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Characterization of the Hammamet basin aquifer (North-East of Algeria) through geochemical and geostructural methods and analysis

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Abstract

Morphostructural, hydrogeological and hydrochemical approaches were applied to Hammamet plain and its surrounding mountains in the eastern part of Algeria to characterize the groundwater system and its potential for exploitation. The Essen and Troubia Mountains form the natural boundaries of Hammamet plain. The objective of this study is to utilize remote sensing techniques combined with structural analysis, hydrogeology and hydro-geochemistry to identify the potential fracture zones for groundwater in the strongly fractured and karstified deep aquifers. The delineated zones of potential groundwater resources are verified by detailed hydrogeological field surveys.

From a hydrogeological point of view, these two mountains, constitute a unit limited by faults oriented ENE-WSW, NNW-SSE and NNE-SSW. Specifically, fractures of the latter two directions influence the compartmentalization and the hydrogeological functioning of this unit. According to the degree of fracturing and/or karstification, two basic types of aquiferous behaviour have been distinguished: fissured aquifer (Essen Mountain and Troubia Mountain), and porous aquifer (Hammamet plain).

The study of the hydrochemical characteristics of groundwater samples shows that the majority of samples are mainly of HCO₃⁻ and Ca²⁺ water type. The ionic speciation and mineral dissolution/precipitation was calculated with the PHREEQC software. The chemical composition of the water is influenced by the dissolution and/or precipitation processes during the water–rock interaction and by the cationic exchange reactions between groundwater and alluvial sediments. The high content of CO₂ in the water samples suggests that they circulate in a geochemical open system. The isotopic analysis of some groundwater samples shows a similarity with the meteoric waters, which reflect their short residence time and a low evaporation of the infiltrated water.

Key words: *Algeria, aquifer, Hammamet plain, hydrogeology, isotopes, remote sensing*

INTRODUCTION

Fractures play an important role in groundwater resources and contaminant hydrogeology. Fractures can enhance or reduce fluid flow and form conduits or barriers to groundwater flow [CAINE, FOSTER 1999; HEYNEKAMP *et al.* 1999]. Fractures are even more

significant for groundwater flow in fault zones. Fractures control whether the fault core will act as a conduit, barrier, or a combined conduit-barrier system. This work studies the role and influence of different types of lineaments on the groundwater in the semi-arid Hammamet plain of northeastern Algeria.

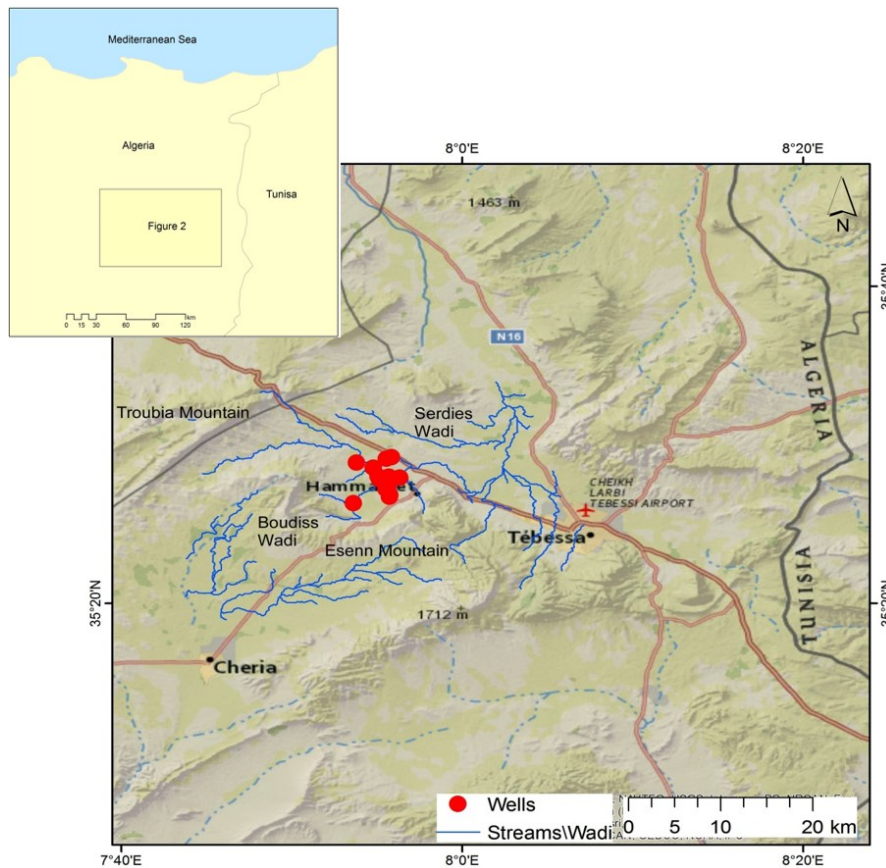


Fig. 1. Map showing location of study area and groundwater wells; source: own elaboration based on ESRI data

The study area extends from Troubia Mountain in the North-West, to Essen Mountain to the South (Fig. 1). There are several aquifers in this area (Maastrichtian and Plio-Quaternary Formations), the more important one is the Plio-Quaternary. This aquifer consists of alluvial sediments, gravels, silts, and lacustrine limestone, constituting an unconfined aquifer. This is the main aquifer that supplies drinking water to the local population. Overexploitation of this aquifer has caused degradation of the water quality.

