

Brief Report

Higher Water Yield but No Evidence of Higher Flashiness in Tropical Montane Cloud Forest (TMCF) Headwater Streams

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Abstract: There have been conflicting findings on hydrological dynamics in tropical montane cloud forests (TMCFs)—attributed to differences in climate, altitude, topography, and vegetation. We contribute another observation-based comparison between a TMCF (8.53 ha; 1906 m.a.s.l.) and a tropical lowland rainforest (TLRF) (5.33 ha; 484 m.a.s.l.) catchment in equatorial Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. In each catchment, a 90° v-notch weir was established at the stream's outlet and instrumented with a water-level datalogger that records data at 10-min intervals (converted to discharge). A nearby meteorological station records rainfall at the same 10-min intervals via a tipping bucket rain gauge connected to a datalogger. Over five years, 91 and 73 storm hydrographs from a TMCF and a TLRF, respectively, were extracted and compared. Various hydrograph metrics relating to discharge and flashiness were compared between the TMCF and TLRF while controlling for event rainfall, rainfall intensity, and antecedent moisture. Compared to the TLRF, storm-event runoff in the TMCF was up to 169% higher, reflecting the saturated conditions and tendency for direct runoff. Instantaneous peak discharge was also higher (up to 6.6x higher) in the TMCF. However, despite high moisture and steep topography, stream responsiveness towards rainfall input was lower in the TMCF, which we hypothesise was due to its wide and short catchment dimensions. Baseflow was significantly correlated with API20, API10, and API7. Overall, we found that the TMCF had higher runoff, but higher moisture condition alone may not be sufficient to govern flashiness.

Keywords: TMCF; tropical; montane; forest; flashiness; hydrograph; streamflow; runoff



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1. Introduction

Mountainous tropical rainforests are known to be flashy and to respond to even few millimetres of rain [1–4]. Detailed hydrograph analyses in these catchments have, however, been limited in number due to challenges in expecting storm occurrences and in the collection of storm-event stream water samples [5]. With advancements in sensor technology and automatic datalogging, detailed investigations on the rise and fall of stream water levels have been made possible [6–11]. At the storm-event scale, Shamsuddin et al. [12] found higher stream flashiness in a young forest plantation compared to that in a mature tropical forest. Nainar et al. [13] found high flashiness in tropical rainforest streams, as did past studies [1,2]; and that post-logging regeneration may restore water resource and flood attenuation capabilities of tropical forests.

While knowledge of tropical forest hydrology (including detailed hydrograph analyses) has been established over the past three decades, knowledge of the hydrological

characteristics of tropical montane cloud forests (TMCFs) still trails behind that of tropical lowland rainforests (TLRFs). Compared to TLRFs, TMCFs possess unique hydrological dynamics. Due to high altitudes and mountainous terrain, rainfall is higher and more frequent [14–17]. At the vegetation level, frequent horizontal precipitation could mean that there is reduced effective interception. Frequent fog and cloud result in condensation on surfaces (leaves, stems, soils, rocks, etc.) and reduced solar radiation. This translates to lower vapour-pressure deficit, lower leaf-water potential, lower evapotranspiration, and constant saturated conditions when compared to lowland rainforest [18–20]. For these reasons, the primary mechanism for runoff generation is expected to be saturation-excess instead of Hortonian overland flow. The soil layer may be thinner and poorly developed with abundant parent material, which is characteristic of high-altitude mountainous terrain. These characteristics typically translate to higher stream flashiness and runoff compared to in lowland terrains.

Although such characteristics are generally true for TMCFs, they are broad generalisations. Hydrological dynamics are known to vary depending on altitude, topography, and climatic zones. For example, East Andean TMCFs show wetter conditions and less seasonal variation with altitude [15]. With regards streamflow, although land cover governed streamflow dynamics especially at downstream areas, forest streams in higher elevation were subjected to greater seasonality [15]. In other studies, the authors found it impossible to balance the water budget, resulting in higher output than input [15,21,22]. Bruijnzeel et al. [23] suggested that the high moisture input and low water loss may result in unusually high rainfall-runoff ratios. Although such wet conditions typically point to saturation-excess overland flow, others found that streamflow in TMCFs was primarily sustained by shallower soil water [14,24,25].

Considering the diverse findings from sporadic studies, there is still a need to document hydrological observations in TMCFs from various regions covering differing elevations, vegetation, climate, and geology. In this article, we offer another rainfall and runoff observation in TMCFs. Five years of rainfall and streamflow data from two headwater catchments—A TMCF and a TLRF located along the Crocker Range of Sabah, Malaysian Borneo—Were compared. Due to challenges in obtaining continuous streamflow data in these remote locations, the overall water yield and runoff coefficient were not calculated. Instead, the emphasis was placed on storm-event hydrological dynamics. We compared hydrograph characteristics between the TMCF and the TLRF to determine water yield, peak discharge, flashiness, and catchment moisture, as well as the role of rainfall and antecedent wetness in governing these hydrograph characteristics. Specific questions were as follows: (i) How does storm-event water yield differ between a TMCF and a TLRF catchment? (ii) How do peak discharge and flashiness compare between a TMCF and a TLRF? (iii) How different is the influence of antecedent moisture on streamflow dynamics (water yield, peak discharge, and flashiness) between a TMCF and a TLRF?

2. Study Area

Both catchments are nested within the Crocker Range which is located slightly inland along the west coast of Sabah state (TMCF, ~39 km from the coast; TLRF, ~13 km from the coast) and are mountainous (TMCF, 1906 m.a.s.l.; TLRF, 484 m.a.s.l.). The TMCF catchment is located in the Gunung Alab Substation, Tambunan district; while the TLRF catchment, in the Inobong Substation, Penampang district (Figure 1). Both catchments are on the leeward side, but the TMCF catchment is closer (<1 km away) to the ridge/peak of Mount Alab. Infrastructures (offices, accommodation, an education centre, forest trails, and sheds) and access roads are present at the Gunung Alab Substation, but the TMCF catchment itself is an undisturbed montane forest catchment. Similarly, part of the area near the TLRF (Inobong Substation) had been cleared to build basic facilities and an access road, but the TLRF catchment itself remain undisturbed. It is one of the few remaining undisturbed hill dipterocarp forests in the area with emergent trees still present. The catchments and their surrounding forest reserves, as well as other substations along the Crocker Range Park, are

administered by Sabah Parks—a governing body that oversees recreational and research activities in selected nature parks in Sabah. The reader is referred to Sabah Parks [26] for more information.

