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# 1 **A methodology for regionalizing 3-D effective porosity at watershed scale in** 2 **crystalline aquifers**

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## 13 **Abstract**

14 An innovative approach for regionalizing the 3-D effective-porosity field is presented and  
15 applied to two large, overexploited and deeply weathered crystalline aquifers located in  
16 southern India. The method derives from earlier work on regionalizing a 2-D effective-  
17 porosity field in that part of an aquifer where the water table fluctuates, which is now  
18 extended over the entire aquifer using a 3-D approach. A method based on geological and  
19 geophysical surveys has also been developed for mapping the weathering profile layers  
20 (saprolite and fractured layers). The method for regionalizing 3-D effective porosity  
21 combines: water-table fluctuation and groundwater budget techniques at various cell sizes  
22 with the use of satellite based data (for groundwater abstraction), the structure of the  
23 weathering profile and geostatistical techniques. The approach is presented in detail for the  
24 Kudaliar watershed (983 km<sup>2</sup>), and tested on the 730 km<sup>2</sup> Anantapur watershed. At watershed  
25 scale, the effective porosity of the aquifer ranges from 0.5% to 2% in Kudaliar and between  
26 0.3% and 1% in Anantapur, which agrees with earlier works. Results show that: i) depending  
27 on the geology and on the structure of the weathering profile, the vertical distribution of  
28 effective porosity can be very different, and that the fractured layers in crystalline aquifers are  
29 not necessarily characterized by a rapid decrease in effective porosity; and ii) that the lateral  
30 variations in effective porosity can be larger than the vertical ones. These variations suggest  
31 that within a same weathering profile the density of open fractures and/or degree of  
32 weathering in the fractured zone may significantly varies from a place to another.

33 The proposed method provides information on the spatial distribution of effective porosity  
34 which is of prime interest in terms of flux and contaminant transport in crystalline aquifers.  
35 Implications for mapping groundwater storage and scarcity are also discussed, which should  
36 help in improving groundwater resource management strategies.

37  
38 **Key words:** Effective porosity, regionalization of aquifer parameters, upscaling, hard-rock  
39 aquifer, crystalline aquifer

40

## 41 **1. Introduction**

42 Among the most important data for groundwater management or for reliable hydrogeological  
43 modelling, are accurate estimates of the spatial variation of hydrogeological properties,  
44 especially effective porosity and hydraulic conductivity. Data on spatial- and depth-variations  
45 of the effective porosity are important issues for contaminant transport, and particularly—as  
46 combined with the aquifer geometry—they provide an accurate image of the groundwater  
47 storage of an aquifer, thus valuable information for groundwater management issues.

48 In crystalline (granite and metamorphic rocks) aquifers, the regionalization of  
49 hydrogeological properties (i.e. estimating their spatial distribution) is further complicated,  
50 because of their strong natural heterogeneity. Various degrees of fracturing and connection  
51 between fracture networks induce strong variations of hydrogeological properties at all scales  
52 (e.g., Paillet, 1998; Maréchal et al., 2004; Le Borgne et al., 2004, 2006). The few available  
53 works on upscaling and regionalizing aquifer parameters in crystalline aquifers has mainly  
54 focused on transmissivity or hydraulic conductivity mapping, based on hydraulic-test data  
55 (Razack and Lasm, 2006; Chandra et al., 2008), classified transmissivity (indexed) maps, or  
56 potential aquifer-zone maps (Krásný, 1993, 2000; Lachassagne et al., 2001; Darko and  
57 Krásný, 2007; Madrucci et al., 2008; Dhakate, et al., 2008; Courtois et al., 2010).