Annual precipitation in this area ranges between 200 and 600 mm, and as such the area is considered semi-arid. In summer, temperature can rise up to 45°C. This situation of dryness accentuates the draw-down of water resources especially during the last decade, as the replenishment of this aquifer is very low. From 2003 to 2014 the annual precipitation varied from 200 mm to 600 mm [DERIAS, TOUBAL 2010; DJABRI 1987; FEHDI *et al.* 2008; ROUABHIA *et al.* 2009] (Fig. 2).

In this study, remote sensing data are used for mapping geology and faults, as well for extraction of fractures. Fractures are integrated with hydrological and hydrogeological data to delineate, zones of potential groundwater resources. In addition, chemical processes that are responsible for the groundwater chemistry are identified. The reconstruction of the origin and recharge mechanisms of groundwater is analysed using isotopic data.

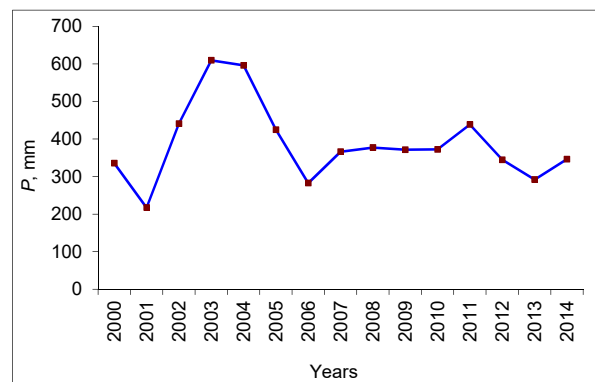


Fig. 2. Annual variation of precipitation (P) in the study area (2000–2014); source: own study

GEOLOGICAL AND HYDROGEOLOGICAL SETTING

Hammamet area is a subsidence basin, which was formed during the end of Luthitien. It is a part of a narrow trough, which forms a small portion of the great Mio-Plio-Quaternary tectonic depression of Tébessa-Morsott [FEHDI *et al.* 2008]. The basin is entirely filled by alluvial sediments. The bedrock consists of Cenomanian marly rocks and Cretaceous marly Turonian rocks.

The Plio-Quaternary and Quaternary terrains occupy the central part; these formations consist of

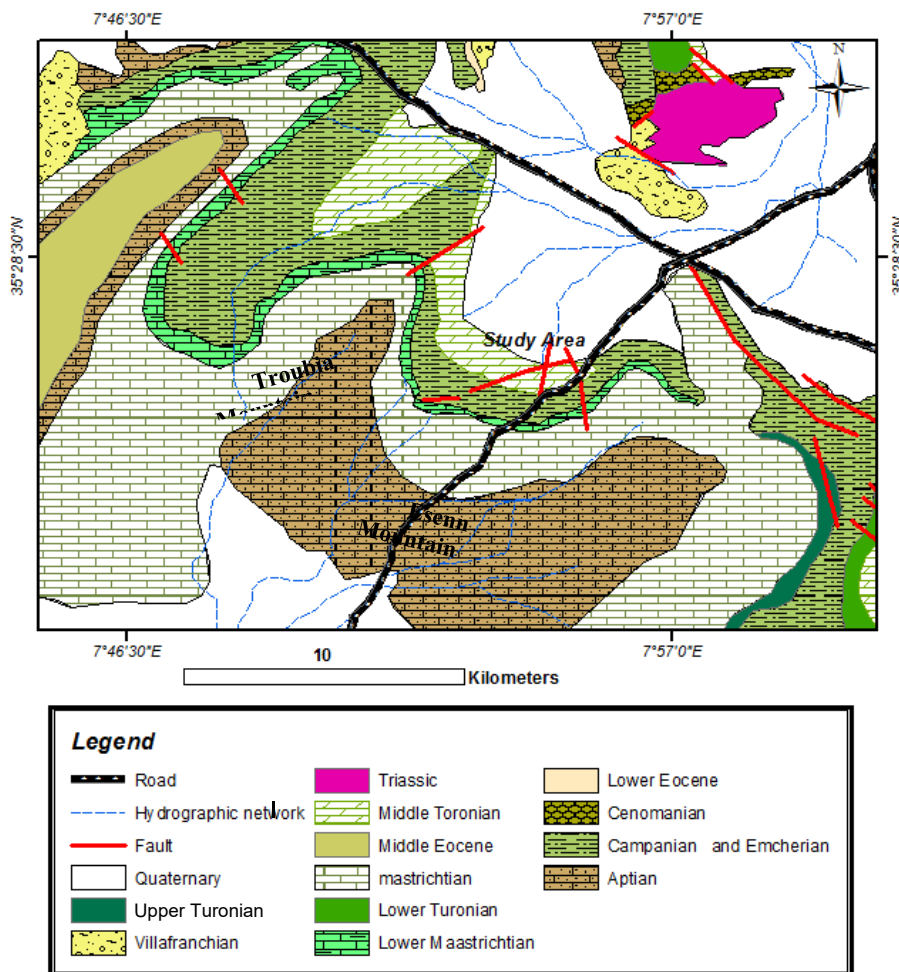


Fig. 3. Geological map of the study area compiled from interpretation of satellite images and previous work; source: CHELIH [2012]

actual and recent alluvial deposits, conglomerates, gravels, sandstones, etc. Analysis of the hydrostratigraphic column of the studied area suggests the presence of two aquifers including a formation of Plio-Quaternary age [DJABRI 1987]. This large alluvial aquifer occupies the major part of the tectonic depression, limited in the North and South by two large faults of W–E orientation (Fig. 3). It is composed of diverse deposits such as alluvial fans, silts, calcareous crust, conglomerates, and gravels.

This aquifer plays an important role in the drinking water supply for the local population, where it undergoes a strong usage, which generates an anthropogenic pollution.

