

Lycopodium spore tablets can be dissolved in water or in HCl, but not in NaOH. They have been prepared in a slightly different way compared to that described by Stockmarr (1971, 1973). The tablets are thus based mainly on sodium bicarbonate together with polyvinylpyrrolidone and polyethyleneglycol. New for this batch is the content of inulin (a polysaccharide). These materials must be carefully washed away with water and finally with diluted HCl before further treatment. The spores are acetolysed.

The spore concentration has been determined with an electronic particle counter, Coulter Counter ZB (cf. Stockmarr 1973), tube size 140 μm . 100 samples of five tablets each taken from different places in the batch were prepared by dissolving the tablets in Isoton II NaCl solution in 100 ml flasks. 40 counts each of 0.5 ml were made on each sample.

Result of the calibration (5 tablets): $X = 104242$ $s = \pm 3457$ $V = \pm 3.3 \%$

For one tablet: $X = 20848$

Mean and standard deviation for different numbers of tablets (After Maher, L., J., 1981. Statistics for Microfossil Concentration Measurements Employing Samples Spiked with Marker Grains. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology* 32:153-191.):

	Mean no. Spores	STD deviation	STD dev. %
1 tablet	20848	1546	7,4
2 tablets	41697	2186	5,2
3 tablets	62545	2678	4,3
4 tablets	83393	3092	3,7
5 tablets	104242	3457	3,3
6 tablets	125090	3787	3,0
7 tablets	145938	4090	2,8
8 tablets	166786	4373	2,6
9 tablets	187635	4638	2,5
10 tablets	208483	4889	2,3

Production

Spore tablets for calibration of pollen analyses have earlier been produced and distributed by dr Jens Stockmarr, Copenhagen. In October 1980 this business was taken over by the Department of Quaternary Geology in Lund. It is performed as an official commission approved by the University of Lund. A new batch, No. 1031, is now produced and tablets are available. The tablets were prepared, pressed and calibrated in Sweden.

Distribution and price

Lycopodium tablets will be distributed in plastic bottles with 250 tablets per bottle. The price is 500 SEK per bottle plus postage. Discount for large orders: 10% for orders of 50-99 bottles, 20% for orders of 100 bottles or more.

To order, send an email to asa.wallin@geol.lu.se and state number of bottles, name, delivery address, invoice address and very important, within the European Union, **your VAT number** (otherwise we must charge extra for taxes). We accept payment by VISA and MASTERCARD online.

Payment

An invoice will be sent together with the tablets. Do not pay until the tablets and the invoice have arrived. **The invoice No. must always be quoted with your payment.**

Contact

Please, do not hesitate to contact Åsa Wallin on asa.wallin@geol.lu.se with questions or comments.