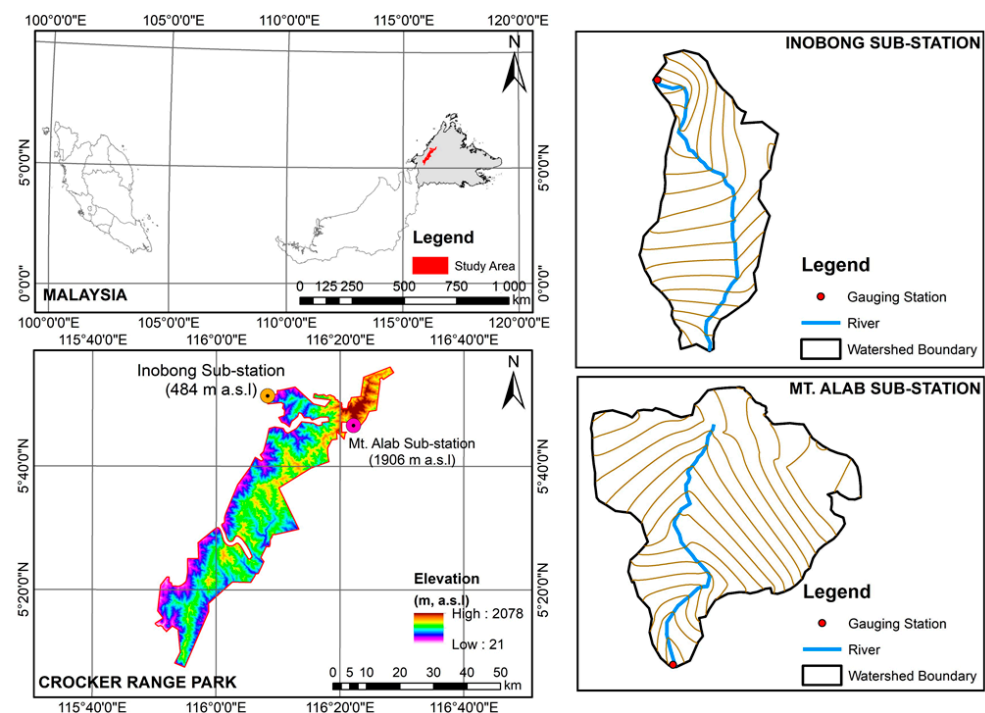


Figure 1. Study area.

The general lithology of Mount Alab (TMCF) is sandstone and mudstone of the Trusmadi association. Its main soil units consist of Gleyic and Orthic Acrisols, Gleyic Podzol, humic Gleysol, Dystric Histosol, and Lithosol. In Inobong (TLRF), the lithology comprises sandstones and mudstones of the Crocker association with Orthic Acrisol, Chromic and Dystric Cambisols, and Lithosol, as main soil units [27]. Soils in the TMCF are of the silty clay, silty clay loam, and silt loam texture, with an average bulk density of 0.840 g cm^{-3} and average unsaturated hydraulic conductivity, k , of $2.22 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm s}^{-1}$. In the TLRF, the soil texture is loam and sandy loam, with an average bulk density of 0.748 g cm^{-3} and k of $9.62 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm s}^{-1}$. Although both catchments are mountainous, the TMCF has a higher proportion of steeper slopes (Table 1).

Table 1. Proportion of slopes in the TMCF and the TLRF.

Slope(°)	Inobong		Alab	
	Area (ha)	Area (%)	Area (ha)	Area (%)
≤10	0.11	2.56	0.47	5.52
11–20	0.86	20.00	1.35	15.84
21–30	2.54	59.07	3.85	45.18
31–40	0.71	16.51	2.75	32.27
41–50	0.08	1.86	0.1	1.17
≥50	0	0.00	0.002	0.02

The state of Sabah has a tropical equatorial climate where it is hot and humid throughout the year (annual mean temperature of $26\text{--}28^\circ\text{C}$; annual rainfall of 2400 mm) without a distinct wet and dry season [28,29]. However, the west coast (location of the study catchments) receives higher and more frequent rainfall in May and October–November following the Northeast and Southwest monsoons, respectively. Due to the mountainous topography and elevation, the catchments were also subjected to localised weather systems and receive

higher rainfall compared to coastal areas. The TCMF catchment has a mean annual rainfall of 3527 mm (recorded 2007–2018) and daily temperature ranges of 13–25 °C [16]. Daily relative humidity ranges between 87 and 99.8% (recorded August 2010–October 2011). In the TLRF, mean annual rainfall is 4189 mm with a daily temperature range of 20–32 °C. Daily relative humidity is 70–98% (recorded October 2010–October 2011).

Vegetation comprises common species that can be found in southeast Asia's tropical forests. The TCMF is characterised by tropical montane species with the occurrence of stunted trees in the higher reaches. Based on vegetation (trees of up to 20 m are still present; stunted trees only at higher reaches) and climate (frequency of fog and cloud), the TCMF catchment can be classified as a middle-upper TCMF. The TLRF is characterised by a mixture of successional and climax species. Emergent canopy trees are still present. A list of major species is in Table 2. Additional information on the studied catchments is in Nainar et al. [30,31]

Table 2. Major species in the TCMF (Mount Alab) and the TLRF (Inobong).

Species (TCMF, Mt. Alab)	Count (Stem ha ^{−1})	Total BA (m ² ha ^{−1})	Rel. Tree Density (%)	Rel. BA (%)	Rel. Dominance (%)
<i>Dacrydium xanthandrum</i>	120	11.03	0.47	35.00	17.73
<i>Leptospermum flavescens</i>	80	8.58	0.31	27.22	13.77
<i>Adinandra acuminata</i>	40	2.64	0.16	8.36	4.26
<i>Lithocarpus bullatus</i>	40	1.52	0.16	4.83	2.49
<i>Litsea cylindrocarpa</i>	280	1.33	1.10	4.23	2.66
<i>Myrsine</i> sp.	240	1.15	0.94	3.65	2.30
<i>Tristanopsis cf. obovata</i>	960	0.66	3.76	2.08	2.92
<i>Adinandra</i> sp.	80	0.30	0.31	0.95	0.63
<i>Magnolia carsonii</i>	240	0.27	0.94	0.85	0.90
<i>Melastoma sabahense</i>	200	0.22	0.78	0.69	0.74
Species (TLRF, Inobong)	Count (Stem ha ^{−1})	Total BA (m ² ha ^{−1})	Rel. Tree Density (%)	Rel. BA (%)	Rel. Dominance (%)
<i>Crypteronia paniculata</i>	8	4.54	0.49	17.44	8.97
<i>Mallotus paniculatus</i>	208	2.49	12.78	9.56	11.17
<i>Ixonanthes reticulata</i>	4	1.83	0.25	7.04	3.64
<i>Eugenia napiformis</i>	12	1.39	0.74	5.34	3.04
<i>Macaranga triloba</i>	172	1.31	10.57	5.04	7.80
<i>Macaranga gigantea</i>	88	1.29	5.41	4.95	5.18
<i>Sandoricum koetjape</i>	4	1.24	0.25	4.75	2.50
<i>Macaranga pearsonii</i>	84	0.92	5.16	3.54	4.35
<i>Litsea</i> sp.	24	0.87	1.47	3.33	2.40
<i>Metadina trichotoma</i>	4	0.61	0.25	2.33	1.29

Relative dominance was calculated by adding up relative tree density and relative BA, then dividing by 2. Source: [32–34].