Different wells have been drilled into the alluvial aquifer, supplying water mainly for irrigation, the groundwater levels are approximately 20 to 30 m below ground surface. Average water level fluctuations are up to 1.5 m between dry and wet seasons. The general direction of groundwater flow is from east to west. Average permeability in the sandy levels is around $10^{-3} \text{ m}\cdot\text{day}^{-1}$ [DJABRI 1987]. The aquifer is mainly recharged by precipitation at Djbel Troubia and Djbel Es Senn, at some places wadies may recharge or drain this aquifer.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

REMOTE SENSING DATA

For this work, published geological maps were scanned, imported into ArcGIS 10.4.1 and georeferenced to the UTM/WGS84 projection system. This study used multispectral, Landsat 8, Operational Land Imager (OLI) satellite data. The OLI sensor data have refined Landsat heritage bands with an improved signal-to-noise ratio. One image of Landsat 8 data for path 193 and row 35 was used in this study. This data were acquired on August 2, 2016. The OLI data were distributed as geometrically corrected and radiometrically calibrated 16-bit images for each band. The calibrated data were converted to at-sensor radiance using specified Landsat 8 gain and offset values in the metadata. The resulting reflectance data were used to create false colour composite images, that are the simplest and most commonly used methods for multi-spectral satellite data such as Landsat and ASTER [KHAN, GLENN 2006] Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) version 4 [<http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org/>] digital elevation model (DEM) data were also used for extracting lineament.

The lineament extraction and identification were carried out in three steps. First, faults were manually traced and lineaments were extracted from hillshade images generated from SRTM DEM. Manmade features such as roads, ditches and other linear structures were excluded from the interpreted lineaments. Next, the extracted lineaments were overlain on satellite images for verification and finally, some of the extracted lineaments were confirmed in the field.

HYDROGEOLOGY

Measurements of groundwater levels is important for several reasons, including a hydrograph plot, and the construction of a piezometric map that is necessary to determine the aquifer extension and direction of flow in the aquifer. In the study area 14 wells that are distributed in the plain (Plio-Quaternary) of Hammamet were used for water level measurement. The depths of the groundwater level varied between 50 and 150 m (ANRH/National Hydraulic Resources Agency Tebessa, Algeria).

Groundwater samples were also collected for geochemical analysis at different depths from these 14 production wells penetrating the shallow aquifers. Field surveys and chemical analyses were performed in June 2014. Portable equipment was used to obtain in situ readings of temperature, pH, and electrical conductivity (EC). At the same time, samples of non-acidified water in 500 ml polyethylene bottles were taken. The field campaigns took 3 or 4 days; during this period, the samples were kept at a low temperature in a portable refrigerator. The HCO_3^- content was determined as total alkalinity, by titration with HCl 0.05 N and methyl orange as indicator. The cations were analysed by atomic absorption spectrometry (Ca and Mg) and by emission spectrometry (Na and K). A visible light spectrophotometer was used to analyse SO_4 by turbidimetry and the SiO_2 , by colorimetry. The concentrations of Cl^- ions were determined by argentometric titration, using $AgNO_3$ 0.01 N and 5% K_2CrO_4 as indicator. The hydrochemical calculations were performed using the DIAGRAMME program [SIMLER 2004], and PHREEQC [PARKHURST, APELLO 1999]. The saturation indices of calcite, dolomite, aragonite and gypsum, and the partial equilibrium pressure of CO_2 were determined. Saturation indices express the extent of chemical equilibrium between water and mineral phases in the matrix of the aquifers and can be regarded as a measure of dissolution and/or precipitation processes relating to the water-rock interaction [DREVER 1988].

The degree of saturation can be evaluated according to the following equation:

$$SI = \log (K_{IAP}/K_{sp}) \quad (1)$$

Where: K_{IAP} = ionic activity product of the ions, K_{sp} = solubility product of the mineral, SI = saturation index.

If $SI < 0$, the water is undersaturated with respect to a certain mineral, which means that the water is still able to dissolve that specific mineral;

If $SI > 0$, the water is oversaturated with respect to that mineral and the mineral will precipitate;

If $SI = 0$, the water is in equilibrium.

Fourteen samples were analysed for oxygen and hydrogen isotopes using a mass spectrometer at the University of Montpellier, France. For oxygen isotopes ($\delta^{18}O$), one microliter of water was heated to high temperature to obtain vapours that were injected into the mass spectrometer for analysis. The same technique was undertaken for hydrogen isotopes (δ^2H).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

REMOTE-SENSING ANALYSIS

Landsat 8 and SRTM DEM helped in extracting lineaments and lithology [TUMARE *et al.* 2014]. Analyses show that lineaments oriented in NE–SW and E–W directions are most dominant. Most of these lineaments are associated with geomorphological features and control the drainage patterns. Extracted lineaments are mainly located in the Essen Mountain and Troubia regions along the border of Hammamet plain (Fig. 4).

HYDROGEOLOGY

Piezometric measurements of fourteen wells of Plio Quaternary Formation are plotted as contours and demonstrate a convergence of flow directions towards the South-East and the West of Hammamet plain [CHELIH 2012]. The flow is diverging in the North suggesting that groundwater is generally moving in two directions: South-West to North-East and West to the East (Fig. 5).

CLASSIFICATION OF THE WATER SAMPLES

The chemical analysis of the studied samples is presented in Table 1. Water samples are classified according to their chemical composition using the Piper diagram [PIPER 1944]. This classification is based on the concentration of the four major anions bicarbonate, sulphate, chloride and nitrate and on the four major cations sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium [BEN *et al.* 2016].

