compartment and the main aquifer to the Lez spring over the study period, using EC as tracer.

495 The deep compartment end-member was characterized by an EC value of 1,840  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ , corresponding to that  
496 of the Bajocian underlying aquifer, measured in a 1200 m deep borehole in the city of Montpellier. The mean  
497 contribution to the Lez outflow was estimated to be 92.6% for the main aquifer compartment and 7.4% for  
498 the deep compartment. This analysis showed that the deep waters end-member as defined may result from a  
499 mixing between water circulating in Inf. Jurassic layer and a deep flux which seems to rise through faults  
500 from deeper Triassic levels, constituting an intermediate compartment prone to react through piston-flow  
501 mechanism to a strong recharge.

502 This approach combining hydrodynamics, hydrochemistry and isotope tracers on a continuous 2-year  
503 record appears to be a very efficient tool for characterizing groundwater flow on karst systems, and is  
504 potentially applicable to other complex karst systems with deep karstification. This work was efficient on  
505 shedding some light on the Lez system behaviour which is an intrinsically complex Vauclusian karst system.  
506 Differently from ordinary karst systems, long residence-times and deep water rising seem to be associated  
507 with this aquifer; such information being invaluable to the exploitation management of the Lez spring. The  
508 core of such a complexity is related to a multiplicity of compartments and lithologies that confer different  
509 chemical properties to the groundwaters.

510 Finally, the use of isotopes allowed refining the interpretation of the hydrochemical dataset, furnishing  
511 details about the chemical evolution of waters. This combination of methods seems to be efficient for  
512 characterizing groundwater flow on karst systems and is potentially applicable to other complex systems  
513 with deep karstification.

514

## 515 **6 - Acknowledgments**

516

517 This work was performed within the framework of the MEDYCYSS observation site, part of the  
518 KARST observatory network ([www.sokarst.org](http://www.sokarst.org)) initiative from the INSU/CNRS, which aims to strengthen  
519 knowledge-sharing and promote cross-disciplinary research on karst systems. It was financed by a PhD  
520 scholarship from *CNPq*, National Council of Technological and Scientific Development, of the Science and  
521 Technology Ministry of Brazil. Analyses and samplings were financed by HydroSciences Montpellier, IFR  
522 ILEE, Montpellier town Council and OSU OREME. Special thanks to the technical staff of AETE analytical  
523 platform and the Hydrogeology Laboratory of Avignon, for the analytical work support.

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734 **Fig. Captions**

735 Fig. 1 – Hydrogeological map of the Lez karst system indicating sampled springs, wells, raingauges and  
736 cross-section locations (Caetano Bicalho, Batiot-Guilhe, Seidel, Van Exter and Jourde, 2012).  
737 Fig. 2 – NW-SE Interpretative cross-section over the study area (Caetano Bicalho, Batiot-Guilhe, Seidel,  
738 Van Exter and Jourde, 2012).  
739 Fig. 3 – Top:  $\delta^2\text{H}$  (Deuterium) vs.  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (‰) for the Lez system spring waters (Lez, Lirou, Fleurettes and  
740 Restinclières) and rainwater samples from the 3 raingauges (Saint Gély du Fesc, Viols le Fort and  
741 Sauteyrargues). Bottom: zoom showing spring water data in detail.  
742 Fig. 4 – Rainfall (Montpellier, Viols le Fort and Sauteyrargues stations); E.C.,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (‰); zoomed  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (‰)  
743 and deuterium-excess for the Lez system springs (Lez, Lirou, Fleurettes and Restinclières).  
744 Fig. 5 – Rainfall, E.C., water discharge and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  at the Lez spring (Sept.2008-March 2010).  
745 Fig. 6 – Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca vs.  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{TDIC}}$  for Lez karst system springs and wells, and for springs and wells  
746 belonging to the surrounding karst systems.  
747 Fig. 7–  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio vs  $1/[\text{Sr}]$  and  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio vs  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  for the Lez karst system springs and wells, and for  
748 springs and wells belonging to the surrounding karst systems.  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio typical ranges are indicated for  
749 Triassic, Jurassic and Late Cretaceous (Koepnick, Denison, Burke, Hetherington and Dahl, 1990) and granite  
750 and fresh waters (Kloppmann, Négrel, Casanova, Klinge, Schelkes and Guerrot, 2001).  
751 Fig. 8 – Two end-member hydrograph separation from 2008 to 2010, using EC as tracer. The end-members  
752 are “Main aquifer compartment” with EC= 650 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ , and “Deep aquifer compartment”, with EC=  
753 1,840 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ .  
754 Fig. 9 – Conceptual model for groundwater circulation through the Lez karst system.

756 **Table Captions**

758 **Table 1**– T, EC , pH, major and trace element concentrations and isotopic ratios for the Lez spring.  
759 **Table 2** – T, EC , pH, major and trace element concentrations and isotopic ratios for Lirou, Restinclières, and Fleurettes  
760 springs and other sampling points.  
761 **Table 3** – Average values and range of variations for T, EC, pH, major and trace element concentrations and isotopic  
762 ratios for the springs: Lez, Lirou, Restinclières and Fleurettes.  
763 **Table 4** – Water stable isotope range for the sampled springs and raingauges and water stable isotope weighted average  
764 for rainwater.

**Table 1** – T, EC, pH, major and trace element concentrations and isotopic ratios for the Lez spring.

Sampling date	Lez spring	T°C	CE	pH	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup>	K <sup>+</sup>	toc	Li <sup>+</sup>	Br <sup>-</sup>	B <sup>3+</sup>	Sr <sup>2+</sup>	Ba <sup>2+</sup>	δ <sup>2</sup> H	δ <sup>18</sup> O	δ <sup>13</sup> C	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr
		(°C)	(µS.cm)		(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(µg/l)	(µg/l)	(µg/l)	(µg/l)	(µg/l)	(‰ V-SMOW)	(‰ V-SMOW)	TDIC (‰ V-PDB)	
13/06/08	1		773		379.2	50.5	5.6	32.4	143.2	7.7	25.1	1.1	1.2	3.4		18.8	442.4	13.1	-30.4	-5.1		
15/06/08	2		763		375.5	48.3	6.5	30.9	140.1	7.4	24.2	1.1	3.9	3.2		17.7	419.9	12.6	-30.0	-5.7		
07/07/08	3	16.1	747	7.16	372.0	49.2	4.6	29.7	127.4	8.3	26.2	1.3	1.0						-31.7	-5.7		
21/07/08	4	16.4	746	7.05	354.3	50.7	4.7	28.1	132.8	8.2	28.4	1.4	1.1	4.0			426.5	16.9	-32.4	-5.6		
05/08/08	5	16.7	763	7.15	368.1	56.0	5.5	29.1	125.7	9.7	33.6	1.7	1.2	4.2			388.9	17.7	-32.7	-5.7		
26/08/08	6	16.9	756	7.19	361.3	56.3	4.8	27.8	123.9	10.1	34.2	1.7	0.4	4.1			373.9	18.5	-31.1	-5.2		
10/09/08	7	17.2	761	7.14	365.1	56.9	5.0	26.7	128.3	10.1	36.2	1.9	0.6	4.1			369.1	19.0	-34.3	-6.0	-12.7	
22/09/08	8	17.2	753	6.97	365.7	53.2	6.1	26.3	121.1	9.0	30.6	1.2	0.4	3.9			358.9	18.7	-34.4	-5.9	-12.4	
07/10/08	9	17.3	762	7.05	368.8	55.8	6.7	26.1	120.2	9.3	32.0	1.3	0.3	4.2		6.2	356.4	18.9	-34.0	-5.9		
13/10/08	10	17.3	763	7.14	365.1	63.3	6.6	26.7	116.5	9.2	33.3	1.3	0.6	4.1		5.9	352.6	18.3	-34.3	-5.9		
21/10/08 N°1	11	16.6	704	7.26	339.0	43.0	4.8	22.9	120.5	6.9	24.2	1.2	2.2	3.2	109.1	13.7	320.5	15.5	-31.5	-5.6		
21/10/08 N°2	12	16.7	643	7.24	283.0	37.3	5.5	20.9	105.9	5.9	21.3	1.0	3.6	3.1	107.2	12.8	326.4	13.9	-31.1	-5.6		
21/10/08 N°3	13	17	748	7.14	358.7	50.0	4.3	23.7	114.8	8.0	29.4	1.3	5.3	3.8	117.6	14.7	346.3	17.3	-34.1	-5.8		
21/10/08 N°4	14	17	748	7.11	339.2	49.8	3.5	23.8	115.3	8.1	29.4	1.2	4.4	3.8	121.4	14.5	347.3	17.5	-27.1	-3.2		
22/10/08 N°1	15	16.6	682	7.10	344.0	36.7	6.2	22.2	111.7	6.2	20.9	1.2	2.9	0.2	112.5	<LD	62.1	6.7	-31.6	-5.5		
22/10/08 N°2	16	16.7	681	6.89	348.9	35.7	6.8	21.1	113.4	6.4	20.6	1.2	2.7	3.0	109.2	17.3	324.5	16.3	-31.4	-5.6	-13.3	
23/10/08 N°1	17	16.9	855	6.94	336.7	80.0	5.3	37.3	112.2	11.0	49.7	2.2	2.2	6.5	136.9	19.1	543.6	22.1	-31.9	-5.5	-12.2	
23/10/08 N°2	18	16.9	859	7.08	339.2	80.1	5.0	37.2	112.9	11.0	50.2	2.2	2.0	6.3	134.2	18.7	540.9	22.4	-31.1	-5.5	-12.0	
24/10/2008 N°1	19	16.7	739	7.01	352.6	46.2	5.7	28.9	113.4	8.9	26.7	1.4	1.7	4.6	117.6	16.6	537.6	19.8	-31.1	-5.6	-13.1	
24/10/2008 N°2	20	16.5	707	6.93	348.9	36.6	6.1	26.5	115.8	8.1	20.3	1.2	1.6	4.1	112.3	15.1	519.2	18.7	-31.1	-5.5		
22/10/08	21		753		351.4	51.4	3.7	24.3	115.4	8.3	30.5	1.3	2.7	4.0		13.9	327.9	17.7	-33.5	-5.7		
23/10/08	22		847		336.7	78.4	5.3	36.1	110.6	10.9	48.6	2.1	1.3	6.2		18.6	541.1	21.7	-30.6	-5.2		
23/10/08	23		842		339.2	78.4	5.4	36.5	111.1	10.8	48.8	2.2	3.0	6.2	103.6	18.5	541.9	21.2	-31.5	-5.5		
24/10/08	24		741		348.9	47.9	5.8	29.4	114.6	9.0	28.0	1.5	1.6	4.5		17.4	487.7	20.4	-30.9	-5.5		
24/10/08	25		706		341.6	38.5	5.1	27.0	113.7	8.1	21.3	1.5	1.6	4.2		16.6	513.0	19.8	-31.2	-5.2		
24/10/08	26		692		339.2	36.2	6.4	26.3	114.9	7.9	19.4	2.6	2.4	3.9	109.7	17.7	467.6	19.3	-31.5	-5.4		
26/10/08	27	15.9	645	7.02	334.3	26.4	4.7	20.5	113.0	6.3	14.4	0.9	1.8		105.9				-30.6	-5.2		
27/10/08	28	17	656	7.46	341.6	27.2	5.5	21.5	112.8	6.5	15.1	0.9	2.1	2.9	106.1	12.1	430.3	16.6	-29.4	-5.2		
29/10/08	29	15.9	683	7.04	356.2	30.4	6.3	22.8	115.7	6.7	16.9	1.2	1.7	3.3	112.7	15.6	466.5	17.9	-29.5	-5.4		
31/10/08	30	15.9	705	7.00	356.2	34.5	6.8	23.5	118.0	6.6	19.1	1.4	1.6	3.5	113.9	17.1	480.2	17.8	-29.9	-5.4		
03/11/08	31	15.9	699	7.09	339.2	37.3	6.3	24.3	116.9	6.0	20.8	1.5	1.7	3.6	109.6	17.8	462.1	16.7	-28.8	-5.3		
05/11/08	32	15.7	650	7.13	341.6	24.3	6.8	21.1	117.3	5.0	13.3	1.0	2.8	2.8	101.0	14.8	394.4	15.7	-28.4	-5.1	-12.1	0.70762
07/11/08	33	15.4	644	6.95	351.4	21.3	7.2	20.5	119.9	4.9	11.4	0.9	3.0	2.6	103.0	13.8	394.2	15.1	-27.2	-5.2	-14.7	
12/11/08	34	15.5	705	7.07	373.3	35.6	7.0	23.6	122.0	5.8	19.0	1.1	5.6	3.5	107.8	15.1	431.8	15.4	-29.8	-5.3		
14/11/08	35	15.5	722	7.18	393.6	42.6	7.5	26.6	132.6	6.9	23.6	1.3	4.0	3.7	110.1	13.1	464.4	15.9	-29.7	-5.4		