3. Methodology

In each catchment, a 90-degree v-notch weir was constructed at the outlet of the stream. A protective stilling well (15 cm diameter PVC pipe) was installed just behind the weir and a “Hobo U20” pressure datalogger was installed inside. Another similar datalogger was affixed above the water. The sensors were synchronised to record water pressure and ambient air pressure, respectively, at 10-min intervals. Water pressure in relation to ambient air pressure was converted to water level via the HOBOWare Pro software. Water level was converted to discharge via a series of calibration experiments using a large measuring cylinder and stopwatch. Rainfall was measured at a nearby weather station (550 m away in the TCMF; 500 m away in the TLRF) at the same 10-min intervals. Other meteorological data (temperature, relative humidity, and solar irradiance) were occasionally measured whenever possible.

Data collection was carried out from January 2015 to December 2020. Periods of equipment malfunction and other data gaps were removed from the dataset. From the

available data, storm-event hydrographs were identified and extracted via the software GFORTRAN 4.9.3 based on the following criteria: three consecutive increases in stream discharge marks the start of a storm event; an event ends when discharge drops to within 20% of its initial value [35]. In the event where another hydrograph was initiated before the present ended, it was considered a new event only if it started at least six hours after the initiation of the first hydrograph. A straight line connecting the initial discharge (Q_{initial}) to the final discharge value of the hydrograph arbitrarily separated the stormflow (Q_{storm}) from baseflow (Q_{base}) following the method of Nainar et al. [35]. All hydrographs were then individually inspected to exclude erroneous data and false events. A total of 91 events from the TMCF and 73 events from the TLRF were qualified for further analysis.

From each storm-event hydrograph, the following hydrograph metrics were extracted: Q_{tot} (total discharge), Q_{storm} (total stormflow), Q_{base} (total baseflow), Q_{initial} (initial discharge, i.e., discharge just before hydrograph initiation), Q_{peak} (peak discharge), Q_{peakadj} (adjusted peak discharge, i.e., $Q_{\text{peak}} - Q_{\text{initial}}$), T_{res} (response time, i.e., time taken from first recorded rain to hydrograph initiation), and T_{peak} (time-to-peak, i.e., time taken from Q_{initial} to Q_{peak}). In addition to discharge components, rainfall-related information were also extracted and processed [17,35]. Total event rainfall (P) was defined by the cumulative rain prior to hydrograph initiation up to the end of a hydrograph. Average rain intensity (P_i) was P divided by precipitation timespan. A range of antecedent precipitation indices (API_3 , API_5 , API_7 , API_{10} , API_{15} , and API_{20}) were also computed. A straightforward comparison was done on these hydrograph metrics between the TMCF and the TLRF—this was the first comparison. The reader is referred to Nainar et al. [35] for a detailed explanation of hydrograph processing and extraction of metrics.

Using the software R v.4.1.2, generalised linear models (GLMs) were fitted via the ‘glm’ command for the response variables (Q_{tot} , Q_{storm} , Q_{base} , Q_{peak} , Q_{peakadj} , T_{res} , and T_{peak}), main covariate (P), secondary covariates comprising either average rain intensity (P_i) or a range of antecedent moisture indices (Q_{initial} , API_3 , API_5 , API_7 , API_{10} , API_{15} , and API_{20}), and forest type (TMCF and TLRF) as factors. Predictors were qualified only when the relationships were statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$). Addition/exclusion of regression terms was performed stepwise forward. The Akaike information criterion (AIC) and generated pseudo R -squared were used to determine parsimony of predictors as well as the GLM family (Gaussian, gamma, or Poisson) and link functions (identity, inverse, binomial, or log). The multivariate regression coefficients were then used to compute response variables (hydrograph metrics) for comparison between the TMCF and the TLRF—this was the second comparison [36].

4. Results

4.1. General Statistics from Data

From observed data, all hydrograph metrics were higher in the TMCF (Table 3). Compared to the TLRF, Q_{tot} and Q_{storm} in the TMCF were 169% and 382% higher, respectively. Catchment moisture- and baseflow-related metrics, Q_{initial} and Q_{base} , were 27% and 37% higher, respectively, in the TMCF. Indicators for flashiness however, showed mixed results. Q_{peak} in the TMCF was 657% higher (higher flashiness) than in the TLRF; whereas T_{res} and T_{peak} in the TMCF were 247% and 92% longer (indicating lower flashiness). Duration of stormflow (T_{storm}) was 21% longer in the TMCF compared to the TLRF. Descriptive statistics can be found in the appendix (Appendix A).

Table 3. Comparison of hydrograph metrics between the TMCf and the TLRf.

Hydro. Component	Metric	From Data		Difference (%)
		TLRF	TMCF	
<i><u>Storm runoff</u></i>				
Runoff	Q_{tot} (mm)	306.714	825.986	169.30
	Q_{storm} (mm)	117.995	568.434	381.75
	Q_{peak} (mm 10 min ^{−1})	0.132	0.996	657.11
	T_{res} (mins)	23.288	80.769	246.83
	T_{peak} (mins)	90.137	172.637	91.53
Baseflow	Q_{initial} (mm 10 min ^{−1})	0.026	0.033	26.96
	Q_{base} (mm)	190.640	260.592	36.69
Stormflow duration	T_{storm} (mins)	768.356	927.143	20.67
<i><u>Rainfall</u></i>				
Rainfall	P (mm)	2083.500	1893.000	−9.14
Mean rain intensity	P_i (mm min ^{−1})	16.604	10.008	−39.73
Antecedent precipitation	API_1	12.541	9.846	−21.49
	API_3	35.253	27.725	−21.35
	API_5	56.596	42.577	−24.77
	API_7	83.432	58.258	−30.17
	API_{10}	117.610	82.769	−29.62
	API_{15}	175.349	127.396	−27.35
	API_{20}	228.705	163.016	−28.72

Blue and red indicate higher and lower values in the TMCf, respectively, with reference to the TLRf.