The Piper diagram in Figure 6 shows that the overall chemical character falls within a fresh groundwater end-member $CaHCO_3$ water type with low salinity. The water type varies due to the influence of many factors.

Firstly, the water rock interaction of the aquifer material and secondly, the influences of human activities such as irrigation return flow [BOUSSAHA, LAIFA 2017]. The result is a rapid spatial increase in sodium,

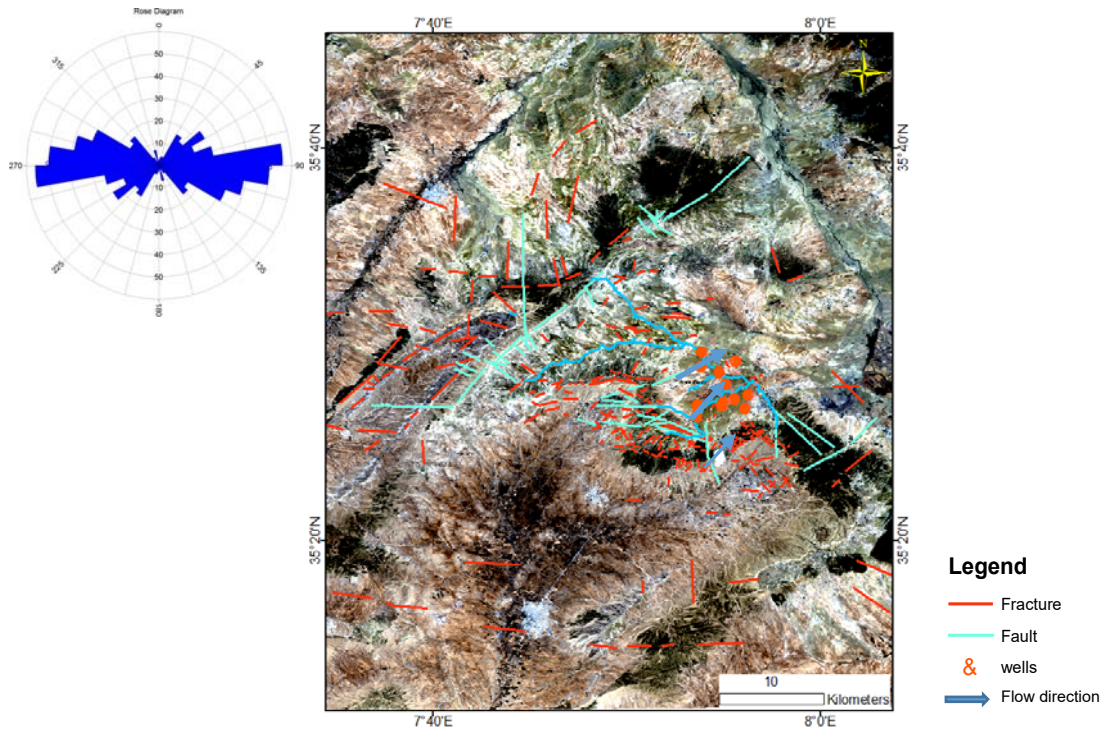


Fig. 4. Landsat 8 true colour combination, bands 3-2-1 displayed as red-green-blue; Extracted lineaments, faults, water wells and groundwater flow direction are also shown; source: own elaboration

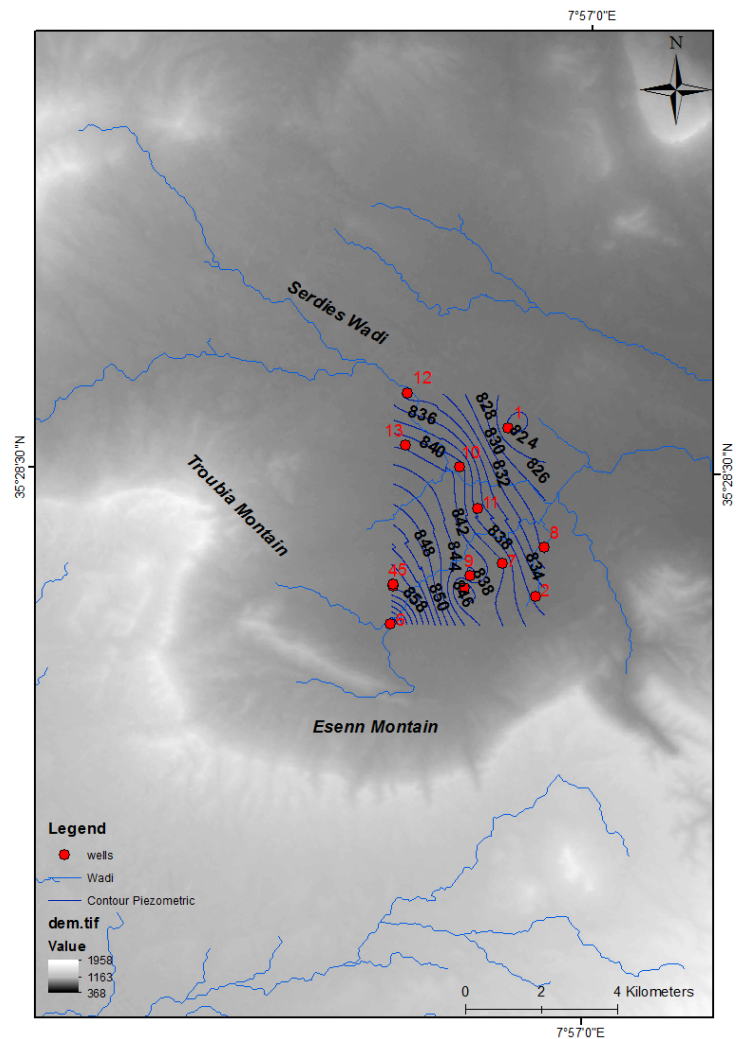


Fig. 5. SRTM DEM image with groundwater level contours (piezometric data) showing the flow direction of groundwater in Hammamet plain; source: own elaboration

