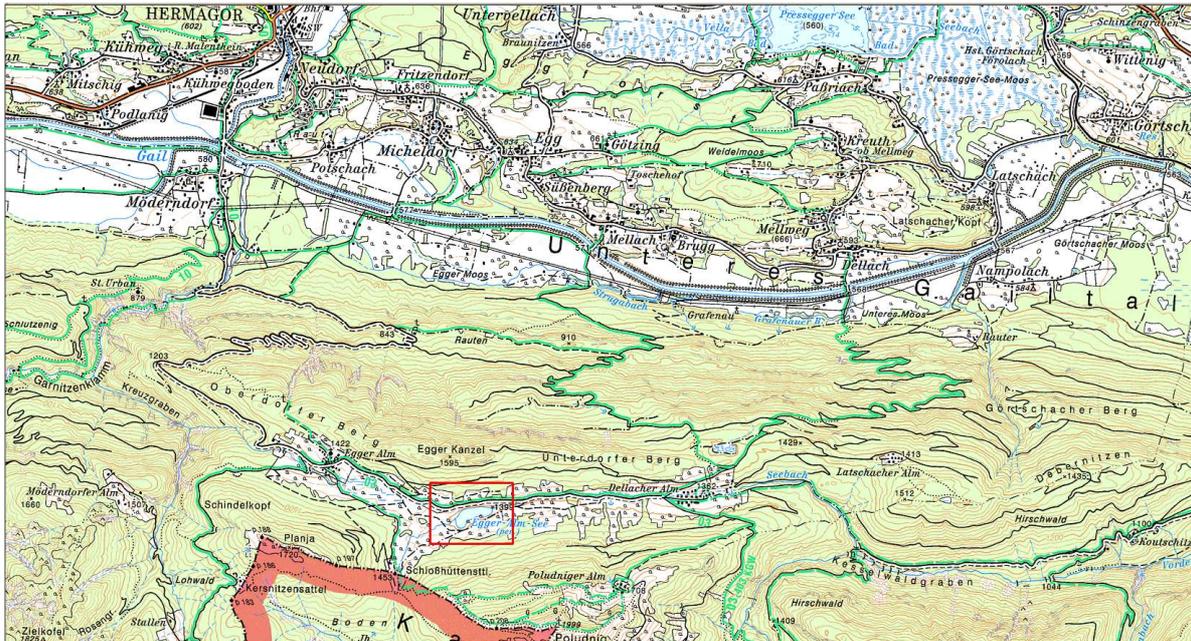


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Geotope 81: Eggeralm – Hillock meadow (Buckelwiese)



Red square: Location of the geotope; green tracks: hiking trails; ©BEV: Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement, 2005.

Access:

Start is at the small village of Möderndorf south of Hermagor following the road to Eggeralm. The road continues to Dellach Alm where close to the lake Eggeralm a hillock meadow (Buckelwiese) can be observed. Starting at Poludnigalm (1,708 m) the trail no. 408 extends to the summit of Poludnig (1,999 m).

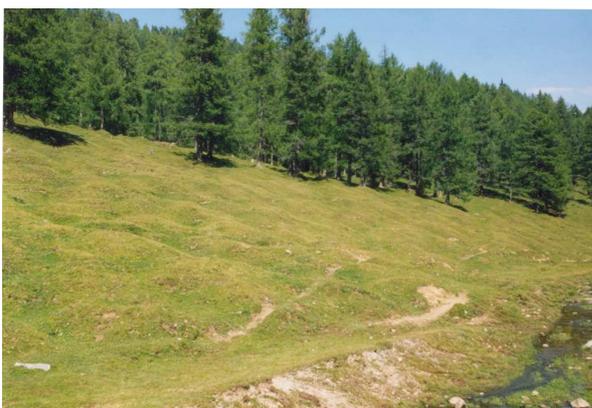
Description of the Geotope

The collection of small private wooden huts at Eggeralm resembles a small village. It originates from century-long traditions based on the rights of the farmers in the Gail Valley for grazing their cattle on the mountain pastures.

In the surroundings of the lake at Eggeralm beautiful hillock meadows occur. This landscape type is distinct but rare and belongs to the frost-patterned soil types. As the name suggests, they were formed by the alternating thawing and freezing characteristic of gelisols. Other processes of their formation include forest cleaning and windfall with remains of dead trees in the core zone. Additionally, karst processes have resulted in differential dissolution of the underlying limestones by meltwater creating small mounds and dells with a relief of more than one meter. Also the diameter of the mounds varies between one and two meters.

In earlier times hillock meadows occurred more frequently than today even in lowland valleys. The reason for the change is the mechanizing in agriculture to improve the soil surface and to leveling the surface.

The valley-like depression of Egger and Dellachalm marks a distinct fault zone which separates the Lower Paleozoic banded limestone sequence in the north from less metamorphosed rocks to the south. The fault runs in southeastern direction from the farm Burgstall via Weichslereben, Schlutzenig to Kreuzgraben. Near the Poludnigalm the intensely folded banded limestones are overlain by shales and limestones of Devonian age (416 to 359 m.y. BP). They are tectonically superimposed by black shales with intercalations of dark-grey limestones from the Silurian (444 to 416 m.y. BP). The summit is composed of an upside-down, deformed limestone syncline comprising different Devonian limestones. The deformation was the result of the Variscan Orogeny acting in the Carnic Alps some 340 million years ago.



Hillock meadows at Eggeralm