4.2. Comparison with GLMs

4.2.1. Storm-Event Runoff

Q_{tot} in the TMCf was 97% higher than that in the TLRf (Figure 2; $p < 0.05$). After subtracting Q_{base} from Q_{tot} , the resulting net stormflow (Q_{storm}) in the TMCf was 422% higher than in the TLRf ($p < 0.05$). Addition of the term P_i significantly improved the model's performance (Table 4).

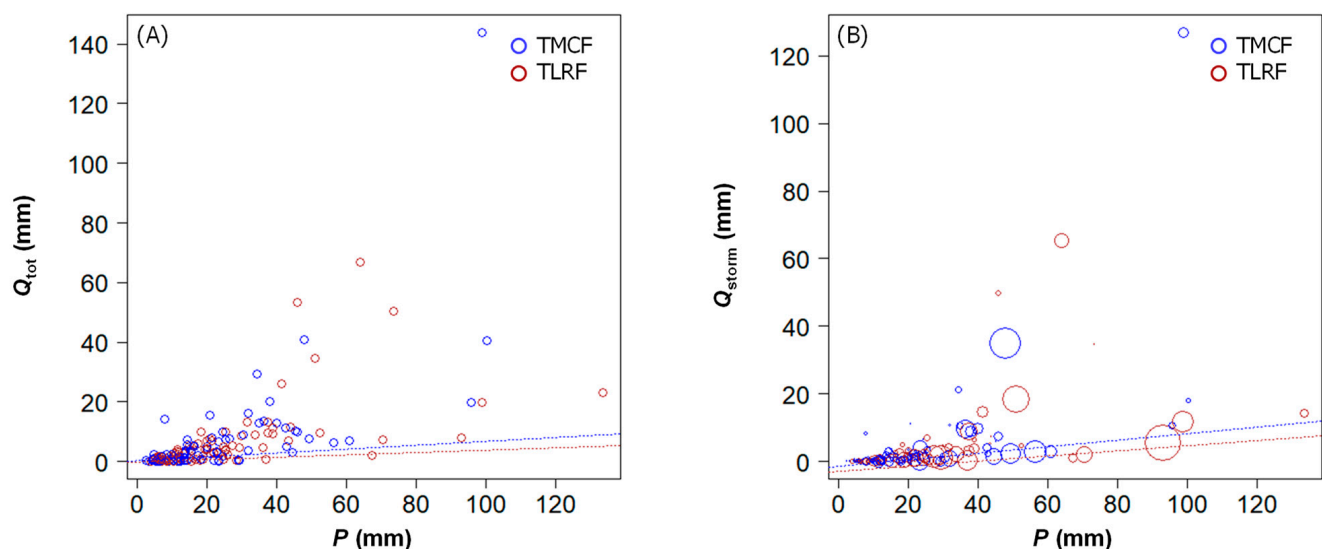


Figure 2. (A) Q_{tot} and (B) Q_{storm} versus event rainfall. Increasing point size in (B) corresponds to increasing P_i .

Table 4. GLM Coefficients for various response variable (*Y*) against the main predictor (*P*), secondary predictors (*P_i* and *ante*), and forest type (1 for TMCF, 0 for TLRF) in their multivariate interaction.

Y	TLRF (Inobong)						TMCF (Alab)						GLM Type	AIC	R ² adj.	p
	P	P _i	P·P _i	ante	P·ante		P	P _i	P·P _i	ante	P·ante					
	a	b	c	d	e	f	a + a ₂	b + b ₂	c + c ₂	d + d ₂	e + e ₂	f + f ₂				
Q _{tot}	−0.177	0.040					0.153	0.066					Gam-log	752.88	0.907	<0.05
Q _{storm}	−3.253	0.088	0.062	−0.001			−1.316	0.087					Gam-log	407.51	0.820	<0.05
Q _{base}	0.044	0.069			2.647 ⁱ	1.279							Gaus-iden	709.47	0.624	<0.05
Q _{initial}	−5.235				0.006 ²⁰		−4.159				0.004		Gam-log	−940.97	0.935	<0.05
Q _{peak}	−3.376	0.026	0.015				−3.047	0.079	0.016				Gam-log	−235.94	0.751	<0.05
Q _{peakadj}	−4.429	0.036	0.032				−3.412	0.088	0.015				Gam-log	−333.41	0.714	>0.05
T _{storm}	50.027	22.008			−971.53 ⁱ	182.246	41.763	46.231			−236.605 ⁱ	−151.82	Gam-iden	2394.8	0.579	<0.05
T _{peak}	−11.893	6.109			0.205 ¹⁵	−0.017	47.344						Gam-iden	1869.1	0.341	<0.05
T _{res}	0.018												Gam-inv	578.49	−	<0.05
Q _{initial}	−4.510				0.006 ¹⁰		−4.017						Gam-log	−920.23	0.926	>0.05
Q _{initial}	−4.409				0.008 ⁷		−3.983						Gam-log	−914.48	0.924	>0.05
T _{peak}	4.380	0.026	−0.052	0.00003			4.974	0.035	−0.122	0.001			Gam-log	1734.6	0.999	<0.05
T _{res}	26.049		−0.170				100.741		−1.825				Gam-iden	571.53	0.023	<0.05

Coefficients that are statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) are in bold. Non-significant variables were excluded in the stepwise-forward selection. 'ante' represents the various indices for antecedent moisture: superscripted ⁱ for Q_{initial}; superscripted numbers 7, 10, 15, 20 for API₇, API₁₀, API₁₅, API₂₀, respectively. Second part of the table show notable coefficients with predictive powers next to that of the main ones.

Basic regression with event rainfall (P) as predictor:

$$Y = (a + a_2 \cdot F) + (b + b_2 \cdot F) \cdot P \quad (1)$$

For multivariate regressions with secondary predictor, rainfall intensity (P_i):

$$Y = (a + a_2 \cdot F) + (b + b_2 \cdot F) \cdot P + (c + c_2 \cdot F) \cdot P_i \quad (2)$$

$$Y = (a + a_2 \cdot F) + (b + b_2 \cdot F) \cdot P + (c + c_2 \cdot F) \cdot P_i + (d + d_2 \cdot F) \cdot P \cdot P_i \quad (3)$$

For multivariate regressions with secondary predictor, antecedent moisture (Q_{initial} , API_3 , API_5 , API_7 , API_{10} , API_{15} , API_{20}):

$$Y = (a + a_2 \cdot F) + (b + b_2 \cdot F) \cdot P + (e + e_2 \cdot F) \cdot \text{ante} \quad (4)$$

$$Y = (a + a_2 \cdot F) + (b + b_2 \cdot F) \cdot P + (e + e_2 \cdot F) \cdot \text{ante} + (f + f_2 \cdot F) \cdot P \cdot \text{ante} \quad (5)$$

4.2.2. Flashiness

Q_{peak} and Q_{peakadj} in the TMCf were 48% and 50% higher, respectively, than in the TLRf ($p < 0.05$). The net peak discharge (Q_{peakadj}) model performed better especially when including P_i as a secondary predictor (Figure 3, Table 4).