Table 1. Chemical composition of groundwater from Hammamet aquifer

Wells	pH	T °C	EC μS·cm ⁻¹	Salinity g·dm ⁻³	Ca ⁺	Mg ²⁺	Na ⁺	K ⁺	HCO ₃ ⁺	Cl ⁻	SO ₄ ²⁻
					mg·dm ⁻³						
P1	7.71	22.6	887	0.4	106.6	27.77	80.8	2.3	219.0	84.99	237.0
P2	7.86	21.4	1593	0.8	112.2	28.20	42.3	5.3	242.0	279.7	256.0
P3	7.62	20.4	877	0.4	158.0	29.66	49.0	6.0	241.0	139.9	200.9
P4	7.73	19.7	654	0.3	96.19	29.66	45.98	5.6	235.0	142.1	223.7
P5	7.55	20.2	777	0.3	92.12	32.40	48.6	5.0	209.1	27.99	231.0
P6	7.45	20.0	1061	0.3	78.55	34.03	64.0	4.0	226.0	91.99	223.3
P7	7.20	22.3	688	0.4	118.1	35.90	77.0	8.2	224.0	224.2	254.0
P8	7.36	22.6	881	0.4	88.17	38.89	57.0	6.3	248.0	79.99	217.1
P9	7.36	22.6	1364	0.7	93.78	54.94	60.2	7.8	214.3	214.9	278.2
P10	7.18	20.0	1770	0.8	162.1	55.10	70.2	5.2	221.0	244.1	265.6
P11	7.73	22.1	2240	1.3	224.4	87.52	50.2	7.1	305.2	409.9	271.3
P12	7.30	22.2	1800	0.8	256.0	35.60	57.6	4.1	225.0	71.0	258.0
P13	6.80	22.0	1500	0.6	305.0	35.60	44.88	3.2	220.0	35.5	272.0
P14	6.30	20.0	2110	0.2	84.0	61.50	110.0	10.2	255.0	24.85	264.7

Explanations: T = temperature, EC = electrical conductivity.
 Source: own study.

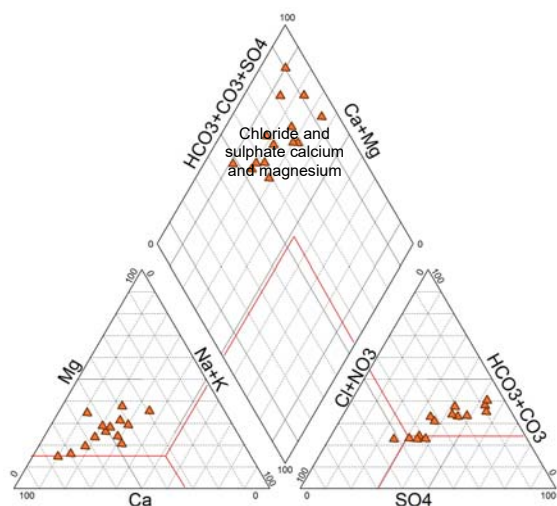


Fig. 6. Water chemistry data plotted on Piper diagram for studied samples; source: own study

sulphate and chloride concentrations in the aquifer (Tab. 1).

Interaction between groundwater and surrounding host rocks is the main process responsible for the observed chemical characteristics of groundwater in the Hammamet plain [FEHDI *et al.* 2008]. Evaluation of such processes requires the description of the mean mineral assemblage of the rocks in which water is located, and the identification of chemical reactions responsible for the geochemical evolution of groundwater [SALAMEH 2001]. From available studies in the literature, such reactions generally include chemical weathering of rock-forming minerals, dissolution-precipitation of secondary carbonates and ion exchange between water and clay minerals [SALAMEH 2001].

Generally, two approaches, mathematical and graphical, are used for the resolution of hydrogeochemical interactions. The mathematical approach consists of the calculation of saturation indices with respect to mineral phases, thus providing some indica-

tion upon the equilibrium state between groundwater and surrounding minerals rock assemblage [ROUA-BHIA *et al.* 2009].

For this work different parameters were calculated based on the chemical analyses of the water samples including pH-equilibrium, pCO₂, ionic strength and saturation indices for calcite, aragonite, dolomite, gypsum, and anhydrite (Tab. 2).

Table 2. Saturation indices (SI) of groundwater from the Hammamet aquifer

Wells	SI calcite	SI dolomite	SI gypsum	SI aragonite	SI anhydrite
P1	0.58	0.37	-0.97	0.43	-1.19
P2	0.78	0.76	-0.93	0.63	-1.15
P3	0.54	0.15	-0.88	0.39	-1.10
P4	0.34	-0.04	-1.03	0.19	-1.25
P5	-0.20	-1.06	1.03	0.35	-1.25
P6	0.64	0.66	-1.08	0.49	-1.30
P7	0.21	-0.15	-1.11	0.06	-1.33
P8	0.10	-0.51	-0.92	-0.04	-1.14
P9	0.20	-0.15	-1.08	0.06	-1.30
P10	0.14	-0.15	-0.98	0	-1.20
P11	0.19	-0.28	-0.79	0.05	-1.01
P12	0.99	1.37	-0.68	0.84	-0.90
P13	0.79	0.44	-0.51	0.64	-0.73
P14	-0.86	-2.06	-1.04	-1.01	-1.26

Source: own study.