Sampling date	Lez spring	T°C	CE	pH	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup>	K <sup>+</sup>	toc	Li <sup>+</sup>	Br <sup>-</sup>	B <sup>3+</sup>	Sr <sup>2+</sup>	Ba <sup>2+</sup>	δ <sup>2</sup> H	δ <sup>18</sup> O	δ <sup>13</sup> C	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr
		(°C)	(μS.cm)		(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(‰ V-SMOW)	(‰ V-SMOW)	TDIC (‰ V-PDB)	
18/11/08	36	15.5	721	7.10	362.5	40.0	6.6	26.0	129.0	7.2	22.7	1.2	4.6	3.7	106.9	14.0	460.3	15.3	-28.8	-5.3		
21/11/08	37	15.5	721	7.15	346.0	42.2	6.8	27.3	124.9	6.8	22.7	1.2	1.7	3.9	<LD	13.1	486.8	15.5	-29.8	-5.4		
05/12/08	38	15.8	741	7.35	355.1	45.0	5.0	27.3	127.5	8.0	26.2	1.3	1.2	3.9	115.8	19.4	482.1	16.4	-30.6	-5.6	-14.3	
16/12/08	39	15.1	661	7.23	372.2	28.2	6.3	27.9	124.9	7.2	15.8	1.1	1.1	3.4		19.9	528.0	15.8	-32.1	-5.4		
09/01/09	40	14.9	721	7.20	368.6	41.5	6.9	27.0	130.1	7.2	23.5	1.2	1.0	3.6	110.6	17.3	472.4	14.7	-35.1	-5.7		
28/01/09	41	14.8	689	7.28	361.2	28.9	5.4	27.5	124.6	6.8	16.4	0.9	1.4	3.3	73.1	16.6	502.3	15.3	-35.3	-5.7		
02/02/09	42	14.5	673	7.35	355.1	27.8	5.4	24.6	118.6	5.7	16.1	0.9	1.9	2.9	103.2	15.3	428.9	13.6	-37.6	-6.0		
09/02/09	43	14	599	7.39	361.2	34.2	5.2	23.8	123.3	6.1	19.5	1.0	1.3	3.1	99.6	14.8	420.4	13.5	-39.6	-6.3		
12/03/09	44	15.3	707	7.39	349.0	33.3	4.0	25.1	115.1	8.7	22.5	1.2	0.9	3.8	103.6	15.5	480.4	15.2	-37.7	-6.0		
27/03/09	45	15.5	723	7.11	271.5	43.2	4.1	31.5	130.6	8.6	26.8	1.1	2.2	4.9	112.1	11.5	510.5	15.8	-37.3	-6.0	-13.8	
09/04/09	46	15.4	661	7.24	347.8	32.3	4.6	29.1	113.6	3.8	17.6		1.5	4.3	133.1	10.3	530.7	15.8	-37.4	-5.9		
22/04/09	47	15	710	7.52	355.1	37.1	4.9	27.3	117.3	6.6	22.0	1.0	2.0	4.6	126.0	6.2	517.8	15.0	-38.7	-6.0	-13.9	
06/05/09	48	15.2	706	7.53	355.1	34.2	3.8	26.2	122.7	6.8	21.0	0.8	1.6	4.1		22.5	516.7	15.5	-38.1	-6.0		
13/05/09	49	15.4	708	7.22	355.2	36.6	3.1	25.0	118.0	7.5	25.0	0.8	1.2	3.9		18.5	509.9	16.3	-37.5	-6.1		
25/05/09	50	16	721	7.18	361.2	40.6	3.6	25.5	121.1	7.7	26.1	1.2	1.5	4.1		18.2	499.9	15.4	-37.6	-5.9		
27/05/09	51	15.8	723	7.17	361.2	40.8	3.6	25.4	123.8	7.7	25.0	1.1	0.9	4.1		18.6	489.7	17.9	-37.8	-5.9	-14.0	
03/06/09	52	16	727	7.18	361.4	41.2	3.6	24.3	119.8	7.8	25.1	1.1	0.8	3.9		17.6	446.3	16.4	-37.2	-5.9	-13.9	
04/06/09	53	16	728	7.29	383.8	41.5	3.7	24.2	119.7	7.7	25.3	1.1	0.6	4.0		17.7	454.2	16.4	-37.3	-6.1	-10.1	
09/06/09	54	15.9	725	6.99	366.1	43.7	3.5	24.3	121.4	7.8	26.3	1.6	0.6	3.9		17.6	439.5	16.3	-37.1	-5.9	-13.6	
11/06/09	55	16.1	732	7.15	363.7	45.4	3.7	25.1	121.5	8.0	28.7	1.6	1.5	4.2		18.4	439.4	16.8	-36.8	-5.9	-13.7	
23/06/09	56	16.2	729	7.10	356.8	16.3	5.5	21.9	124.5	9.9	8.9	0.6	0.9	3.7		20.2	414.9	17.3	-36.0	-5.8	-13.9	
16/07/09	57	16.7	761	7.08	378.3	50.0	3.8	23.0	127.2	8.5	31.3	1.7	2.0	4.5	118.0	21.6	382.9	18.0	-35.4	-5.7	-13.2	0.70786
03/08/09	58	17	771		374.6	53.2	4.0	26.0	123.7	9.9	35.0	1.8	0.4	4.3		22.3	396.9	18.9	-35.2	-6.3	-13.4	
25/08/09	59	17.2	787	7.29	369.8	58.0	3.9	25.8	128.4	10.4	37.3	1.9	0.8	3.7		25.4	416.3	20.5	-35.3	-6.1	-13.2	
02/09/09	60	17.2	771	7.34	373.4	57.3	4.2	25.7	123.0	9.0	34.8	1.7	2.2	4.3	170.0	21.3	385.6	19.5	-35.3	-6.1	-13.1	
17/09/09	61	17.2	765	7.04	400.3	52.2	4.1	23.0	127.5	9.9	32.9	1.7	0.5	4.0	<LD	20.5	363.9	19.0			-13.1	
07/10/09	62	17.3	776	6.98	278.2	57.0	3.5	23.7	118.6	9.1	33.7	1.4	1.4	4.1		21.4	403.0	19.3	-35.1	-6.1		
22/10/09	63	17.2	749	7.00	361.2	52.7	3.5	23.1	115.5	8.9	31.2	1.4	0.4	4.2	88.9	20.5	367.3	19.5	-35.7	-6.3	-13.6	
24/10/09	64	15	811	7.15	341.7	74.5	4.9	32.5	111.4	10.8	44.5	2.1	<LD	5.4		25.8	514.0	21.8	-34.9	-6.1		
25/10/09	65	15	844	7.13	342.9	84.7	4.7	36.0	109.8	11.5	49.7	2.3		5.9	118.0	25.5	555.7	22.4	-34.5	-6.1		
26/10/09	66	17	898	6.98	342.9	98.6	4.2	40.4	110.4	12.9	58.9	2.5	1.6	5.0	118.0	25.2	649.1	21.1	-34.7	-6.2	-12.1	0.70792
29/10/09	67	16.5	705	6.97	349.0	40.3	4.1	29.0	111.9	10.1	23.5	1.4		4.2		24.9	585.0	19.5	-35.5	-6.2	-13.2	
05/11/09	68	16.2	698	6.97	346.6	37.4	5.6	24.6	113.4	8.5	22.0	1.6	0.8	7.3		26.6	625.9	23.9	-34.6	-5.9	-13.6	
01/12/09	69	16.8	636	6.90	360.0	56.1	5.5	25.3	116.5	8.4	33.4	1.5							-34.5	-6.0	-13.6	
16/12/09	70	17	639	7.18	363.7	41.8	3.9	18.9	112.7	9.3	33.2	1.6	0.6						-34.9	-6.0	-13.5	
07/01/10	71	15.8	702	7.17	336.8	41.4	8.6	26.4	107.9	7.8	24.3	1.8	1.3	3.7	50.0	22.0	637.6	17.5	-35.1	-5.8	-13.7	
25/01/10	72	15	712	7.24	350.3	42.1	8.3	26.7	123.7	6.0	24.4	1.6	1.3	3.3		18.4	548.8	14.4	-36.1	-6.2	-14.3	

