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مركز التعليم المستمر

دورة تدريبية الاية نشر البحوث العلمية في المجالات العالمية

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مدير مركز التعليم المستمر

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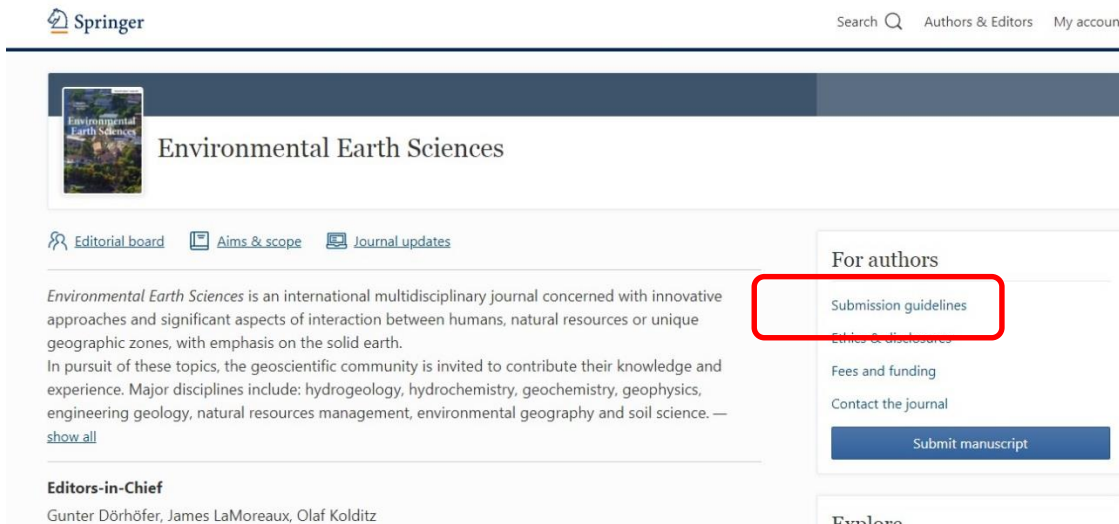
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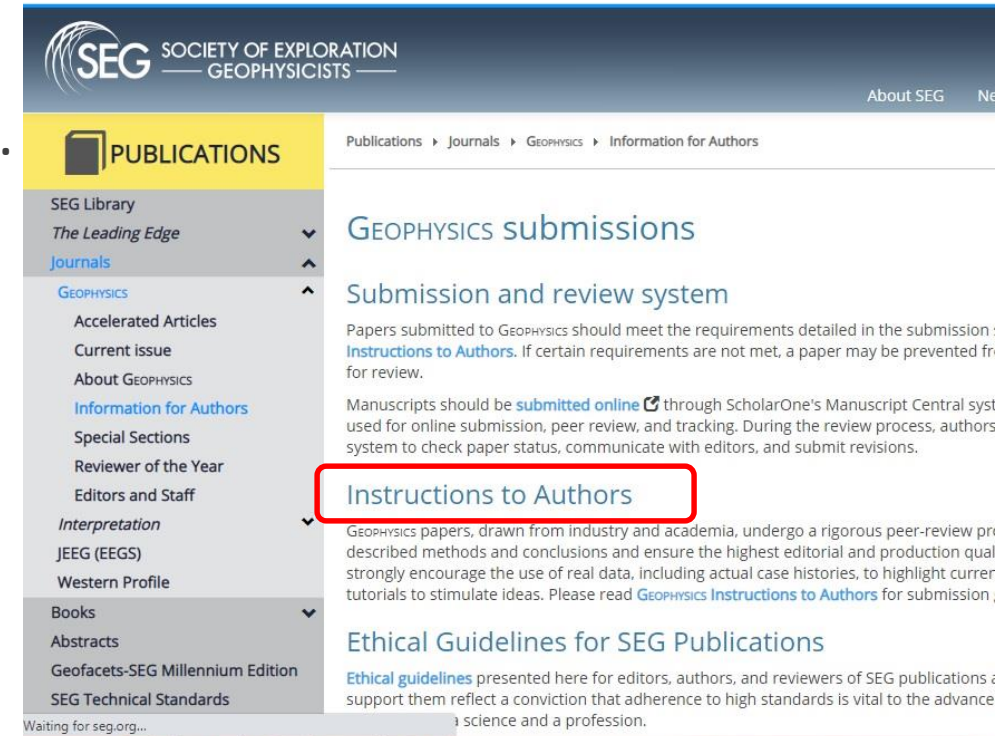
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 - [Editors-in-Chief's Comments:](#)
 - [Manuscript Submission](#)
 - [Specific remarks](#)
 - [Title page](#)
 - [Text](#)
 - [References](#)
 - [Tables](#)
 - [Artwork and Illustrations Guidelines](#)
 - [Supplementary Information \(SI\)](#)
 - [Ethical Responsibilities of Authors](#)
 - [Authorship principles](#)
 - [Compliance with Ethical Standards](#)
 - [Conflicts of Interest / Competing Interests](#)
 - [After acceptance](#)
 - [Research Data Policy](#)
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 - [English Language Editing](#)