The results show saturation with respect to calcite, dolomite, and aragonite but under saturation with respect to gypsum, anhydrite. The distribution of the computed pCO₂ values (on a log scale) for all the groundwater samples is shown in Figure 7.

Partial CO₂ pressures vary between 1013.25^{-2.8} and 1013.25^{-1.0} kPa, being significantly higher than that of the atmosphere (1013.25^{-3.5} kPa) (Fig. 7). Such elevated values suggest that the groundwater system is open to soil CO₂ [BENRABAH *et al.* 2016]. In order to determine the source (anthropogenic or biogenic origin) of dissolved CO₂, e¹³C analyses are needed.

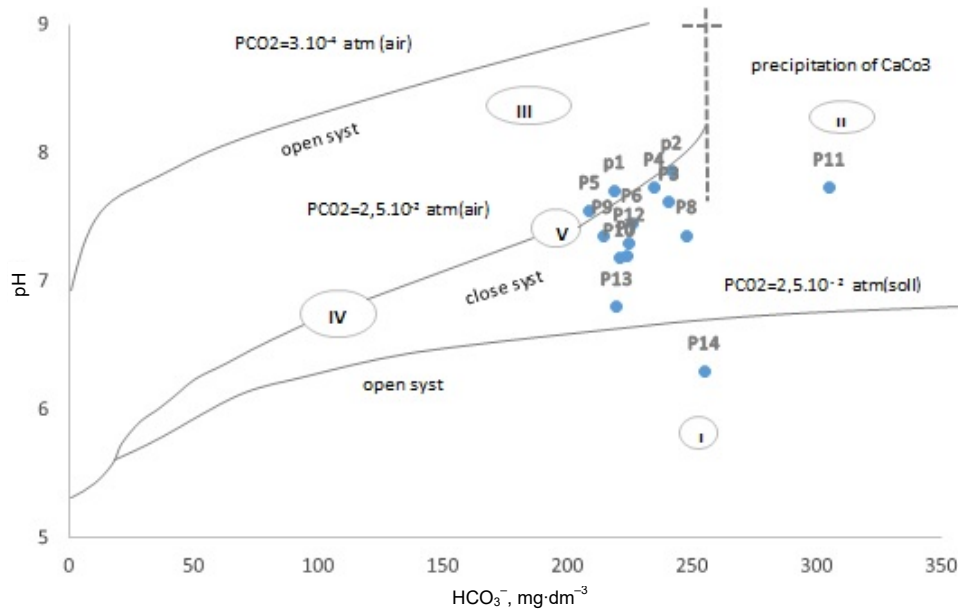


Fig. 7. Plot of pH versus HCO_3^- for studied samples: I, III: open system, IV, V: close system, - - - precipitation of HCO_3^- ; source: own elaboration

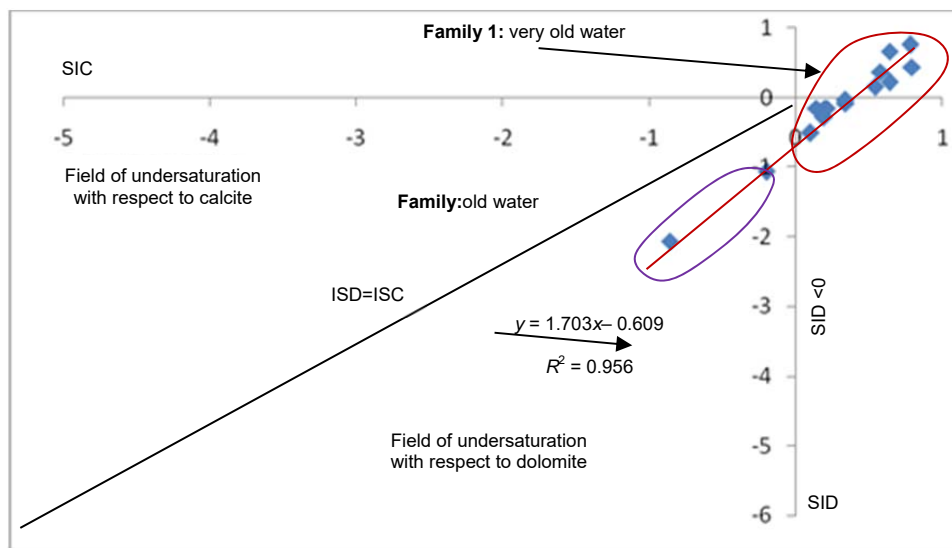


Fig. 8. Analysed samples plotted on saturation index calcite (SIC) versus saturation index dolomite (SID) diagram; source: own elaboration

Unconfined or confined aquifers also play a role in the exchange of CO_2 [SAYAD *et al.* 2017]. In the case of our study, the acquisition of CO_2 is an open system for water samples (P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P9, P14), and a closed system for water samples (P7, P8, P10, P12, P13). This is based on pH versus HCO_3^- plot shown in Figure 7. In Figure 7, domains I and III represent hydrogeological open systems with respect to carbon. Therefore, they offer excellent circulation conditions and good infiltration of water masses in the soil (Fig. 7).

In Figure 8, saturation indices of calcite versus saturation indices of dolomite are plotted, the representative points of the water samples are aligned generally along a regression line ($\text{SID} = 1.703\text{SIC} - 0.609$)

SID = saturation index dolomite,
 SIC = saturation index calcite.