Sampling date	Lez spring	T°C	CE	pH	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup>	K <sup>+</sup>	toc	Li <sup>+</sup>	Br <sup>-</sup>	B <sup>3+</sup>	Sr <sup>2+</sup>	Ba <sup>2+</sup>	δ <sup>2</sup> H	δ <sup>18</sup> O	δ <sup>13</sup> C	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr
		(°C)	(μS.cm)		(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(‰ V-SMOW)	(‰ V-SMOW)	TDIC (‰ V-PDB)
11/03/10	73	14.7	629	7.10	339.2	34.0	5.1	28.0	126.1	6.2	20.1	1.2	1.6	3.8		21.3	536.1	14.5	-37.2	-6.4	-14.0	
22/03/10	74	14.9	699	7.09	358.7	36.5	4.5	27.8	122.4	6.5	21.5	1.2	1.1	3.8		20.9	473.7	14.3	-36.7	-6.2		
07/04/10	75	14.9	631	7.20	370.9	33.5	4.6	27.4	126.7	6.9	20.2	1.1	1.4	3.6		20.0	518.6	14.0	-36.3	-6.2		
20/04/10	76	15.3	706	7.03	355.1	40.1	4.0	27.6	125.1	7.3	23.9	1.4	0.9	4.0		18.9	511.8	14.4	-35.8	-6.2		
03/05/10	77	15.4	717	7.01	353.8	39.4	4.9	29.6	127.8	6.7	24.8	1.5	1.3	4.1		25.3	491.7	15.6	-36.2	-5.9		
27/05/10	78	15.5	692	7.23	356.4	35.5	3.5	27.0	121.2	6.5	19.6	1.1	0.9	3.9		20.8	501.6	14.8			-14.0	

**Table 2** – T, EC , pH, major and trace element concentrations and isotopic ratios for Lirou, Restinclières, and Fleurettes springs and other sampling points.

Sampling date	Spring	T°C	CE	pH	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup>	K <sup>+</sup>	toc	Li <sup>+</sup>	Br <sup>-</sup>	B <sup>3+</sup>	Sr <sup>2+</sup>	Ba <sup>2+</sup>	δ <sup>2</sup> H	δ <sup>18</sup> O	δ <sup>13</sup> C	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr
		(°C)	(μS.cm)		(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(‰ V-SMOW)	(‰ V-SMOW)	TDIC (‰ V-PDB)
02/06/08	Lirou	14.3	630	7.07	371.1	12.4	1.4	10.1	129.2	1.2	4.8	0.1	1.2	0.3		10.7	74.6	6.1	-28.7	-4.8		
05/06/08	Lirou	14.1	646	7.65	401.5	13.8	1.4	8.7	132.7	0.9	4.8	<LD	1.7	0.3		8.8	64.7	6.6	-30.4	-5.3		
24/06/08	Lirou			7.10	376.9	11.7	2.8	8.4	127.4	1.7	4.8	0.1	1.5						-30.8	-5.3		
21/10/2008 N°1	Lirou	14.8	613	7.07	375.8	11.1	2.7	10.7	111.7	10.3	5.7	0.5	3.2	1.1			138.9	8.8	-34.1	-5.8		
21/10/2008 N°2	Lirou	14.9	624	7.14	370.9	11.4	2.2	12.1	110.7	12.6	6.4	0.6	2.0	1.2	97.0		157.2	9.2	-34.6	-5.9		
23/10/08 N°1	Lirou	14.5	517	7.04	300.1	7.7	2.0	6.0	107.4	0.7	4.3	0.4	2.7	0.2	92.2		64.3	6.2	-23.3	-4.3		
23/10/08 N°2	Lirou	14.4	522	7.00	314.8	8.0	2.4	6.0	107.7	0.7	4.3	0.4	3.9	0.2	88.9		69.1	6.2	-23.3	-4.3	-14.9	
22/10/08	Lirou	14.6	544	7.09	327.0	10.2	4.2	7.2	109.3	1.3	5.0	0.5	4.1	0.4	103.8		79.5	6.1	-26.1	-4.7	-15.0	
24/10/08	Lirou	14.4	543	7.20	339.2	8.4	2.2	6.2	112.8	0.8	4.6	0.4	2.2	0.3	88.1	9.2	66.5	6.8	-24.5	-4.2		
27/10/08	Lirou	14.4	561	7.11	344.0	8.5	2.8	6.4	116.5	0.8	4.5	0.4	6.4	0.3	95.3		68.1	6.9	-24.3	-4.5		
29/10/08	Lirou	14.3	565	7.08	351.4	8.6	3.0	6.4	117.8	0.9	4.5	0.3	3.0	0.3	<LD		71.7	6.6	-24.9	-4.6		
03/11/08	Lirou	14.3	552	7.30	339.2	9.0	1.8	6.5	116.1	0.7	4.5	0.3	1.5	0.2	96.7		69.6	6.4	-25.1	-4.4		
05/11/08	Lirou	14.3	590	7.15	363.6	10.7	1.7	7.5	124.7	0.9	5.0	0.2	2.8	0.2	94.0		73.8	6.2	-26.1	-4.7		
07/11/08	Lirou	14.1	618	7.04	378.2	11.4	1.5	7.5	131.0	0.8	5.3	0.2	12.0	3.1	99.5	17.1	364.2	17.1	-28.2	-4.9	-13.5	0.70786
12/11/08	Lirou	14.2	622	7.11	388.0	10.9	1.6	7.7	131.3	1.3	5.2	0.2	8.5	0.3	<LD		65.9	7.4	-29.5	-5.1		
14/11/08	Lirou	14	631	7.18	388.1	11.7	2.0	9.0	131.8	1.7	5.3	0.2	2.5		101.4				-29.7	-5.0		
18/11/08	Lirou	14.2	619	7.12	369.8	11.4	1.8	8.2	136.6	2.4	5.4	0.2	1.5		96.9				-29.3	-5.2		
21/11/08	Lirou	14.2	631	7.14	375.3	11.1	2.1	8.7	132.1	2.4	5.3	0.1	0.9						-29.8	-5.1	-16.2	
09/01/09	Lirou	14.1	617	7.15	392.4	10.8	2.2	9.3	135.2	3.2	5.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	99.7	7.0	65.8	7.0	-35.5	-5.9	-15.8	
16/01/09	Lirou		590	7.20	387.5	10.4	1.9	8.3	133.1	3.6	5.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	104.9	6.9	61.6	6.8	-35.3	-5.8		
28/01/09	Lirou	14	593	7.30	367.3	8.9	1.8	7.6	126.0	1.5	5.2	0.2	1.3	0.2	88.6	6.6	64.2	6.5	-34.7	-6.2		
02/02/09	Lirou	13.3	522	7.83	324.6	7.5	1.1	7.0	106.4	0.9	4.5	0.2	2.1	0.2	80.3	7.2	60.1	6.0	-40.3	-6.9		
09/02/09	Lirou	14	599	7.39	374.4	8.9	1.1	6.0	128.7	1.8	5.1	<LD	1.8	0.3	88.6	5.9	50.6	6.6	-38.1	-6.5		
09/04/09	Lirou	15	556	6.99	349.0	9.3	3.5	8.1	111.6	<LD	4.7	<LD	1.6	0.5	100.4	0.4	83.7	7.1			-15.8	
13/05/09	Lirou	14.3	593	7.11	373.4	8.7	1.3	8.2	121.7	3.8	5.1	<LD	1.0	0.4		9.7	79.1	7.1			-15.9	