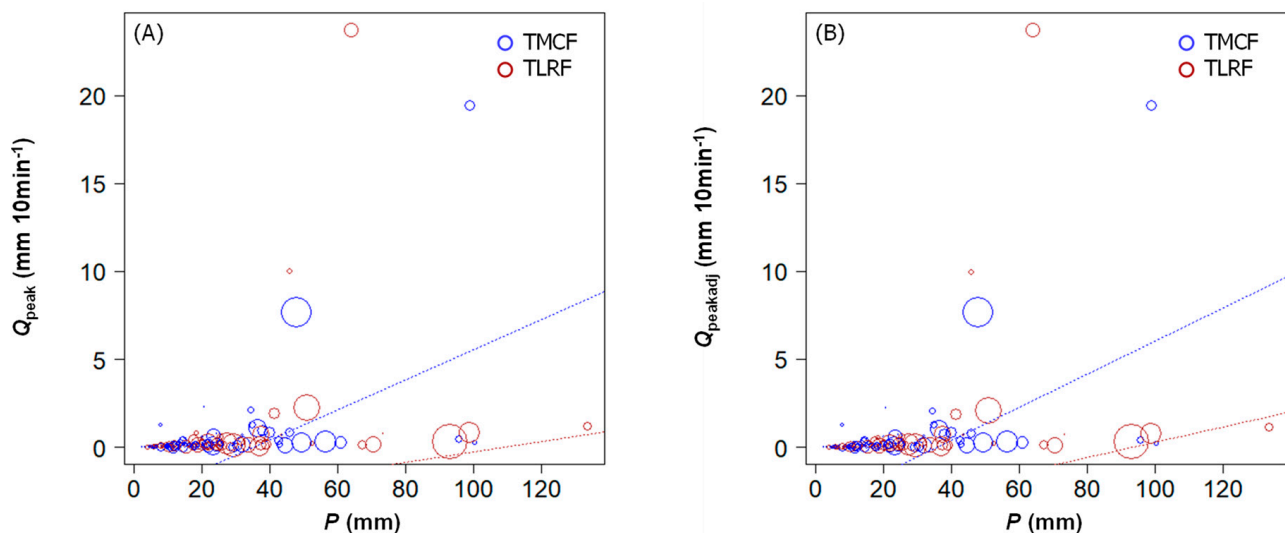


Figure 3. (A) Q_{peak} and (B) Q_{peakadj} versus event rainfall. Increasing point size corresponds to increasing P_i .

Depending on the secondary predictor used, T_{peak} was found to be between 11.28 and 36.38% longer in the TMCf compared to the TLRf ($p < 0.05$)—11.28% when using P_i ; 36.38% when using API_{15} (Figure 4, Table 4). P_i was a better secondary predictor than API_{15} (Figure 4B,D; Table 4).