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[Submission guidelines](#)

[Ethics & disclosures](#)

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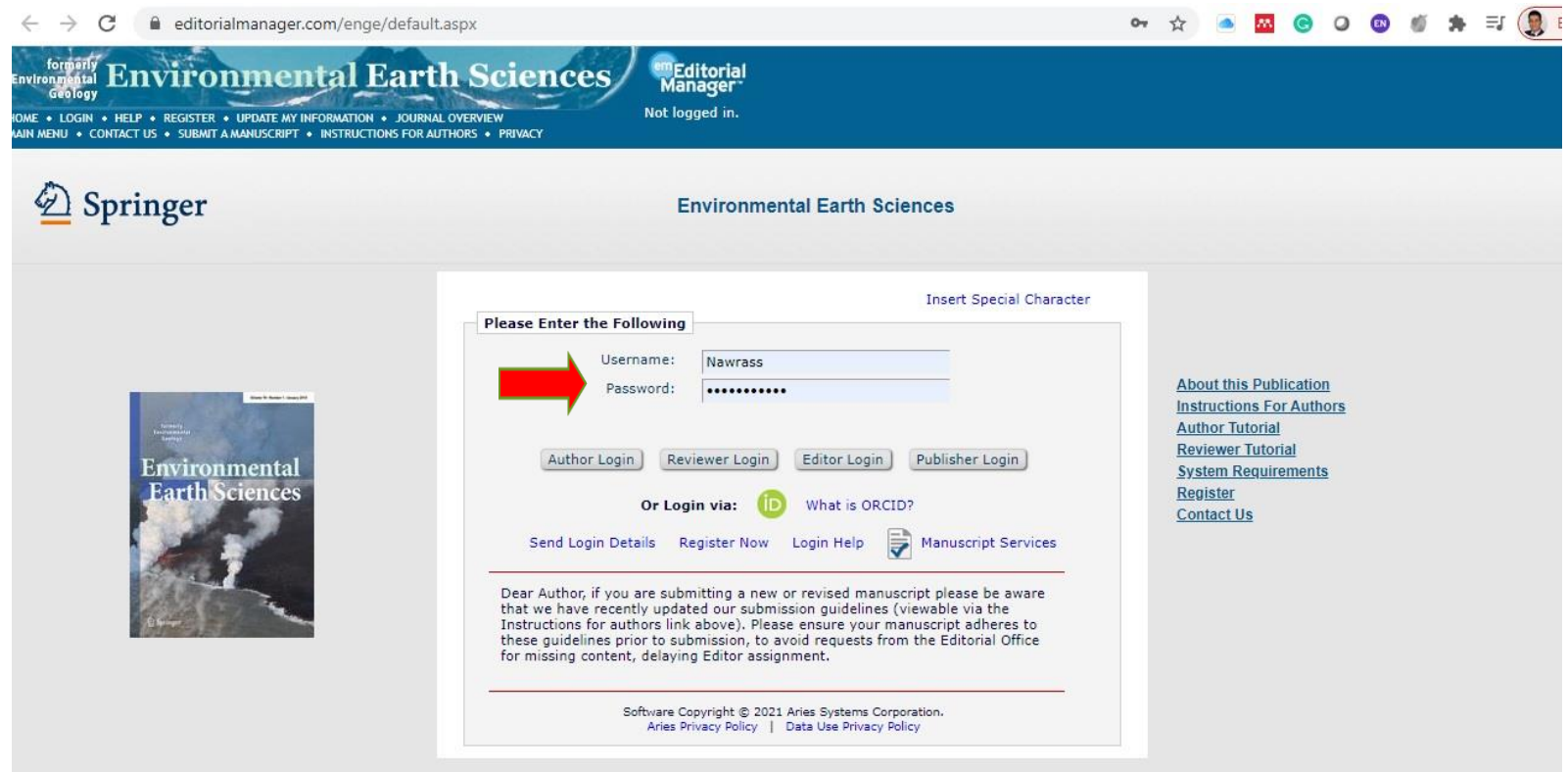
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The Dibdibba aquifer system at Safwan–Zubair area, southern Iraq, hydrogeology and environmental situation