Sampling date	Spring	T°C	CE	pH	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup>	K <sup>+</sup>	toc	Li <sup>+</sup>	Br <sup>-</sup>	B <sup>3+</sup>	Sr <sup>2+</sup>	Ba <sup>2+</sup>	δ <sup>2</sup> H	δ <sup>18</sup> O	δ <sup>13</sup> C	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr
		(°C)	(μS.cm)		(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(‰ V-SMOW)	(‰ V-SMOW)	TDIC (‰ V-PDB)	
05/03/10	Lirou	15	517	7.29	358.7	9.0	0.9	8.0	113.0	2.9	5.0	0.4	0.8	0.5		10.2	81.0	7.1	-37.4	-6.6		
07/04/10	Lirou	14.1	544	7.10	374.5	9.8	1.3	8.6	131.2	2.6	5.2	0.3	1.1	0.4		9.1	74.2	6.5	-37.9	-6.6		
03/05/10	Lirou	14.4	627	6.95	388.0	9.0	1.8	12.7	135.0	5.5	5.5	0.3	1.3	0.8		12.4	118.0	6.9	-35.5	-5.6		
27/05/10	Lirou	14.5	600	7.15	375.9	9.2	1.7	8.3	127.1	2.7	5.0	0.3	0.5	0.4		10.0	82.7	6.9			-15.9	
12/11/08	Restinclières	17.6	669	6.61	395.3	13.3	7.3	16.7	130.1	5.2	6.0	0.3	5.2	2.4		15.3	406.4	25.6	-29.8	-5.2	-14.6	
14/11/08	Restinclières	17.1	674	7.05	375.8	14.9	7.8	19.1	131.6	5.8	6.8	0.4	4.8	2.5	101.5	15.8	398.8	26.6	-31.4	-5.1		0.70756
18/11/08	Restinclières	17.2	669	7.06	382.6	16.6	8.4	21.6	139.7	6.6	7.9	0.5	5.9	2.5	109.9	16.1	400.0	27.7	-31.1	-5.2		
21/11/08	Restinclières	16.7	655	7.17	360.6	17.9	8.6	22.4	129.5	6.8	8.8	0.6	1.3	2.4	110.4	15.3	348.6	21.1	-30.3	-5.3		
05/12/08	Restinclières	16.6	634	7.17	362.5	16.5	6.9	19.9	121.8	6.5	8.3	0.5	2.3	2.2	114.4	14.0	306.4	19.0	-30.0	-5.2	-13.8	
16/12/08	Restinclières	17.6	719	7.20	430.2	27.7	9.4	27.7	133.9	8.5	14.7	1.0	1.2	3.2	<LD	21.4	429.2	24.7	-32.2	-5.1		
09/01/09	Restinclières	17.1	670	6.92	416.2	14.3	8.1	19.7	137.1	6.5	7.1	0.4	1.1	2.5	<LD	17.0	415.7	26.3	-33.2	-5.6		
16/01/09	Restinclières	16.5	673	7.09	393.0	15.4	8.1	21.8	139.5	6.6	7.6	0.4	0.9	2.4	<LD	16.1	386.8	25.2	-34.0	-5.9		
28/01/09	Restinclières	15.9	611	7.29	336.8	16.3	6.8	21.3	128.5	7.0	8.4	0.4		2.2	<LD	14.1	313.7	19.3	-33.5	-5.9		
02/02/09	Restinclières	16.8	675	7.07	397.9	12.5	6.8	17.7	132.3	5.4	6.5	0.3	1.7	2.1	<LD	13.4	357.2	23.1	-35.9	-6.1	-15.0	
09/02/09	Restinclières	16.2	673	7.22	397.9	12.4	5.1	18.3	132.7	4.9	6.5	0.2	1.7	2.0	106.2	13.1	355.0	26.4	-35.8	-6.1		
26/02/09	Restinclières	16.5	669	7.11	391.8	13.1	6.1	19.9	136.0	5.6	6.7	0.3	1.2	2.2	103.8	13.9	352.7	24.2	-38.2	-6.5		
12/03/09	Restinclières	16.5	649	7.38	361.2	15.8	8.5	22.9	125.3	6.6	8.3	0.4	1.2	2.4	<LD	14.8	317.3	23.1				
27/03/09	Restinclières	17	706	7.38	373.4	21.9	7.0	25.2	138.2	9.3	12.4	1.0	1.8	2.7	116.0	18.3	389.5	24.6	-35.8	-6.1		
09/04/09	Restinclières	17.5	706	7.07	373.4	29.0	5.8	25.9	133.2	5.5	9.2	1.1	1.6	4.7	116.1	13.8	517.8	27.5	-35.5	-6.2		
22/04/09	Restinclières	17.1	620	7.01	367.3	15.0	5.8	22.7	116.0	3.9	7.4	<LD	1.6	3.3	<LD	6.3	400.2	22.9	-36.1	-6.1		
06/05/09	Restinclières	16.7	658	7.42	373.4	14.0	5.8	22.5	122.7	5.9	7.2	0.3	2.1	3.2	360.5	2.4	413.6	25.1	-36.9	-6.2	-13.8	
13/05/09	Restinclières	16.5	614	7.54	355.1	14.9	4.3	19.8	118.0	6.2	7.4	0.2	2.0	2.5		18.9	343.4	20.2	-36.4	-6.2		
25/05/09	Restinclières	17.2	637	7.12	361.2	13.8	5.7	20.8	120.1	7.4	8.2	0.1	1.2	2.8		17.9	367.0	22.5	-36.5	-6.1		
27/05/09	Restinclières	17.5	702	7.14	379.5	26.8	5.3	24.5	123.2	8.6	15.7	0.8	0.9	3.8		18.7	471.4	25.3	-36.0	-5.8		
03/06/09	Restinclières	17.5	697	7.12	379.5	26.9	5.2	24.4	123.1	8.4	15.7	0.8	0.9	3.7		18.4	469.3	25.5	-36.2	-6.1		
09/06/09	Restinclières	18	704	7.16	378.2	27.8	5.3	25.5	124.5	9.0	16.2	0.8	0.9	3.9		18.2	479.4	27.5	-36.1	-6.2		
23/06/09	Restinclières	18.3	693	6.92	391.1	21.9	5.9	25.5	127.2	9.1	12.6	0.6	0.8	3.8		19.4	493.9	31.7	-36.3	-6.1	-13.7	
25/01/10	Restinclières	18.6	706	7.06	375.7	16.5	5.6	22.1	125.8	10.0	9.0	0.6	0.8	3.2		18.4	433.8	33.5	-35.0	-5.8	-13.3	
08/02/10	Restinclières	16.4	628	7.26	345.4	16.5	8.2	20.7	124.0	6.1	8.2	0.7	1.1	1.6		13.3	328.5	17.0	-35.8	-6.2		
22/02/10	Restinclières	16.9	681	6.91	390.5	13.3	7.3	19.8	142.4	5.6	7.4	0.5	1.4	1.9		14.9	454.7	21.4				
11/03/10	Restinclières	16.6	656	6.96	386.7								2.1	2.3		16.4	422.3	24.5	-38.0	-6.2		
22/03/10	Restinclières	16.4	594	6.98	367.3	15.2	5.7	23.3	131.3	5.9	7.8	0.6	1.1	2.7		18.8	374.2	23.8	-37.9	-6.2		
07/04/10	Restinclières	16.2	616		352.6	14.9	5.3	21.1	125.8	6.5	8.1	0.6	0.8	2.3		18.2	308.3	19.0	-37.2	-6.0		
20/04/10	Restinclières	16.2	580	7.18	361.1	15.4	5.7	23.7	127.5	6.5	8.2	0.6	1.1	2.5		18.4	360.3	21.0	-36.0	-5.9		
03/05/10	Restinclières	17	665	7.02	360.0	21.1	8.4	27.6	129.2	7.7	11.3	1.0	1.5	3.1		23.9	420.5	24.3	-35.6	-6.0		
20/05/10	Restinclières	17.1	683	6.91	374.5	22.9	6.3	27.8	131.8	8.2	13.2	0.8	1.4	3.7		22.5	464.6	23.8	-35.7	-5.8		
27/05/10	Restinclières	16.6	624	7.00	357.6	15.3	5.1	24.3	134.2	6.9	8.4	0.6	1.4	2.7		19.0	355.5	21.2				

Sampling date	Spring	T°C	CE	pH	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup>	K <sup>+</sup>	toc	Li <sup>+</sup>	Br <sup>-</sup>	B <sup>3+</sup>	Sr <sup>2+</sup>	Ba <sup>2+</sup>	δ <sup>2</sup> H	δ <sup>18</sup> O	δ <sup>13</sup> C	<sup>87</sup> Sr/ <sup>86</sup> Sr
		(°C)	(μS.cm)		(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(μg/l)	(‰ V-SMOW)	(‰ V-SMOW)	TDIC (‰ V-PDB)	
05/11/08	Fleurettes	15.5	649	6.98	385.5	11.5	3.4	21.0	132.2	2.3	5.1	0.2	3.3	1.5	89.0	12.7	231.6	10.2	-28.8	-5.0		
07/11/08	Fleurettes	14	677	6.98	405.0	12.4	5.1	20.1	138.1	3.3	5.7	0.3	2.3	1.9	102.4	13.5	302.4	15.7	-30.0	-5.1	-15.2	
09/11/08	Fleurettes	16.3	672	7.04	380.6	13.3	6.9	19.2	134.7	4.4	6.0	0.3	1.9	2.2	103.0	15.2	374.5	24.8	-31.7	-5.2		
12/11/08	Fleurettes	16.6	668	7.08	390.4	13.6	6.1	20.3	132.8	5.0	6.1	0.4	5.1	2.4	104.6	15.8	399.9	32.2	-32.0	-5.3		
14/11/08	Fleurettes	16.6	669	7.00	388.1	14.9	6.1	22.6	143.9	5.8	7.0	0.5	5.6	2.4	102.7	16.0	390.1	33.4	-31.9	-5.2		
18/11/08	Fleurettes	16.4	680	8.55	389.9	14.6	5.7	21.7	140.8	5.9	7.1	0.5	1.5	2.4	109.4	15.8	390.8	33.5	-31.6	-5.3	-14.5	
09/01/09	Fleurettes	16.4	662	7.06	356.4	14.6	6.0	22.5	140.5	5.9	7.2	0.4	1.1	2.4		16.0	397.9	31.4	-34.2	-6.0		
02/02/09	Fleurettes	15	568	7.22	336.8	7.8	2.5	16.8	114.4	1.7	4.9	0.4	2.1	1.1	84.3	12.0	185.1	9.9	-44.0	-7.4		
22/04/09	Fleurettes	16.1	668	7.17	385.7	13.2	4.7	23.3	129.0	5.4	6.7	0.4	1.8	3.0	102.2	1.6	418.9	31.1	-39.3	-6.5	-14.2	
09/02/09	Fleurettes	16	651	7.17	379.5	13.4	4.7	20.8	131.1	5.8	7.1	0.4	1.8	2.3	358.0	14.6	350.0	25.6	-37.0	-6.2		
08/02/10	Fleurettes	16.4	678	6.97	386.9	13.0	7.2	22.9	136.8	3.2	6.3	0.4	1.5	2.3		17.2	419.0	20.6	-36.1	-6.2		
22/02/10	Fleurettes	15.7	646	6.91	378.3								1.7	1.9		15.9	357.3	20.7	-38.4	-6.4		
11/03/10	Fleurettes	15.5	608	6.92	380.6	13.9	5.1	25.0	140.2	5.4	7.2	0.6	1.5	2.5		18.4	351.1	28.0	-37.7	-6.2		
07/04/10	Fleurettes	16.3	628	7.09	402.6	14.8	5.5	24.8	143.7	6.5	7.5	0.5	2.1	2.7		18.9	445.6	32.6	-37.1	-6.0		
03/05/10	Fleurettes	16.8	678	7.00	388.0	14.3	4.8	28.6	141.5	6.9	7.9	0.5	2.2	3.2		20.3	459.0	32.9	-35.7	-5.9		
20/05/10	Fleurettes	16	673	6.99	401.5	12.7	4.9	23.6	150.6	6.1	7.0	0.5	1.7	2.7		17.8	407.8	29.4				
16/07/09	Sauve spring	14.2	518	7.33	286.8	9.0	2.7	36.6	82.9	16.6	6.9	1.7	1.6	2.1	<LD	17.9	244.6	28.8	-34.8	-5.8	-13.9	0.70854
16/07/09	Fontbonne spring	18	629	7.43	366.6	11.3	5.4	16.6	129.4	5.0	5.2	0.2	1.0	1.9	<LD	13.0	277.2	9.1	-35.8	-5.7	-13.2	0.70764
21/07/09	Olivier well	18.6	677	7.84	341.8	17.2	25.9	28.7	107.2	20.3	8.8	1.3	1.3	9.3	154.9	56.5	1998.0	24.0	-35.9	-6.0	-10.9	0.70737
21/07/09	Boinet well	15.7	859	7.08	488.2	25.4	19.2	33.9	149.7	19.5	9.3	0.4	1.8	7.9	192.4	54.0	3266.0	16.0	-32.6	-6.3	-14.3	0.70733
21/07/09	Foux de Lauret	13.8	583	7.51	379.1	5.7	1.0	10.5	119.4	4.0	4.0	0.4	1.3	0.9	83.3	10.8	456.7	7.5	-38.5	-6.0	-15.0	0.70745
21/07/09	Dolgue spring	13.2	708	7.32	426.5	13.9	1.0	26.8	140.4	8.2	5.8	0.2	1.7	3.5	177.0	21.7	862.6	13.5	-35.6	-6.0	-16.0	0.70744
21/07/09	Lavabre spring	14	637	7.38	403.3	8.0		14.3	129.2	6.0	5.0	0.1	1.2	2.2	151.9	18.6	821.0	9.3	-36.8	-5.9	-16.4	0.70742
21/07/09	Lavabre well	18.5	640	7.16	424.0	10.8		19.0	126.1	6.5	6.0	0.7	1.0	2.5	140.0	15.6	666.5	9.4	-35.9	-6.0	-16.3	
31/08/09	Fontanes well	15.3	649	7.01	401.5	10.4	6.7	21.2	133.2	5.4	5.5	0.5	0.6	3.9	160.0	19.6	410.2	10.7	-34.1	-5.8	-13.5	0.70760
31/08/09	Laudou well	14.9	661	6.99	422.3	11.6		11.2	132.2	0.7	4.8	0.9	5.0	1.3	240.0	11.9	327.1	13.0	-36.2	-6.2	-15.8	0.70756
31/08/09	Bois Roziers well	15.8	605	7.07	375.9	10.4	3.5	16.0	128.2	3.1	6.5	0.6	1.0	1.6	150.0	13.8	329.4	9.2	-35.6	-6.0	-14.3	0.70761
02/09/09	Gour Noir well	17.4	664	7.23	407.6	13.0	3.4	14.8	137.5	3.4	7.5	0.8	1.8	2.2	<LD	16.2	296.8	15.3	-35.7	-5.9	-14.7	0.70764