Most of these water samples are over saturated with respect to calcite ($\text{SI calcite} > 0$) and under saturated with respect to dolomite ($\text{SI dolomite} < 0$) with the exception of two samples where SI calcite and SI dolomite are negative. These wells are: P5 ($\text{SI calcite} = -0.20$; $\text{SI dolomite} = -1.06$) and P14 ($\text{SI calcite} = -0.86$; $\text{SI dolomite} = -2.06$).

In general the water of the study area can be divided into two groups according to the values of SI dolomite and SI calcite.

Family 1 (SI dolomite > -0.5)

It covers seven water samples P1, P2, P3, P4, P6, P12 and P13. The saturation indices of these samples have calcite and dolomite very close to equilibrium state.

Family 2 (*IS dolomite* < -0.5)

The saturation indices of these samples reflect an under saturation with respect to dolomite and an oversaturation with respect to calcite.

ORIGIN AND RECHARGE MECHANISM OF GROUNDWATER

Stable isotopes of oxygen and hydrogen in groundwater of an active hydrological cycle reflect the initial isotopic composition of the recharging rainwater. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^2\text{H}$ can be used to discern a meteoric line, the slope of which is characteristic of the hydrological system [FEHDI *et al.* 2015].

For this work $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^2\text{H}$ are used to establish the local meteoric water lines, that are obtained from the Global Network for Isotopes in Precipitation database managed by the AIEA, for a period of 6 years (September 1992–December 1998) for Tunis–Carthage and Sfax meteorological stations (Tunisia).

The meteoric waterlines defined for Sfax and Tunis have been calculated using a least squares regression [CELLE-JEONATAN *et al.* 2001]:

$$\delta^2\text{H} = (6.4 \pm 0.5) \delta^{18}\text{O} + (5.2 \pm 1.7) \quad (2)$$

Tunis (1992–1998, $n = 26$)

$$\delta^2\text{H} = (6.7 \pm 0.3) \delta^{18}\text{O} + (3.5 \pm 1.3) \quad (3)$$

Sfax (1992–1998, $n = 45$)

The water lines of Tunis and Sfax for the period 1992–1998 are similar and thus seem to be representative of the precipitation isotopic content in Tunisia. The comparison between the Tunisia and the Global Meteoric Water line [CRAIG 1961] shows evidence of the evaporation that affects Tunisian precipitation.

Stable isotope compositions of water collected from wells and springs are presented in Table 3. Stable isotope values were found to vary between -8.13

Table 3. Isotopic composition of groundwater from the study area

Samples	Wells and springs	Z, m	δO^{18}	δH^2
1	Bouakous Spring	950	-8.12	-51.75
2	Wadi Bouakous	910	-8.13	-51.30
3	Ammacha Spring	1000	-7.79	-51.05
4	P1	909	-7.96	-47.44
5	P2	883	-7.94	-52.38
6	P3	985	-7.81	-51.60
7	P4	850	-7.86	-55.23
8	P5	850	-7.86	-49.32
9	P6	885	-7.61	-49.11
10	Gaagaa Spring	1200	-8.03	-52.92
11	P7	840	-7.46	-50.41
12	P8	869	-7.93	-52.63
13	P9	870	-7.40	-48.25
14	P10	860	-7.35	-51.10

Source: own study.

and -7.35 in O^{18} with a mean of $-7.803 \pm 0.2\text{‰}$ ($n = 14$) and from -55.23 to -47.43 in H^2 with a mean of $-51.88 \pm 0.15\text{‰}$ ($n = 14$).

The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^2\text{H}$ contents for all the investigated groundwater samples are plotted in the classical $\text{O}^{18} - \text{H}^2$ diagram, together with the global meteoric water line ($\delta^2\text{H} = 8 \delta^{18}\text{O} + 10$), defined by CRAIG [1961] and the local meteoric water lines (Tunis and Sfax).

Figure 9 shows that nearly all of the groundwater samples are plotted close to the Tunis, Sfax Meteoric line, and GMWL, and indicate no significant isotopic modifications by evaporation, which means that the recharge of the aquifer is quite rapid, and the recharging meteoric water does not occupy the soil zone of the recharge area for a long time [BAGHDADI *et al.* 2013].

The similarity of $\delta^2\text{H}$ versus $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ for both wells and spring groundwater samples is not surprising in karst regions and suggests the rapid recharge (fast infiltration process) of the precipitation to the groundwater throughout highly karst carbonate at high eleva-

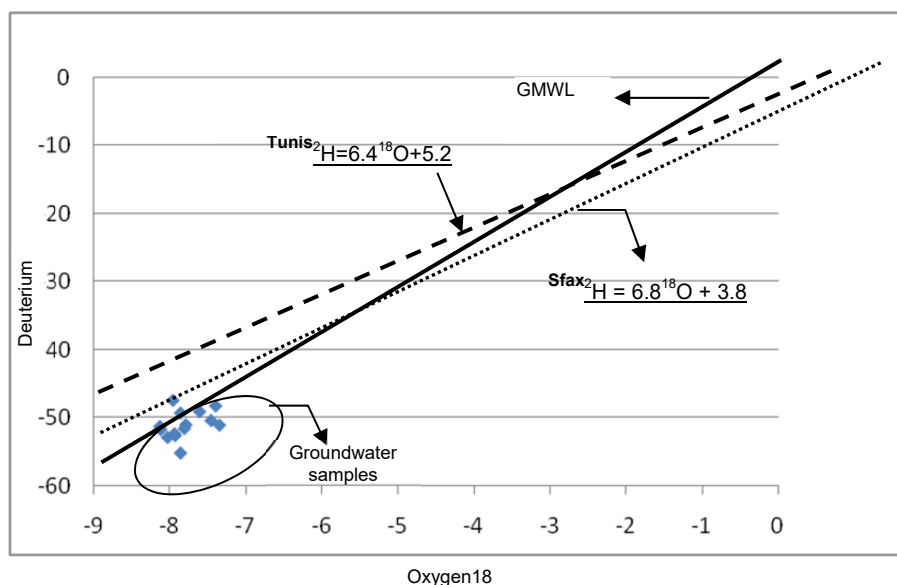


Fig. 9. $\delta^2\text{H}$ vs $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ Relationship for groundwater in the study area; source: own study