58 Over the past three decades, the geological and hydrogeological characterization of  
59 crystalline aquifers has seen significant improvements (Chilton and Foster, 1995; Taylor and  
60 Howard, 2000; Lachassagne et al., 2011, 2015; Wyns et al., 2004, Maréchal et al., 2004;  
61 Dewandel et al., 2006; Ayraud et al., 2008; Guiléneuf et al., 2014; Roques et al., 2014a).  
62 These works show that, where such hard-rocks are exposed to deep weathering processes, the  
63 geometry and hydrodynamical properties of aquifers are closely related to the weathering  
64 grade of the parent rock. In granite-type rocks, including gneiss, a typical weathering profile  
65 comprises two main stratiform layers sub-parallel to the paleo-surface at the time of  
66 weathering processes (e.g. Wyns et al., 1999 and 2004, Krásný and Sharp, 2007; Maréchal et  
67 al., 2007, Reddy et al., 2009, Lachassagne et al., 2011, etc.). From top to bottom they are: (i)  
68 the saprolite layer, a sandy-clayey to clayey-sandy material usually characterized by low  
69 hydraulic conductivity and high effective porosity; (ii) the fractured layer, characterized by a  
70 depth decrease in the number of fractures (Houston and Lewis, 1998; Howard et al., 1992;  
71 Maréchal et al., 2004; Wyns et al., 2004; Dewandel et al., 2006) and usually low effective  
72 porosity. The underlying unfractured and fresh bedrock is only locally permeable and most  
73 authors consider that hydraulic conductivity is related to local tectonic fractures with highly  
74 variable hydrodynamic properties (e.g., Pickens et al., 1987; Leveinen et al., 1998; Walker et  
75 al., 2001; Kuusela et al., 2003).

76 Based on this concept of a stratiform hard-rock aquifer, Dewandel et al. (2012) proposed  
77 a methodology for regionalizing effective porosity- and also hydraulic conductivity- at the  
78 watershed scale. The method is based on the concept that large-scale variations in hydraulic  
79 head may characterize large-scale properties. For the effective porosity, the method  
80 combines—at cell scale—water-table fluctuation and groundwater-budget techniques in the  
81 absence of recharge from rainfall, an aggregation method, and variogram based statistics and  
82 kriging techniques to allow a relevant mapping. The approach was tested on an unconfined  
83 granitic aquifer exposed to deep weathering, located in South India (Maheshwaram  
84 watershed, 53 km<sup>2</sup>). The resulting estimates were confirmed by hydraulic tests carried out on  
85 the area and by effective-porosity estimates at watershed scale (Maréchal et al., 2004, 2006;  
86 Dewandel et al., 2006, 2010). However, the developed method could only determine effective

87 porosity values for that part of the aquifer where the water table fluctuates, but not for the  
88 entire aquifer.

89 The novelty of the present work consists in using satellite based data (for groundwater  
90 abstraction) and in developing an original approach that allows extending the effective  
91 porosity in 3-D to the entire aquifer while combining it with the structure of the weathering  
92 profile. A method for mapping the weathered layers (based on geological and geophysical  
93 surveys) is also developed.

94 Results are illustrated in detail for the Kudaliar 983 km<sup>2</sup> unconfined granite aquifer exposed  
95 to deep weathering in southern India, State of Telangana (Fig. 1a). The method then was  
96 tested on another area with a more complex geology, the Anantapur watershed (730 km<sup>2</sup>,  
97 State of Andhra Pradesh, India; Fig. 1b), but this area suffers from a lack of available  
98 observations, especially concerning geology. Both watersheds are overexploited (CGWB,  
99 2009). The main results are presented in the discussion and compared to the ones of Kudaliar.

100 The method for regionalizing 3-D effective-porosity field data requires knowledge of the  
101 lateral and vertical variations of the weathering-profile (saprolite and fractured zone) on a  
102 hectometric to kilometric scale, as well as spatial estimates of groundwater abstraction and  
103 seasonal water-level measurements. This study provides additional information of the spatial  
104 heterogeneity of effective-porosity values at catchment scale and with depth, which are rare  
105 information. The implications for mapping groundwater storage and scarcity in term of  
106 groundwater management issues are discussed as well.

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## 112 **2. Field data**

### 113 **2.1 Location and climate**

114 The Kudaliar catchment (983 km<sup>2</sup>) lies 50 km north of Hyderabad in the Telangana region of  
115 Medak District, India (Fig. 1a). The area has a relatively flat topography with elevations  
116 ranging from 430 to 640 m above mean sea level and the absence of perennial streams.

117 The region has a semi-arid climate controlled by monsoon periodicity. The rainy season  
118 (Khariff) occurs from June to October and the dry season (Rabi) from November to May.  
119 Mean annual precipitation is about 880 mm, of which about 90% falls during the rainy season.  
120 The mean annual temperature is 26°C, but in summer (March to May) it can reach 45°C. The  
121 area is rural and populated by about 303,000 inhabitants (Indian Census, 2001; Aulong et al.,  
122 2012).