Kareem Khwedim¹ · Michael Schneider² · Nawrass Ameen³  · Ahmed Abdulameer⁴ · Andreas Winkler²

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Abstract The objective of this research is to study the environment and hydrogeology of the Dibdibba aquifer system in the Safwan–Zubair area, southern Iraq, in relation to the study area's geology and anthropogenic activities. Ten groundwater samples were collected from Safwan–Zubair. Geochemical data, AquaChem, and GIS ArcMap (10.1) were used as tools to identify natural and anthropogenic factors that affect geochemical data. We analyzed water samples for major cations and anions, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), total uranium (TU), and heavy metals (Pb, Ni, Cr, Cd, V, Zn, As, Se, Cu, Fe, Mn) as well as the metalloid B. Groundwater composition in the area of study is classified into six types: Ca–Mg–Cl, Ca–Mg–Na–Cl, Ca–Mg–Cl–SO₄, Ca–Mg–Na–Cl–SO₄, Ca–Na–Mg–SO₄–Cl, and Mg–Ca–Cl–SO₄. The groundwater is influenced by natural factors, particularly

the concentrations of TU and major ions. The concentrations of TU and major ions in some water samples exceed limits for drinking water; however, the average of all examined heavy metals, except for Fe and B, was within the limits for drinking water, as well as the concentrations of PAHs. The potential use of this groundwater for drinking and irrigation is discussed.

Keywords Total uranium · PAHs · Heavy metals · Safwan–Zubair · Dibdibba formation · Groundwater · Irrigation

Introduction

Groundwater is an important source of water for human consumption, agriculture and industrial use. Groundwater quality is an increasing concern, particularly in semiarid areas. The scarcity of water due to low levels of precipitation is a perennial problem. Growing populations and climate change have seriously increased the demand for water across the world. New approaches in water resource planning and management are especially necessary where human consumption outstrips rainfall (Farid et al. 2013; Ma et al. 2009). Often, groundwater is the only available or the most economically viable source of fresh water (Keesari et al. 2013). With rapid industrialization,

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Keywords Total uranium · PAHs · Heavy metals · Safwan–Zubair · Dibdibba formation · Groundwater · Irrigation

Funding (information that explains whether and by whom the research was supported)

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Acknowledgments

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General hydrogeology

The depth of the water table in the zone of discharge usually does not exceed few meters, and in some places, it is <1 m. Southwest of the study area, the water table depth generally increases, reaching around 50 m at a distance of 40–50 km southwest of the discharge zone. Hydrological analyses indicate that the amount of total dissolved solids (TDS) in the groundwater varies between 3790 and 8990 mg/l (within the desert province) and generally increases toward the Jabal Sanam region (Al-Sharbati and Kh 1983).

References

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Cite references in the text by name and year in parentheses. Some examples:

Negotiation research spans many disciplines (Thompson 1990).

This result was later contradicted by Becker and Seligman (1996).

This effect has been widely studied (Abbott 1991; Barakat et al. 1995a, b; Kelso and Smith 1998; Medvec et al. 1999, 2000).

(Aghazadeh and Mogaddam 2010; Srinivasamoorthy et al. 2012; Ekwere and Edet 2012; Davraz and Oezdemir 2014).

The demand for groundwater has increased in the last decades, particularly in arid regions (Titus et al. 2009; Abiye and Leshomo 2013). However, there are two major issues affecting water quality of groundwater resources: salinization and environmental pollutants.

The increase in levels of salinity in groundwater is a major issue in water quality. Salinity levels are influenced by human activities such as irrigation where, for example, seawater intrusion is a response to excessive extraction from coastal aquifers. Excessive salinity in groundwater limits its use for human consumption and agriculture.

Environmental pollutants, such as heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and uranium, need more attention in water quality assessments. Hydrochemical and environmental analyses have been found to be very useful in assessing critical hydrological aspects such as groundwater quality (Glynn and Plummer 2005; Edmunds 2009; Herczeg and Leaney 2011; Keesari et al. 2013). This is particularly important where groundwater is being used for irrigation and human consumption. For instance, the effects of its chemical constituents on both soils and plants may limit the use of groundwater for irrigation (Srinivasa Gowd 2005; Raju 2007).