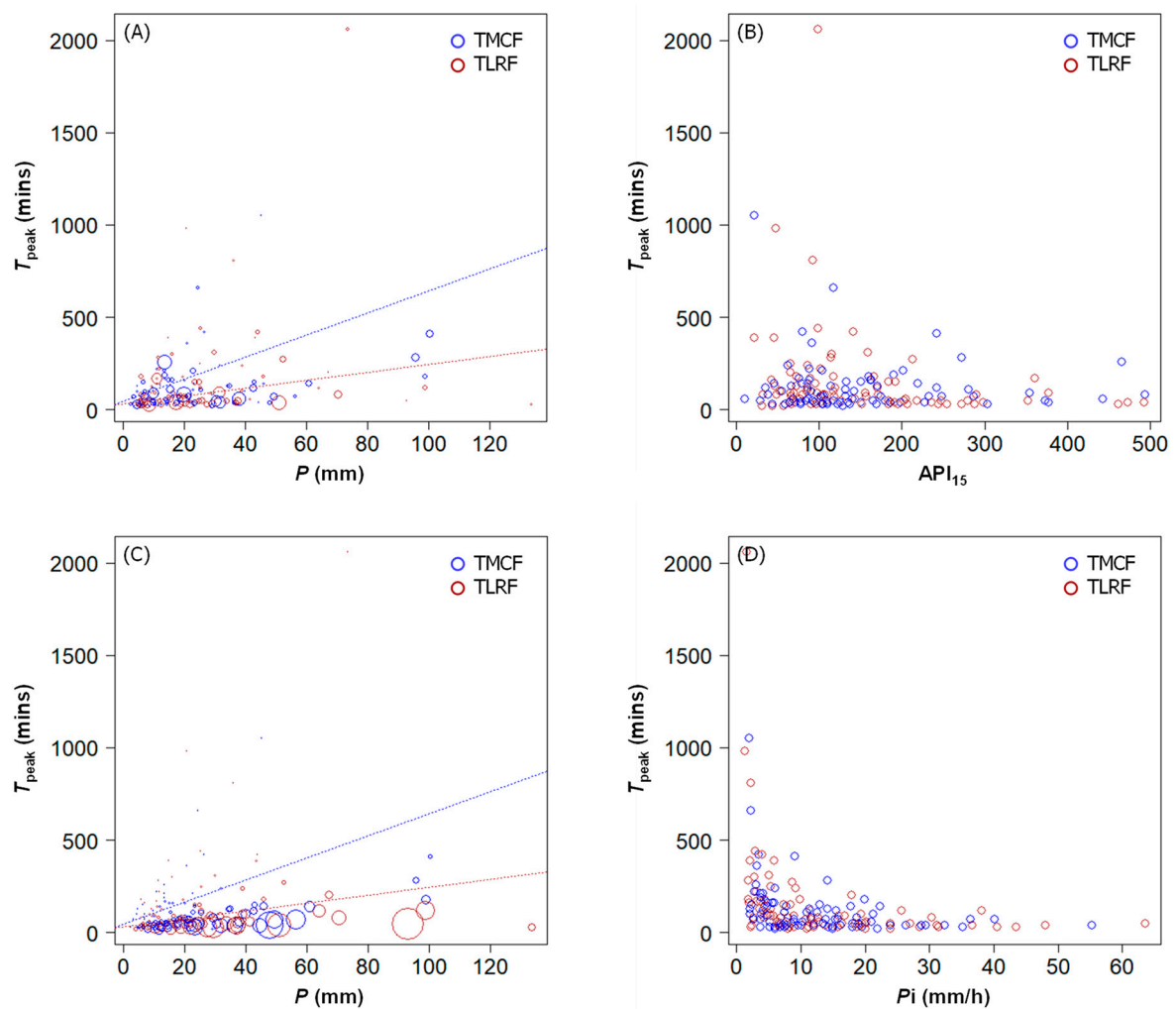


Figure 4. (A) T_{peak} versus event rainfall, increasing point size corresponds to increasing API_{15} ; (B) T_{peak} versus secondary predictor (API_{15}); (C) T_{peak} versus rainfall, increasing point size corresponds to increasing P_i ; and (D) T_{peak} versus secondary predictor (P_i).

T_{res} was not explained by the primary predictor, P , but had a significant relationship with P_i (Figure 5; $p < 0.05$). T_{res} in the T_MCF was 1.7x longer than in the T_LRF ($p < 0.05$).

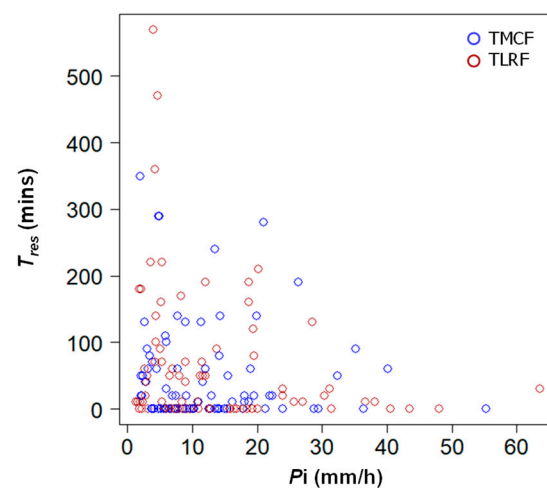


Figure 5. T_{res} versus P_i .

4.2.3. Duration of Stormflow

T_{storm} in the TMCf was 11.34% longer than in the TLRf ($p < 0.05$; Figure 6). T_{storm} had a weak relationship with Q_{initial} , but its inclusion improved model performance significantly (Table 4).

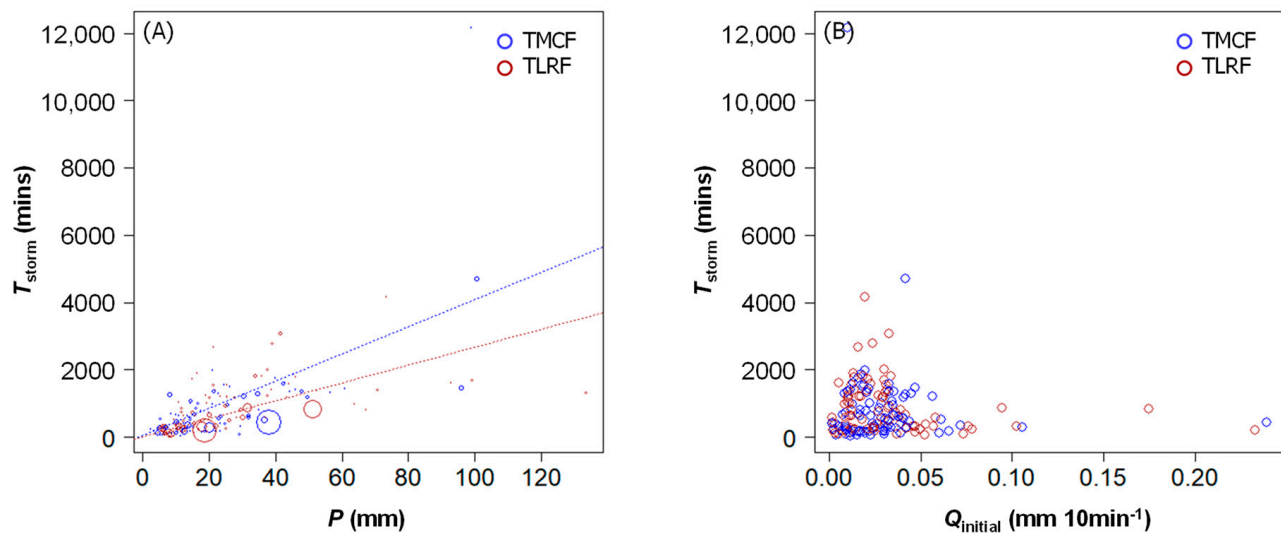


Figure 6. (A) T_{storm} versus P . Increasing point size corresponds to increasing Q_{initial} and (B) T_{storm} versus Q_{initial} .

4.2.4. Baseflow

Both Q_{initial} and Q_{base} can be surrogates for baseflow in different aspects. Q_{initial} represents baseflow in general while Q_{base} is the theoretically-defined baseflow during a storm event. The GLM for Q_{base} was improved by including Q_{initial} as a secondary predictor (Table 4, Figure 7). Naturally, Q_{initial} had no relationship with event rainfall. Instead, the antecedent precipitation indices especially API_{20} , API_{10} , and API_7 (in decreasing order) had strong predictive ability over Q_{initial} ($p < 0.05$, Table 4). Q_{base} was not statistically significantly different between the TMCf and the TLRf.

Based on the multivariate regression coefficients in Table 4, response variables/hydrograph metrics were computed (Table 5). Differences between computed hydrograph metrics in Table 5 and observed hydrograph metrics in Table 3 are discussed in later sections.

Table 5. GLM-computed hydrograph metrics in the TMCf and the TLRf.

Hydro. Component	Metric	Computed from GLM		Difference (%)
		TLRF	TMCF	
<i>Storm runoff</i>				
Runoff	Q_{tot} (mm)	70.419	138.861	97.19
	Q_{storm} (mm)	−23.627	76.086	422.04
	Q_{peak} (mm 10 min ^{−1})	−2.385	−1.244	47.86
	T_{res} (mins)	23.226	62.777	170.28
	T_{peak} (mins)	112.649	153.629	36.38
Baseflow	Q_{initial} (mm 10 min ^{−1})	−3.863	−3.507	9.21
	Q_{base} (mm)	224.247	228.582	1.93
Stormflow duration	T_{storm} (mins)	793.509	883.500	11.34

T_{res} did not have any significant relationship with P and thus regressed with the second covariate, P_i (significant relationship, $p < 0.05$).