123

### 124 **2.2 Geology**

125 The geology of the area is relatively homogeneous and consists of Archean biotite granite  
126 commonly found in the Hyderabad region (Fig. 1a, GSI, 2002). Locally, the granite is  
127 intruded by small pegmatite bodies (1- to 10-metre-wide veins striking N45-60), metre-wide  
128 dolerite dykes of several geological ages (2.5–1.6 Ga; GSI, 2002; striking N000, N045,  
129 N100), and a few other intrusives (adamellite-granodiorite and amphibolite-hornblende-biotite  
130 schist enclaves). The granite is affected by deep *in-situ* weathering resulting from multiphase  
131 weathering-erosion processes (Dewandel et al., 2006). The weathering profile is formed of  
132 two main layers: saprolite and a fractured layer. The saprolite layer is composed of a few  
133 metres of saprolite of sandy texture (sandy regolith) and a thick layer of laminated saprolite,  
134 characterized by an unusual network of preserved sub-horizontal and sub-vertical fractures  
135 partially filled by clay. Deeper down, fractured granite, where weathered granite and some  
136 clay partially fill decametre-wide sub-horizontal and sub-vertical fractures, constitutes the  
137 bottom layer of the weathering profile. This layer is tapped by bore wells for crop irrigation  
138 and domestic water supply (mean bore-well depth: 50-70 m). Below the fissured fractured  
139 layer, the granite is not fractured and is not considered as an aquifer (Maréchal et al., 2006;  
140 Dewandel, 2006, 2012).

141

### 142 **2.3 Groundwater and irrigation**

143 As in most of southern India, groundwater is the only perennial water resource and is  
144 exploited by a large number of private bore wells (7,000 to 10,000 in the area) for the  
145 irrigation of rice, vegetables (tomatoes, eggplant, lady's finger, chillies, etc.), maize, cotton,  
146 and a few other crops (sugar cane, pulses and oilseeds). Plots are watered using flooding and  
147 ray irrigation techniques. Well-discharge rates are generally low, ranging from less than  
148 1 m<sup>3</sup>/h to, exceptionally, a few tens of m<sup>3</sup>/h.

149 Land-use characterization at parcel scale was performed on LISS-4 and Spot-5 images (6  
150 and 10 m spacing, respectively) for the 2009 rainy season and the following 2010 dry season,  
151 with training and validating ground data (Ferrant et al., 2014). During the 2010 dry season,  
152 7.2% of the area was irrigated for rice, 6.8% for vegetables, 1.9% for maize, and 2.1% for  
153 other crops (Table 1). It results that about 18% of the entire watershed surface was used for  
154 irrigated crops. The remaining ground is covered by built-up areas, pasture, forest, agro-  
155 forestry and barren rocky land (boulder area). During the 2010 rainy season, the total  
156 cultivated land covered 45% of the watershed and was mainly dominated by cotton (19%;  
157 only 3% irrigated, Table 1), maize (15%; 7% irrigated) and rice (10%, all irrigated). Field  
158 observations on crop cultivation and irrigation were conducted with farmers to get data on  
159 cropping calendars and stages, as well as on watering techniques. Crop watering, determined  
160 by bore-well flow rates in the irrigated area, varies from 9 to 12 mm/day according to crops  
161 and seasons. These results are similar to those measured on the Maheshwaram watershed  
162 located 90 km farther south (Dewandel et al., 2008). Groundwater also supplies domestic  
163 uses, which amount is based on census data (Census, 2001). Combined with land-use, such  
164 data on groundwater consumption allow computing the seasonal groundwater abstraction on  
165 the watershed (Table 1), which was about 121 mm during the 2010 dry season (or 120 Mm<sup>3</sup>)  
166 and about 88 mm for the 2009 rainy season (or 87 Mm<sup>3</sup>). These results are consistent with  
167 those found for the Maheshwaram watershed with its similar cropping pattern: 100±27 mm  
168 and 73±9 mm during the dry and rainy seasons, respectively (average over 2002-2005;  
169 Maréchal et al., 2006; Dewandel et al., 2010). These computations also show that 86% of the  
170 annual groundwater abstraction is used for rice irrigation (196 mm/year; 176 Mm<sup>3</sup>/year),  
171 whereas domestic use is less than 1.5%.