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**Table 3** – Average values and range of variations for T, EC, pH, major and trace element concentrations and isotopic ratios for the springs: Lez, Lirou, Restinclières and Fleurettes.

Spring	Average and range	T°C	CE	pH	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Mg <sup>2+</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup>	K <sup>+</sup>	toc	Li <sup>+</sup>	Br <sup>-</sup>	B <sup>3+</sup>	Sr <sup>2+</sup>	Ba <sup>2+</sup>	δ <sup>2</sup> H	δ <sup>18</sup> O	δ <sup>13</sup> C
		(°C)	(µS.cm)		(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(mg/l)	(µg/l)	(µg/l)	(µg/l)	(µg/l)	(µg/l)	(‰ V-SMOW)	(‰ V-SMOW)	TDIC (‰ V-PDB)
Lez (78 samples)	Average	16.1	725	7.14	353.6	45.3	5.1	26.6	120.1	8.0	26.8	1.4	1.7	4.0	111.0	17.7	454.8	17.1	-33.6	-5.7	-13.3
	Minimum	14.0	599	6.89	271.5	16.3	3.1	18.9	105.9	3.8	8.9	0.6	0.3	0.2	50.0	5.9	62.1	6.7	-39.6	-6.4	-14.7
	Maximum	17.3	898	7.53	400.3	98.6	8.6	40.4	140.1	12.9	58.9	2.6	5.6	7.3	170.0	26.6	649.1	23.9	-27.1	-3.2	-10.1
Lirou (29 samples)	Average	14.3	585	7.17	363.5	10.0	2.0	8.1	122.6	2.5	5.0	0.3	2.6	0.5	95.1	8.7	90.0	7.2	-30.7	-5.3	-15.4
	Minimum	13.3	517	6.95	300.1	7.5	0.9	6.0	106.4	0.7	4.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	80.3	0.4	50.6	6.0	-40.3	-6.9	-16.2
	Maximum	15.0	646	7.83	401.5	13.8	4.2	12.7	136.6	12.6	6.4	0.6	12.0	3.1	104.9	17.1	364.2	17.1	-23.3	-4.2	-13.5
Restinclières (33 samples)	Average	17.0	661	7.1	375.9	17.8	6.6	22.4	129.3	6.8	9.3	0.6	1.7	2.8	137.6	16.2	395.6	24.1	-34.9	-5.9	-14.0
	Minimum	15.9	580	6.6	336.8	12.4	4.3	16.7	116.0	3.9	6.0	0.1	0.8	1.6	101.5	2.4	306.4	17.0	-38.2	-6.5	-15.0
	Maximum	18.6	719	7.5	430.2	29.0	9.4	27.8	142.4	10.0	16.2	1.1	5.9	4.7	360.5	23.9	517.8	33.5	-29.8	-5.1	-13.3
Fleurettes (16 samples)	Average	16.0	655	7.1	383.5	13.2	5.3	22.2	136.7	4.9	6.6	0.4	2.3	2.3	128.4	15.1	367.6	25.8	-35.0	-5.9	-14.7
	Minimum	14.0	568	6.9	336.8	7.8	2.5	16.8	114.4	1.7	4.9	0.2	1.1	1.1	84.3	1.6	185.1	9.9	-44.0	-7.4	-15.2
	Maximum	16.8	680	8.6	405.0	14.9	7.2	28.6	150.6	6.9	7.9	0.6	5.6	3.2	358.0	20.3	459.0	33.5	-28.8	-5.0	-14.2

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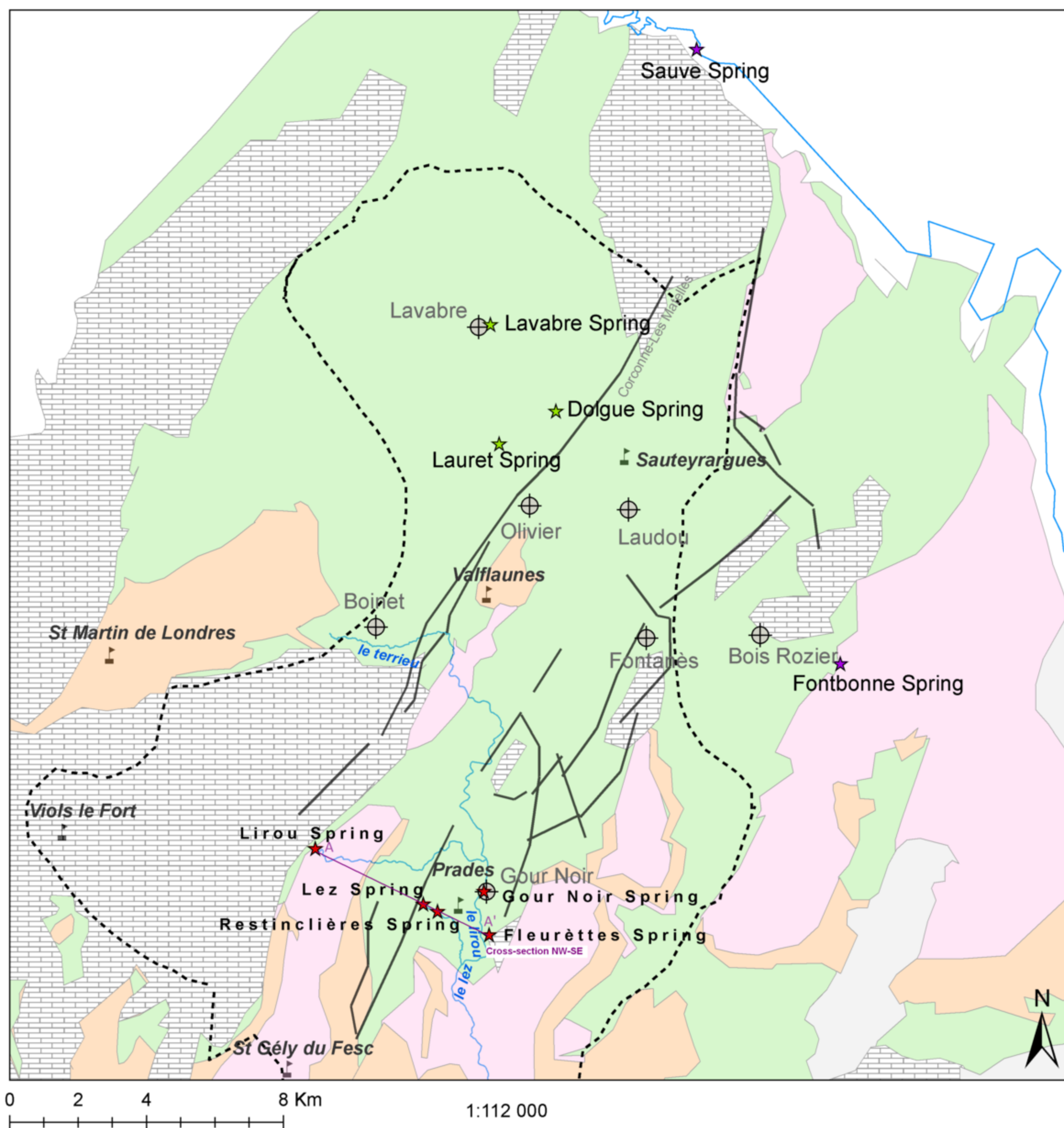
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**Table 4 –** Water stable isotope range for the sampled springs and raingauges and water stable isotope weighted average for rainwater.

