



water

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Research on Karst Eco-Hydrology and Sediment

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Message from the Guest Editors

The ecohydrology of karst and caves integrates the biological and hydrological processes occurring at temporal and spatial scales. In the underground, the maze of karst voids has more or less connectivity and harbors very simple communities, with relatively stable temporal composition and heterogeneous spatial distribution. Groundwater communities are the perfect subjects for ecological studies, as inhabitants of the few continental habitats with discrete boundaries. They are one of the few continental habitats where the metacommunities concept that incorporates spatial dynamics into community ecology and the interaction between local and regional processes can be tested.

The unsaturated karst zone is a fragmented landscape represented by habitat patches in a surrounding karst matrix, where the metacommunities concept (habitat connectivity, spatial extent, environmental heterogeneity) influences the maintenance of biodiversity and species dispersal. For groundwater communities, [...]

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