172 Water-table maps were drawn based on groundwater-level measurements from 104 bore  
173 wells (abandoned wells, i.e. never pumped) after the rainy season (November 2009, Fig. 2a)  
174 and at the end of the dry season (June 2010). Water levels are deep (20 m below ground level  
175 on average; Fig. 2b), mainly within the fractured layer, more or less parallel to the  
176 topographic surface, and are impacted by the pumping wells.

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## 182 **3. Methods**

### 183 **3.1. Mapping the weathered layers**

184 Because establishing the geometry of the two main weathered layers (saprolite and fractured  
185 layers) is the first step of the method, layer-thickness investigations based on geological  
186 observations on outcrops and geophysical measurements were carried out.

187 Geological observations consisted in evaluating the saprolite thickness from dug wells.  
188 These very large wells (>20 m<sup>2</sup>), often deeper than 15 m and now dry because of receding  
189 water levels, are the only available exposures of the weathering profile. Generally, the deepest  
190 ones crosscut the top of the fractured layer, easily recognizable due to the presence of  
191 fractured granite at the bottom. About 250 dug wells were identified, 230 of which were  
192 suitable for identifying the top of the fractured layer. Other geological observations defined  
193 the lithology and identified the area without saprolite cover (the ‘Boulder Area’, i.e. barren  
194 rocky area corresponding to outcrops of the fractured layer). The locations of geological  
195 observations are presented in the ‘results section’ (see Fig. 5a).

196 Geophysical measurements consisted in electrical resistivity logging carried out in  
197 abandoned bore wells for estimating the layer thicknesses of the weathering profile. The  
198 logging tool, a simple probe designed at the Indo-French Centre for Groundwater Research  
199 (IFCGR, Hyderabad), is composed of two active electrodes (i.e. current and potential) fixed  
200 at 1 m separation on the probe and two additional electrodes (current and potential) kept on  
201 the ground at a relatively infinite distance from the bore well. The probe was connected to a  
202 “SYSCAL Switch (Junior)” resistivity meter and used to log at every 0.5 m intervals in the  
203 saturated zone. True resistivity could not be computed because of lack of data on bore-well  
204 diameter and on water electrical conductivity. However, previous experiments carried out in  
205 the same granite with the same weathering profile (Maheshwaram watershed, 90 km from  
206 Kudaliar; Chandra et al., 2009, and the Choutuppal experimental hydrogeological park at  
207 100 km; Chandra et al., 2015) showed very small differences between apparent and true  
208 resistivity of the rock, and a very good consistency between the weathered-layer thicknesses  
209 estimated from resistivity logs and detailed bore-well geological logs. Thus, the apparent  
210 resistivity has been taken for estimating layer thicknesses of the weathering profile.  
211 Measurements were carried out on 39 bore wells in the Kudaliar watershed. Figure 3 shows an  
212 example of resistivity well logging where weathering profile layers are recognized.

213

## 214 3.2. Regionalizing 3-D effective porosity

### 215 3.2.1. Effective porosity for the zone where the water table fluctuates (2-D approach)

216 Dewandel et al. (2012) developed an approach for estimating the effective porosity field for  
 217 that zone of the aquifer where the water table fluctuates. It consists in combining the water-  
 218 table-fluctuation method and groundwater budget for a dry season (i.e. without groundwater  
 219 recharge) with an aggregation method implying computations at various cell sizes. Assuming  
 220 negligible recharge, the change in groundwater storage of an unconfined aquifer during a dry  
 221 period is (Schicht and Walton, 1961; Maréchal et al., 2006; Zaidi et al., 2007):

$$222 \quad \Delta s = S_y \cdot \Delta h = ET + Q - RF + q_{\text{off}} - q_{\text{on}} + q_{\text{bf}} \quad (1)$$

223 where  $\Delta s$  is the change in groundwater storage (m),  $\Delta h$  is the water-table fluctuation (m),  $S_y$   
 224 is the effective porosity (or aquifer specific yield) of the zone where the water table fluctuates  
 225 (unit less),  $ET$  is the evaporation from the water table (m),  $Q$  is the abstraction of groundwater  
 226 by pumping (well-discharge rate) (m),  $RF$  is the irrigation return flow (m),  $q_{\text{on}}$  and  $q_{\text{off}}$  are  
 227 groundwater flow in and out of the aquifer (m), and  $q_{\text{bf}}$  is groundwater base flow to streams  
 228 and springs (m).