<b>Springs / raingauges</b>	<b><math>\delta^{18}\text{O}</math> range (‰ VSMOW)</b>	<b><math>\delta^2\text{H}</math> range (‰ VSMOW)</b>	<b><math>\delta^{18}\text{O}</math> (‰ VSMOW) Rainwater weighted average</b>	<b><math>\delta^2\text{H}</math> (‰ VSMOW) Rainwater weighted average</b>
Lez spring	-6.38 to -4.94	-39.6 to -30.1		
Lirou spring	-6.92 to -4.21	-40.3 to -23.3		
Restinclières spring	-6.47 to -5.13	-38.2 to -29.8		
Fleurettes spring	-7.35 to -5.00	-44.0 to -28.8		
Viols le Fort raingauge (06/09 to 05/10)	-12.27 to -2.88	-53.6 to -14.2	-4.93	-28.3
Sauteyrargues raingauge (10/09 to 05/10)	-10.59 to -3.44	-63.4 to -14.5	-7.55	-46.7
Montpellier raingauge (monthly means, 06/08 to 05/10)	-9.05 to +0.67	-58.8 to +5.6	-6.76	-41.4

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### Lez karst system Springs

- ★ Fleurèttes
- ★ Gour Noir
- ★ Lez Spring
- ★ Lirou
- ★ Restinclières

### Valanginian Springs

- ★ Dolgue
- ★ Lauret
- ★ Lavabre

### Connexe Systems Springs

- ★ Fontbonne
- ★ Sauve Spring

### Geology

- Miocene: Limestones
- Oligocene: Clay and conglomerates
- Eocene: Limestones
- Cretaceous: marls and marly limestones
- Jurassic: Limestones
- Cross-Section NW-SE
- Main river and tributaries
- Faults
- Delimitation of the zone in hydraulic connexion with the Lez spring (pumping tests) Thierry and Bérard (1983)

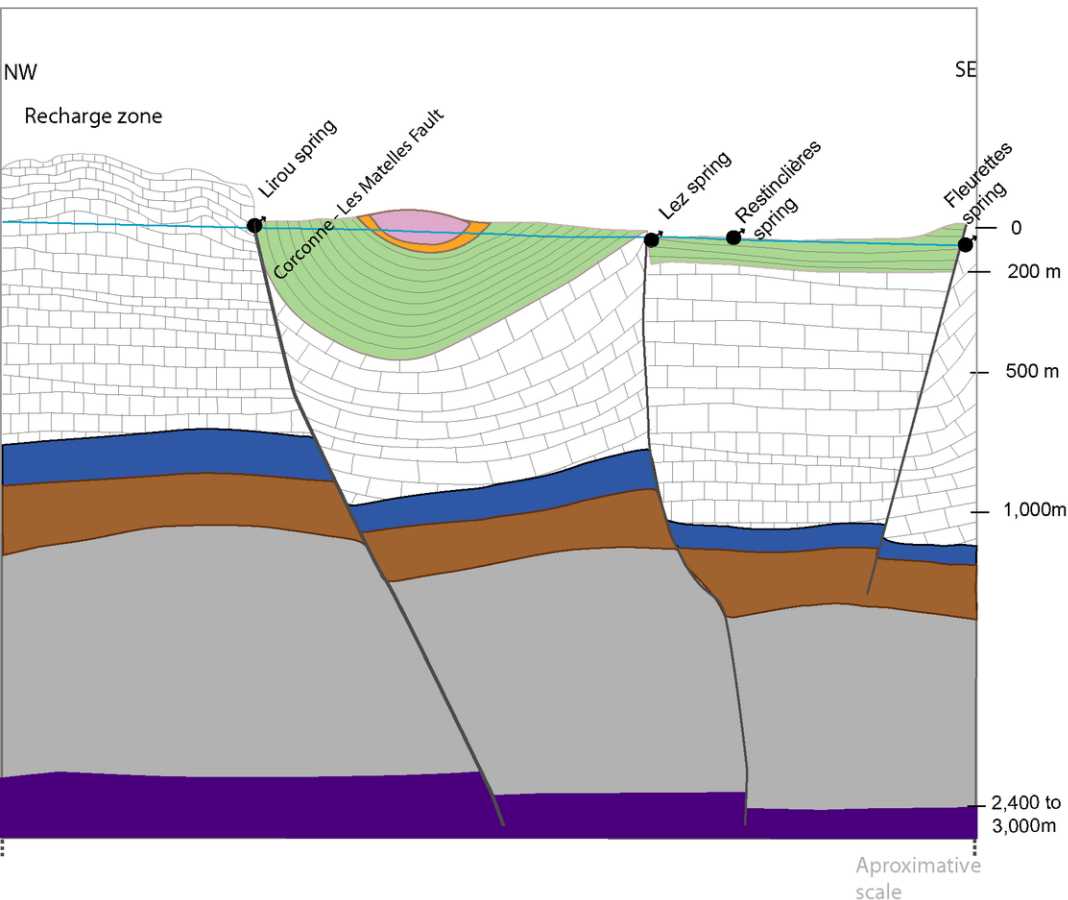
### Sampled wells

- Boinet
- Bois Rozier
- Fontanès
- Gour Noir
- Laudou
- Lavabre
- Olivier









### Rainfall stations

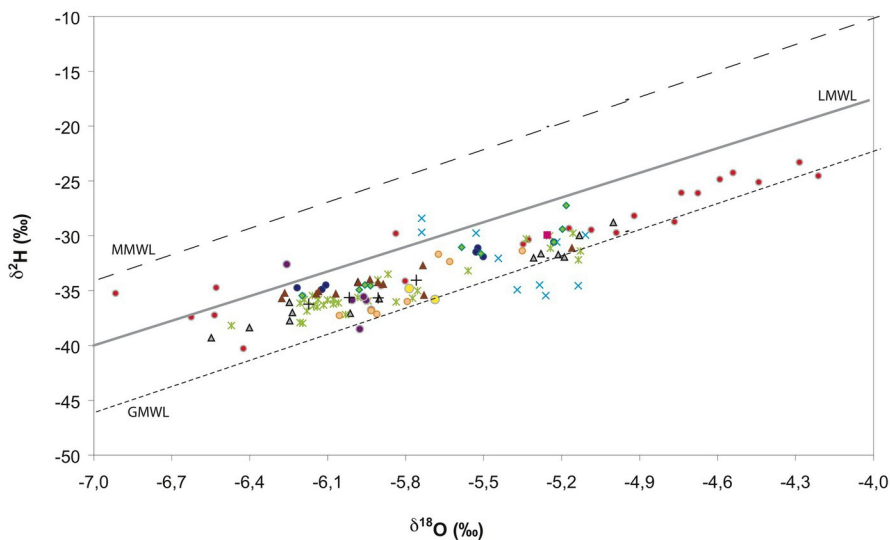
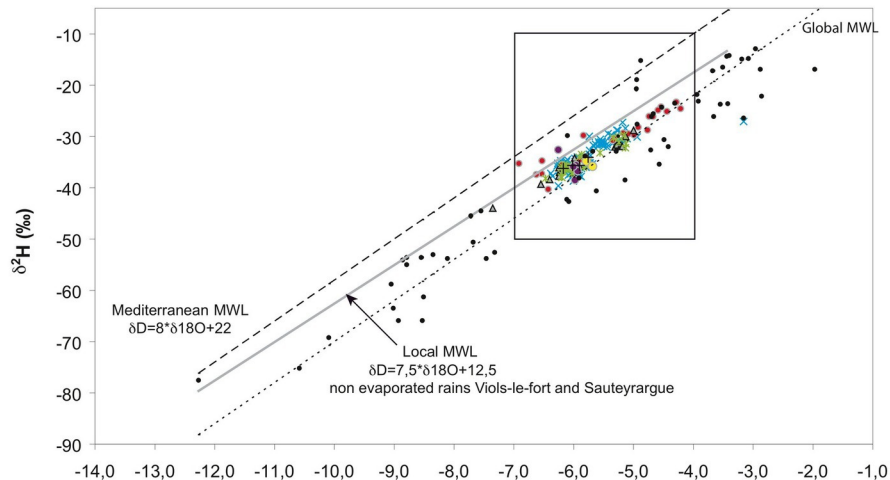
- ▮ Prades
- ▮ St Martin de Londres
- ▮ Valflaunes

France



## Stratigraphy

-  Clay and conglomerates: Oligocene
-  Marls and limestones: Eocene
-  Marls and marly-limestones: aquifer covering Valanginian
-  Limestones: Main aquifer Berriasian (Cretaceous) to Kimmeridgian (Jurassic)
-  Marls and marly-limestones: Oxfordian and Callovian
-  Limestones and dolomites: Bathonian and Bajocian
-  Marls, marly-limestones, limestones and Dolomites: Aalenian to Hettangian
-  Sandstones, clays and evaporites: Triassic



### GROUNDWATERS

#### Lez spring

- Piston Flow waters
- × High waters
- ▲ Low waters
- ◆ Dilution waters
- Dropping waters