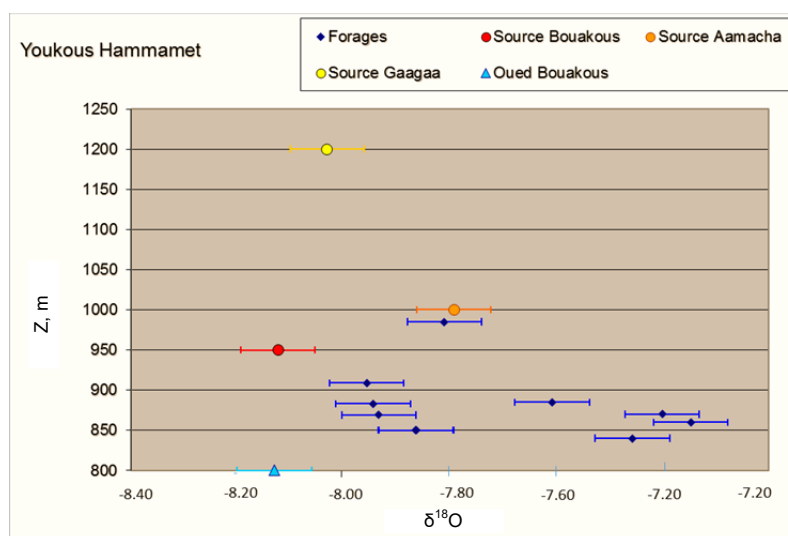


Fig. 10. Altitude Z and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ relationship of the studied water samples; source: own study

tions (Fig. 10) and indicates that groundwater is of meteoric origin [ARAGUAS, DIAZ-TEJEIRO 2005]. The deuterium excess values indicate that the study area is recharged by locally originated atmospheric water with low evaporation rates.

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of the fractures suggest that the mountains of Essen and Troubia, which are the natural boundaries of Hammamet plain, have faults and joints of different sizes and a presence of four principal directions of fractures (NE-SW, E-W, NW-SE and N-S). Fractures oriented in NNW-SSE and NNE-SSW directions influence the compartmentalization and the hydrogeological functioning of geological unit.

The overall chemical character of the groundwater of the study area falls within the fresh groundwater end-member: CaHCO_3^- water type with low salinity concentrations. The chemical composition of the water is influenced by the dissolution and/or precipitation processes during the water-rock interaction and to the cationic exchange reactions between groundwater and alluvial sediments. The high content of CO_2 in the waters samples suggests that water circulate in a geochemical open system.

All the underground flow systems are fed by meteoric water. The studied water samples collected from springs and wells are from recharge at the highest elevations.

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Charakterystyka poziomu wodonośnego w basenie Hammamet (północnowschodnia Algieria) metodami i analizami geochemiczną oraz geostrukturalną

STRESZCZENIE

Celem scharakteryzowania systemu wód podziemnych oraz możliwości eksploatacji tych wód zastosowano metody morfologiczne, hydrogeologiczne i hydrochemiczne na równinie Hammamet i otaczających ją górach we wschodniej części Algierii. Góry Essen i Troubia tworzą naturalną granicę równiny Hammamet. Przedmiotem badań była identyfikacja możliwych stref szczelin w silnie spękanym i głębokim, krasowym poziomie wodonośnym z zastosowaniem technik teledetekcji w połączeniu z analizą strukturalną, hydrogeologią i hydrogeochemią. Wytyczone strefy potencjalnych zasobów wód gruntowych weryfikowano w szczegółowych hydrogeologicznych badaniach terenowych.

Z hydrogeologicznego punktu widzenia wymienione góry stanowią jednostkę ograniczoną przez uskoki ułożone wzdłuż linii ENE-WSW, NNW-SSE i NNE-SSW. Szczeliny w dwóch ostatnich kierunkach wpływają na podział i hydrologię tej jednostki. Według stopnia spękania i/lub postępu procesów krasowych wyróżniono dwa główne typy poziomów wodonośnych: poziom spękany (góra Essen i góra Troubia) oraz poziom porowaty (równina Hammamet).

Badanie hydrochemicznych właściwości próbek wody gruntowej wykazało, że są one zdominowane przez HCO_3^- i Ca^{+2} . Skład jonowy i procesy rozpuszczania/wytrącania obliczano za pomocą programu PHREEQC. Na skład chemiczny wody wpływają procesy rozpuszczania i precypitacji w czasie oddziaływań między wodą a podłożem skalnym oraz wymiana kationów między wodą gruntową a aluwialnymi osadami. Duże stężenie CO_2 w próbkach wody sugeruje, że krąży ona w systemie otwartym. Analiza izotopowa niektórych próbek wody wykazuje ich podobieństwo do wód opadowych, co uwidacznia się w ich krótkim czasie retencji i niewielkim parowaniu wód infiltracyjnych.

Słowa kluczowe: Algieria, Hammamet, hydrogeologia, izotopy, poziom wodonośny, teledetekcja