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Hydraulic Behavior of Karst Aquifers

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Message from the Guest Editors

Karst aquifers constitute a fundamental resource for water supply. Their hydraulic characteristics are very different from other acquifer types as being formed by a complex conduit network, which is “immersed” in a low permeability fractured limestone volume. Besides, karstification processes leads to development of hierarchical conduit network within the aquifer, which causes the drainage to be converged to very specific points: The karst springs. Contributes from different karst areas of the world, dealing with the hydraulic behaviour of karst aquifers are welcome. The topic involves both classical hydraulic modelling adopted for karstic aquifers and recharge-discharge models, time series analyses, tracer tests, water geochemistry, isotope studies, etc. The aim is to provide local and general schemes of the water flow in karst aquifers, water table fluctuations and changes of hydraulic heads in the conduits during recharge and discharge periods resulting in different flow component types (either laminar or turbulent). Any hydraulic anomalies of karst aquifers connected to earthquakes, droughts, and man-made modifications are also included.

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