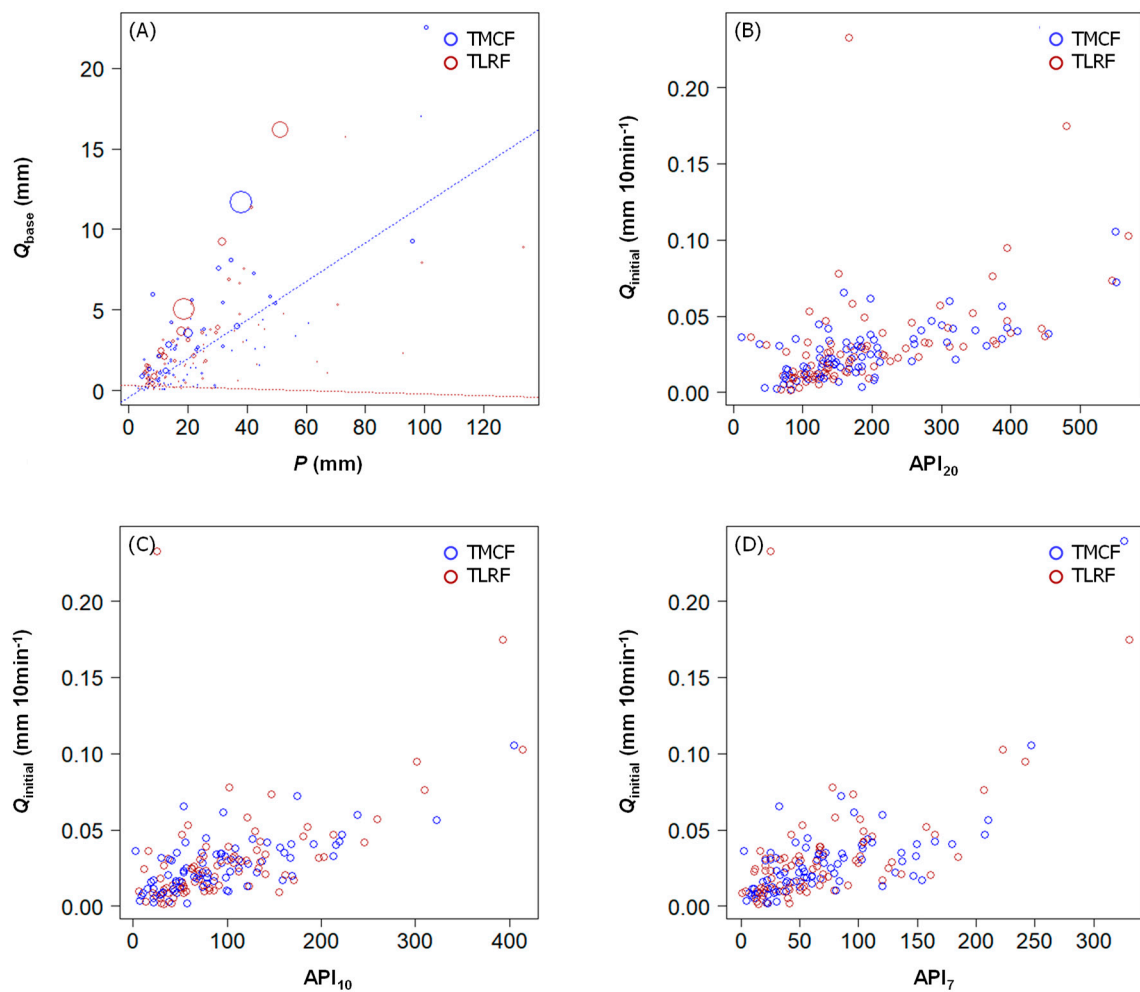


Figure 7. (A) Q_{base} versus event rainfall; increasing point size corresponds to increasing Q_{initial} . (B–D) Q_{initial} versus API_{20} , API_{10} , and API_7 , respectively.

5. Discussion

Storm-event discharge in the TCMF was higher than in the TLRF. Total storm-event discharge (Q_{tot}) had a higher coefficient of determination than Q_{storm} and was more parsimonious (requiring only precipitation as input) and therefore, should be the preferred parameter for comparison of runoff (Table 4). The 97% higher Q_{tot} in the TCMF is in-line with other studies [15,21,22,37], and is attributed to high moisture and saturated conditions. Q_{storm} , an arbitrarily defined stormflow had slightly lower, but nevertheless strong, coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.820$) when including rainfall intensity as a secondary predictor. Q_{storm} was 422% greater in the TCMF compared to the TLRF. The jump from 97% to 422% upon removal of theoretical baseflow (Q_{base}) may indicate that baseflow constituted a larger proportion of runoff in the TCMF than in the TLRF. Following this, an auxiliary investigation was performed to ascertain the effects of P_i on Q_{storm} in the TCMF and the TLRF, individually. Results show that Q_{storm} was significantly correlated to P_i in the TCMF ($p < 0.05$) but not in the TLRF ($p < 0.05$). This may reflect the sensitive nature of saturated conditions and high baseflow towards changes in rainfall intensity in the TCMF [38–41]. Considering that the GLM was used to control for the influence of rainfall, differences between observed data (Q_{tot} in TCMF = 169.3% higher, Q_{storm} in TCMF = 381.75% higher) and GLM-computed hydrograph metrics (Q_{tot} in TCMF = 97.19% higher, Q_{storm} in TCMF = 422.04% higher) can be considered to be caused by rainfall.

T_{peak} and T_{res} were longer in the TCMF despite its steeper terrain and saturated conditions. Drivers of flashiness include meteorological, topographical, soil, and vegeta-

tion properties; thus, it is difficult to attribute flashiness to any single factor. It may be hypothesised that the TMCF had a longer response time because of its relatively wide and short catchment dimension compared to the TLRF that is narrow and long [42]. For first-order headwater catchments (present study), we postulate the following mechanism: in a wide and short catchment (in this case, the TMCF), rainwater takes longer to reach the stream because of longer travel paths along the slopes, and it may infiltrate and become slower-moving subsurface flow when flowing down a long slope. In a narrow and long catchment (in this case, the TLRF) however, rainwater arrives at the stream much faster as it travels a shorter distance. In addition, a higher proportion of rainwater falls directly into the stream and onto banksides where it ends up as direct runoff—contrasting with wide catchments where rain falls further upslope, undergoes infiltration, and ends up as slow-moving subsurface flow. If proven true, this mechanism seems to have overridden other drivers of flashiness in the TMCF, namely steeper catchment gradient, saturated conditions, clayey soils, and low hydraulic conductance [42]. Subsequently, this mechanism may also explain the longer persistence of stormflow in the TMCF (T_{storm}), whereby in a wider catchment, longer time is required for the cessation of surface runoff into the stream [43,44]. Although the proposed mechanism is yet to be substantiated, what is certain is that differences in moisture, alone, may not be enough to overrule topographical factors in governing streamflow flashiness [45]. Compared to the GLM-computed hydrograph metrics (Table 5), observed data were higher (Table 3), which may be attributed to differences in rainfall, rainfall intensity, and antecedent moisture.