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- Andreoli MAG, Hart R, Ashwal L, Coetzee H (2006) Correlation between U, Th content and metamorphic grade in the western Namaqualand belt, South Africa, with implications for radioactive heating of the crust. *J Petrol* 47(6):1095–1118

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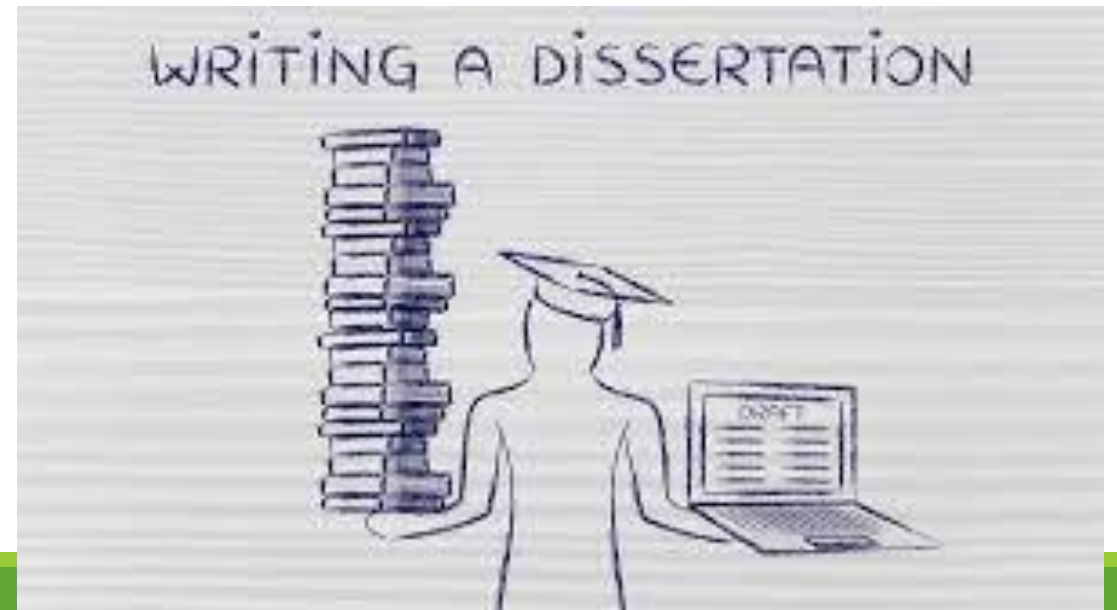
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Table 5 Suitability of groundwater for agricultural purpose

Parameters in groundwater in the study area	Limits	Water class	Groundwater samples
SAR (Richards 1954) (1.77–4.84)	<10	Excellent	10
	10–18	Good	–
	18–26	Permissible	–
	>26	Doubtful	–
EC (Richards 1954) (4650–10,880 µS/cm)	<250	Excellent	–
	250–750	Good	–
	750–2000	Permissible	–
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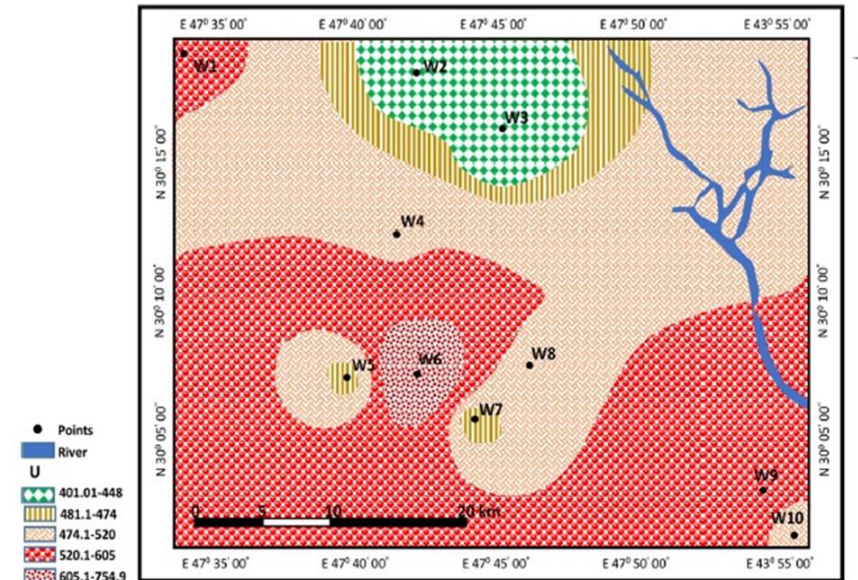


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