#### Lez system

- ▲ Fleurettes spring
- Lirou spring
- × Restinclières spring
- + Veolia wells

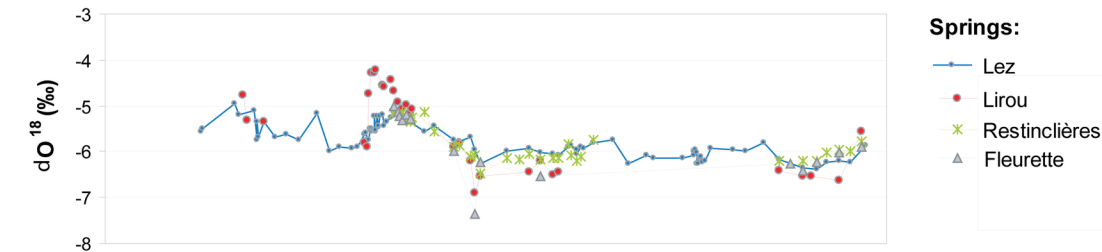
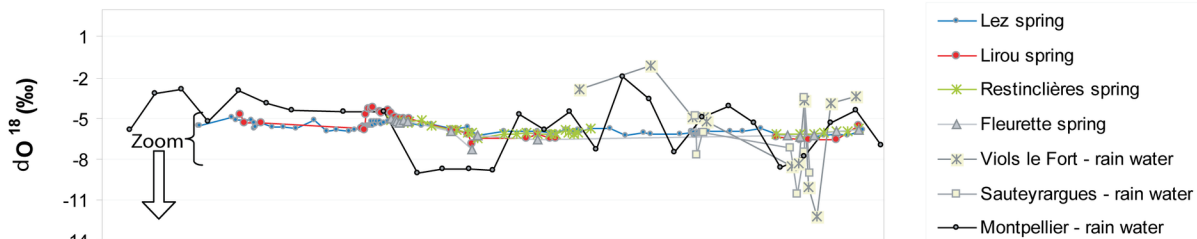
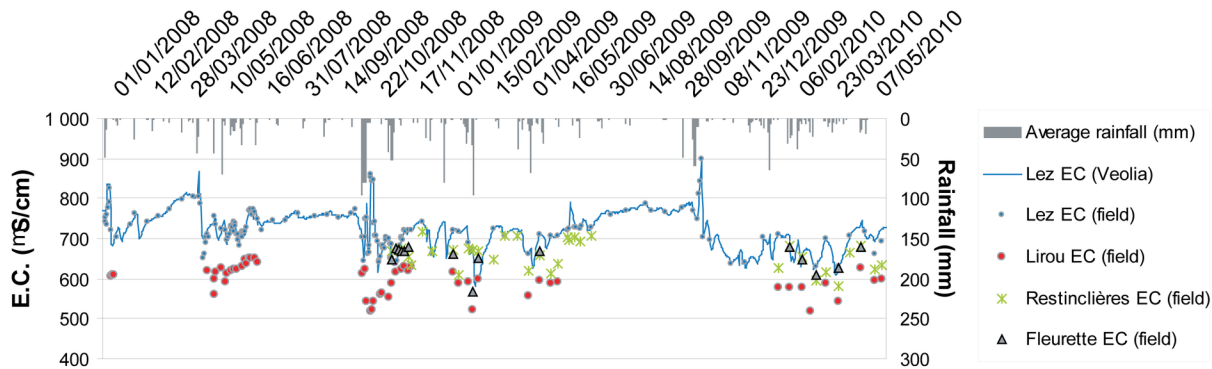
#### Other connexe systems

- Surrounding systems
- Valanginian springs and wells

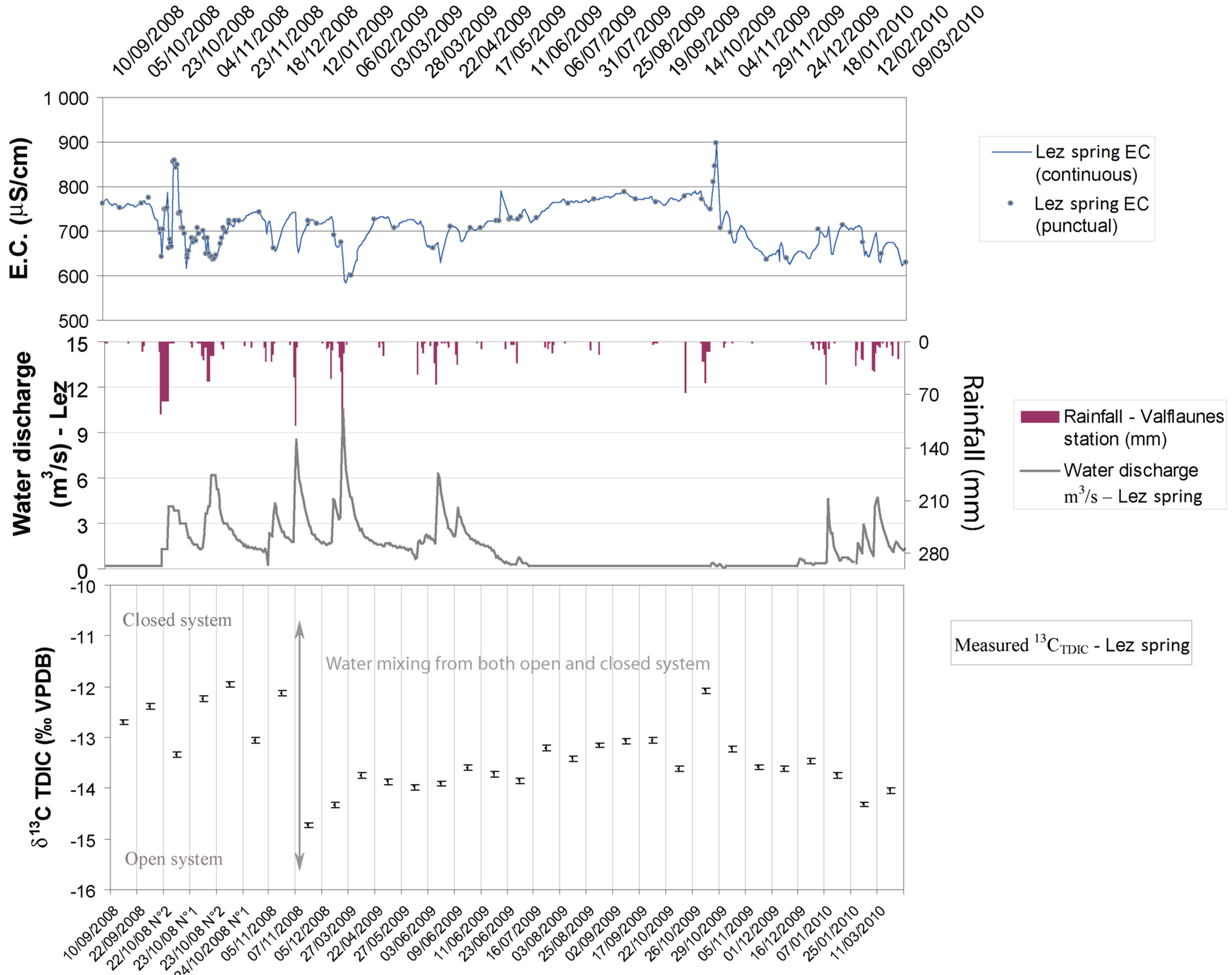
### RAINWATERS

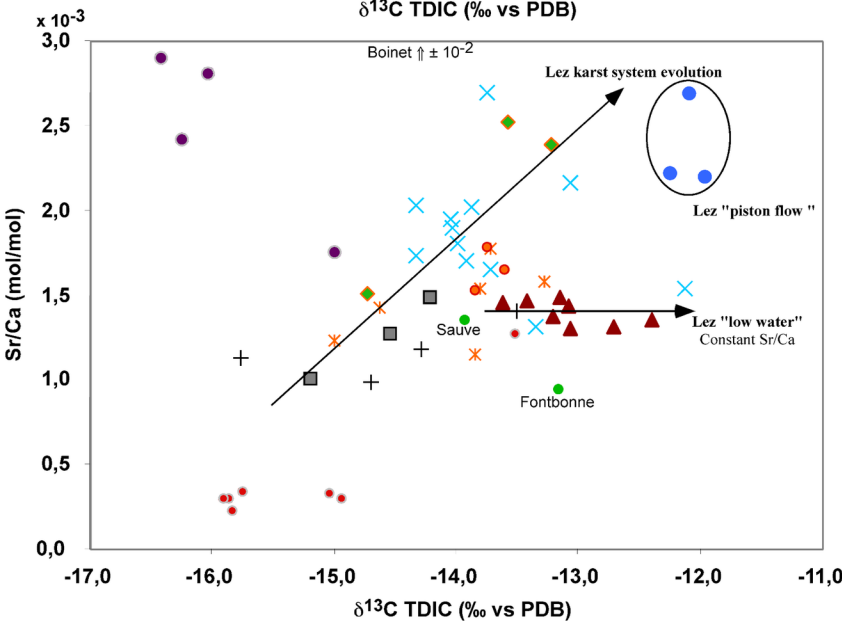
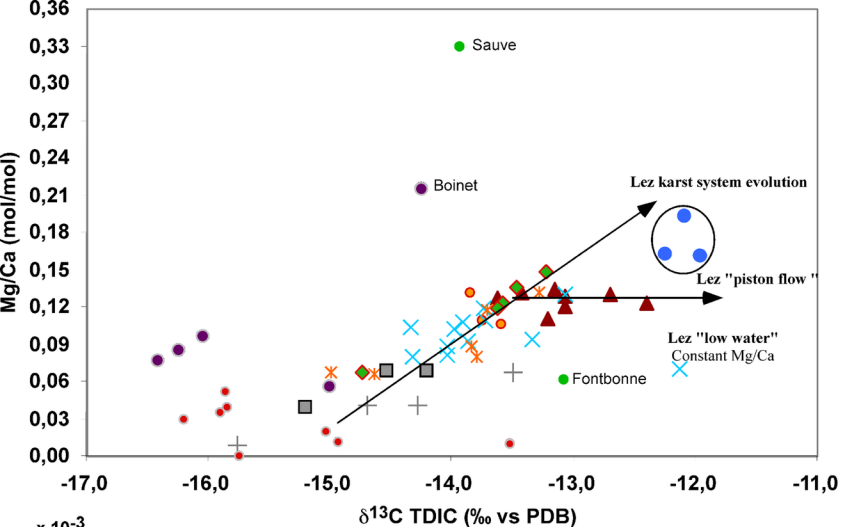
#### (upper panel only)

