

GROTTA DI BOCCA D'ADDA

Observation point: along the path that descends to Cascina Boscopiano

Now you are in the canyon of Adda river, deeply cut into upper Triassic massive dolomites, known as "Dolomia Principale". On the right slope of the valley, you can see the noteworthy karstic spring of Bocche d'Adda, only partially caught by Bormio aqueduct, with a maximum flow rate of a hundred of liters in one second.

Nearby, sixty meters up on the slope, speleologists found and explored the karstic cave with the same name, Bocca d'Adda, which extends for approximately one kilometer into the rock of Monte delle Scale. It is a fossil cave, with a phreatic gallery rich of white and multicoloured concretions, and represents the end of a unknown fossil karstic system, perhaps widely developed through Monte Pettini - Motto delle Scale ridge. The spring beneath it testifies in fact that, at a lower level, there is still a deep water circulation, as usual into carbonatic rocks: meteoric water sinks through tectonic fractures enlarged by chemical dissolution of carbonates, running underground, down to the water-tight bottom made by silicatic rocks. Then, it springs out laterally, at the foot of the slope.

Karst is quite unusual in this sector of alpine chain, because of general lacking of carbonatic rocks; only in this part of austroalpine nappes, the mesozoic sedimentary cover is preserved, so karstic features may develop. Here, the most famous area for surface karstic morphologies is nearby, up to the valley of Braulio, at Piani di Pedenoletto and, towards Stelvio pass, at Piano delle Platigliole.