These arguments seem to differ from existing theories on the relationship between flashiness and catchment dimensions [42,46]. Following some past studies, a broad-fan watershed results in a flashier hydrograph (high peak discharge) because the entire catchment channels runoff water to the main stream almost simultaneously [42,46]. Streams in a narrow, long-fan watershed receive runoff input at different times over a prolonged period, resulting in a gentle rising limb. These theories were based on morphologies in higher-order catchments that nest several contributing tributaries, rendering them questionable in our single-stream, flashy headwater catchments. In addition, the default indicator for flashiness in such scenarios is often peak discharge alone. In this study, we have assessed not only peak discharge but also considered the response time (T_{res}) and time-to-peak (T_{peak}) in first-order headwater catchments.

More common flashiness metrics, namely peak discharge (Q_{peak} and Q_{peakadj}), were also assessed in this study. Q_{peak} and Q_{peakadj} in the TMCF were higher than in the TLRF despite average rain intensity (P_i) being 40% lower. Although the response time and time-to-peak may be long due to the wide catchment dimensions, higher Q_{peak} and Q_{peakadj} may be explained by runoff water being fed into a shorter stream. Catchment dimensions aside, the saturated conditions in the TMCF may have exacerbated direct runoff and reduced infiltration into the subsurface [15,37]. Comparison of Q_{peak} between the data (TMCF 657% higher than TLRF) and GLM results (TMCF 48% higher than TLRF) show that rainfall and rainfall intensity may explain up to 6x the differences in peak discharge between the TMCF and the TLRF (Table 3).

By controlling for the effects of rainfall and Q_{initial} , no significant differences were found in Q_{base} between the TMCF and the TLRF. However, when referring to the data itself (without GLMs), Q_{base} in the TMCF was 36.69% higher, which can be attributed to higher rainfall input and catchment moisture. Q_{base} in both catchments was strongly influenced by event rainfall and Q_{initial} . The fact that event rainfall significantly affected baseflow in the hydrograph shows that rainfall input still contributes to infiltration and baseflow even when stormflow is being generated [47,48]. Although this method of hydrograph-partitioning is arbitrary and may not be appropriate for exact quantification of flow components (baseflow and stormflow), it is straightforward and efficient for the purpose of comparison between catchments, as demonstrated in past studies [13,17,35]. By applying a common line-partitioning rule, the shape of the hydrograph (peaky with short duration or gradual with long duration, and the proportion of hydrograph above and below

the separation line) are governed by collective catchment characteristics, i.e., more direct runoff and high catchment gradient will result in a peaky hydrograph; more infiltration will result in a gradual-slope hydrograph. The higher Q_{initial} in the TMCF reflects its wetter environment and Q_{initial} in both catchments depended strongly on antecedent precipitation.

6. Conclusions

By comparing rainfall and stream discharge data between a tropical montane cloud forest (TMCF) and a tropical lowland rainforest (TLRF) catchment, we found differences in the following hydrological characteristics:

1. Storm-event water yield was up to 169% higher in the TMCF compared to the TLRF. This is attributed to higher moisture in the TMCF.
2. The TMCF had 6.6x higher peak discharge than the TLRF, but it took up to 77% longer to reach peak discharge. Additionally, it took 55% longer for the stream in the TMCF to respond to rainfall input. Time-to-peak was significantly influenced by rainfall intensity and antecedent rainfall (API_{15}); stream response time towards rainfall was significantly influenced by rainfall intensity. Catchment dimensions and topography may overrule the influence of rainfall, moisture, gradient, and soil type.
3. Antecedent precipitation (API_{20} , API_{10} , and API_7) directly correlated to baseflow and affected catchment moisture conditions, which in-turn governed the duration of stormflow—storms in the TMCF lasted 11% longer than in the TLRF. The only hydrograph characteristic that was directly controlled by antecedent precipitation was the time-to-peak, but there was no significant difference in time-to-peak between the TMCF and the TLRF.

This has led to the conclusion that headwater catchments in TMCFs have higher water yield but may not be necessarily flashier compared TLRF catchments. Flashiness may be governed by topographical factors and catchment dimensions. Stormflow duration also lasted longer in the TMCF and was strongly correlated to antecedent precipitation. Although water yield was higher in the TMCF, comparing flashiness proved to be a challenge due to natural differences in catchment dimensions. Additionally, we were unable to compute runoff coefficients due to data-gap logistical challenges. Plans for future investigations include measurements of solar irradiance, sapflux, soil moisture, and the water table to ascertain differences in aboveground and belowground hydrological dynamics in the TMCF.

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Appendix A

Hydro. Component	Metric.	Descrip. Stats.	From Data	
			TLRF	TMCF
Runoff	Q_{tot} (mm)	Sum	306.71	825.99
		Mean	4.2	9.08
		Max	40.63	143.93
		Min	0.03	0.1
	Q_{storm} (mm)	Sum	117.99	568.43
		Mean	1.62	6.25
		Max	18.14	126.97
		Min	0	0.01
Responsiveness	Q_{peak} (mm 10 min ⁻¹)	Sum	9.6	90.64
		Mean	0.13	1
		Max	1.18	23.74
		Min	0	0.01
	T_{res} (mins)	Sum	1700	7350
		Mean	23	81
		Max	470	570
		Min	0	0
	T_{peak} (mins)	Sum	6580	15,710
		Mean	90	173
		Max	810	2060
		Min	20	30
Baseflow	$Q_{initial}$ (mm 10 min ⁻¹)	Sum	1.921	3.039
		Mean	0.026	0.033
		Max	0.095	0.239
		Min	0.002	0.007
	Q_{base} (mm)	Sum	190.64	260.59
		Mean	2.61	2.86
		Max	22.53	16.97
		Min	0.03	0.1
Storm duration	T_{storm} (mins)	Sum	56,090	84,370
		Mean	768	927
		Max	4700	12,160
		Min	40	50

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