- Viols-le-Fort, Sauteyrargues, Montpellier

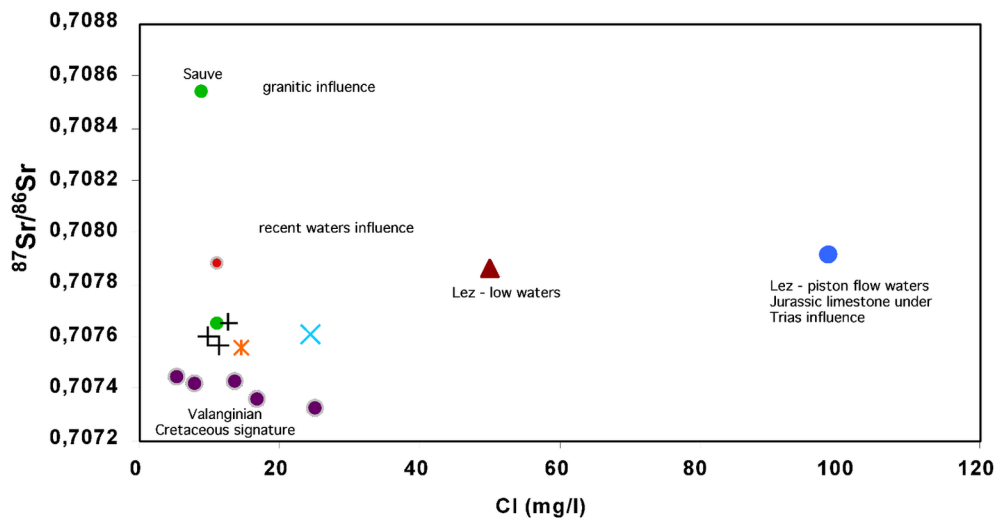
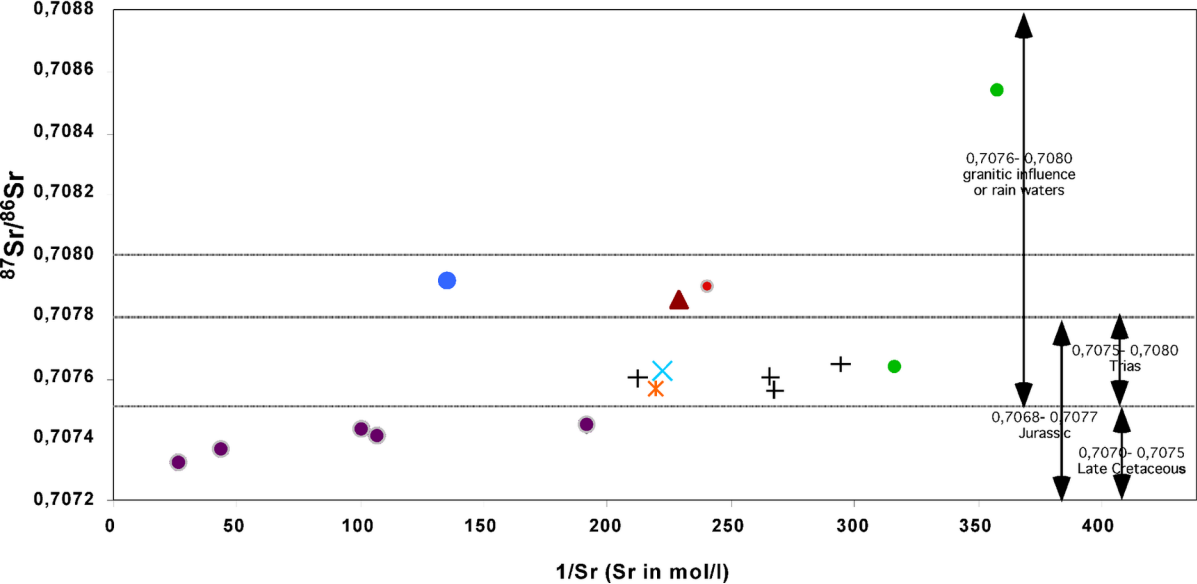




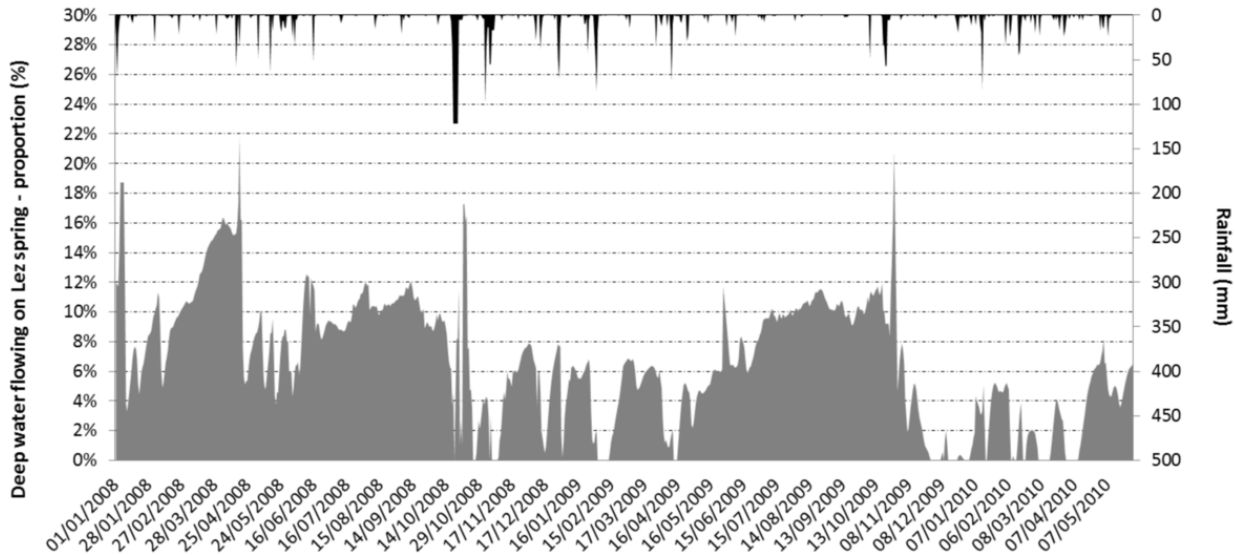




- ▲ Lez - low waters
- ◆ Lez - dilution waters
- Lirou spring
- × Lez - high waters
- + Lez KS wells
- Valanginian
- Lez - piston flow waters
- × Restinclère spring
- Others systems
- Lez - dropping waters
- Fleurette spring



- ▲ Lez - low waters
- ✕ Restinclière spring
- ✕ Lez - high waters
- Lez - piston flow waters
- Lirou spring
- + Lez KS wells
- Valanginian
- Others systems



■ Deep aquifer - proportion (%)

■ Rainfall mm (St Martin  
raingauge)

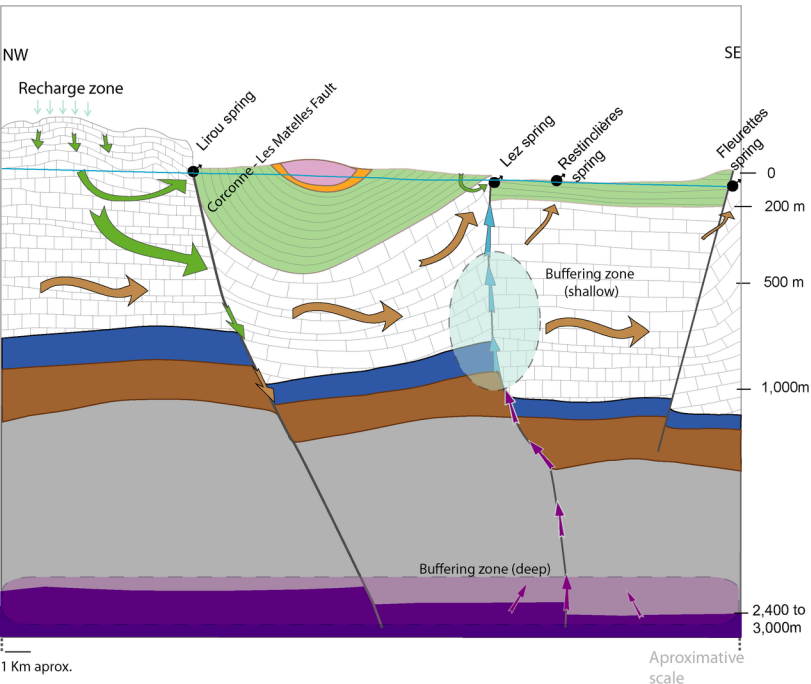
- Tracer: EC

- End-members:

- Deep aquifer: EC: 1,840.00 $\mu$ S

- Main aquifer: EC: 650.00 $\mu$ S



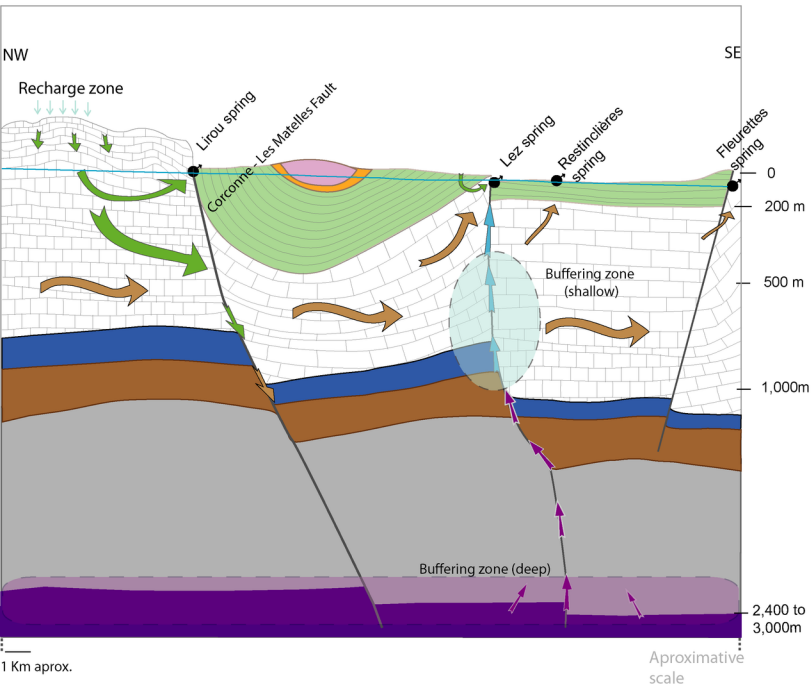


## Groundwaters (Predominant mineralization)

- Infiltration (diffuse and punctual)
- Main aquifer
- Deep rising (shallow buffering zone)
- Deep rising (deep buffering zone)

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