

No. 05

Bill Sadowski County Park

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Location and access

Bill Sadowski Park is on the north side of SW 176th Street between 78th and 79th Avenues, and is near the entrance to Palmer Trinity School. The rocks to be viewed are on the nature trail, which is accessed behind the office/bathroom building if coming from the car park. The trail can also be accessed from 78th Avenue.

Background

Bill Sadowski park has a hammock with a nature trail. The Hammock was heavily damaged by Hurricane Andrew in August 1992, but has now been largely repaired including new boardwalks over

In summer months application of mosquito repellent is strongly advised before visiting!

What there is to see

Karren (outcrop scale solution features on the surface of bedrock) developed on the Miami Oolite. The particularly karren here are very sharp and is referred informally as honey-comb rock or razor rock. A small cave and collapse structure can also be seen.

Rock type

"Mottled" facies of the Miami Oolite.

Landform Development (geomorphology)

Observations

Enter the trail from the office buildings. A small collapse hole or cave can be observed on the right side of the trail about 30m from the entrance to the hammock.

Continue on about 20 m, and then take the left fork in the trail and continue to the observation area where the karren can be viewed. On returning to the fork, take the other trail and follow it to the boardwalk which crosses over more examples of karren until arriving at the canal.

The karren consists of 30cm wide cylindrical solution pits and less regularly shaped solution pans which extend down 30 to 80 cm from the upper surface of the rock. Adjacent pits may be connected by tunnels giving the rocks a honeycomb appearance.

On a smaller scale the surface of the rock is characterized by smaller centimeter scale pits which give the surface a very rough and sharp texture.

Interpretation and discussion

The appearance of these karren is more complex than typical pit and tunnel karren or pinnacle karren. This may in part be due to that fact that the karren are forming on the bioturbated "mottled" facies which imparts a irregular solubility to the rock.



Figure 1 Karren with boardwalk in the background

It is also not clear if these karren are true surface karren, or if they are sub-soil karren from which the soil has subsequently been eroded. Urban development also makes it impossible to estimate the natural lateral extent of the karren.

References and further reading

- Ford, D.C. and Williams, P.W., 1989, Karst Geomorphology and Hydrology, Unwin Hyman, 601pp.
Hoffmeister, J. E., 1974, Land from the sea: The geologic story of south Florida, University of Miami Press, 143pp.