229 Groundwater abstraction by pumping,  $Q$ , has been computed from the land-use map. The  
 230 map has been aggregated on a 100x100 m cell grid, each cell corresponding to a specific  
 231 cropping pattern and/or urban area. Knowing the groundwater consumption of each land-use  
 232 category, the groundwater abstraction map could be computed (Fig. 2a). Irrigation return  
 233 flow,  $RF$ , was calculated according to return flow coefficients of each groundwater use (ratio  
 234 of water input over return flow to the aquifer); Table 2 gives the used return-flow coefficients  
 235 (Maréchal et al., 2006; Dewandel et al., 2008). Each coefficient was thus applied to the  
 236 corresponding groundwater use for the dry season, which allows computing the net  
 237 groundwater abstraction  $Q - RF$  in each cell.

238 Some terms of Eq. (1) can be neglected. Due to deep water levels in the area, on average  
 239 20 m in 2009-2010 (Fig. 2b),  $ET$  is a very small component of the budget, typically less than  
 240 1 mm/y (Dewandel et al., 2010) and can be neglected. In addition, the absence of perennial  
 241 stream- and spring flow because of the disconnection between the water table and the  
 242 hydrological network, leads to nil  $q_{\text{bf}}$ . Therefore, Eq. (1) can be simplified, and  $S_y$  becomes:

$$243 \quad S_y = (Q - RF + q_{\text{off}} - q_{\text{on}}) / \Delta h \quad (2)$$

244 Maréchal et al. (2006) and Dewandel et al. (2010) used Eq.2 for estimating  $S_y$  at the  
 245 watershed scale for the part of the aquifer where the water table fluctuates. At this scale and  
 246 because water table is a subdued replica of the topography,  $q_{\text{off}}$  and  $q_{\text{on}}$  were low-values and  
 247 thus their balance could be neglected ( $q_{\text{off}} - q_{\text{on}} \sim 0$ ). Assuming a small size affected by pumping  
 248 with known  $Q - RF$  and  $\Delta h$  values,  $q_{\text{off}}$  and  $q_{\text{on}}$  or their balance will not be negligible as the  
 249 radius of influence of the pumping will be larger than the size of the cell. Therefore assuming  
 250 for this example a nil  $q_{\text{off}} - q_{\text{on}}$  will induce an overestimation of  $S_y$  in Eq.2. Conversely, if the  
 251 cell size is larger than the radius of influence of the pumping, or a group of pumping wells,  
 252 the whole of the pumped volume will be abstracted from this large cell. The proposed  
 253 approach in Dewandel et al. (2012) is similar to a coarse-graining method, which means  
 254 that the system is observed with decreasing number of cells whose size is increasing. Since  
 255 the aquifer is heavily pumped for irrigation, the main component of water flow ( $Q$  and  $RF$ ) is  
 256 vertical, except near the pumping wells where horizontal flows are not negligible (i.e.  $q_{\text{off}}$  and  
 257  $q_{\text{on}}$ ). Thus, horizontal flow may occur in a small cell, but should disappear or be

258 counterbalanced as the cell size increases toward a particular threshold size, which depends  
259 upon the typical spacing between pumping wells (or group of pumping wells), as well as on  
260 local aquifer properties. Q-RF and  $\Delta h$  being known, but ' $q_{\text{off}}-q_{\text{on}}$ ' (horizontal flows) unknown,  
261 the aim of the method is to optimize the cell size for which ' $q_{\text{off}}-q_{\text{on}}$ ' is negligible compared to  
262 vertical flow (i.e. Q and RF), by making a cluster of computations of groundwater budget  
263 using increasing cell sizes. When increasing the size of the cells where the computations are  
264 done, the average of the cell's Sy values decreases to become near-stabilized at a value  
265 corresponding to the average Sy of the area, i.e. the one obtained while considering the  
266 watershed as a single cell (Dewandel et al., 2012). This method allows estimating a threshold,  
267 beyond which Sy stabilizes and horizontal flow can be neglected, or becomes negligible  
268 compared to vertical flow. This threshold determines the minimal cell size from which a 2-D  
269 effective-porosity field (map) can be computed. However, this map provides estimates only  
270 for the zone where the water table fluctuates.

### 271 *3.2.2. 3-D effective-porosity field*

272 Because of the mapping of the weathered layers, the part of the weathering profile, where the  
273 water table fluctuates is known; locally within the saprolite layer or at the top of the fractured  
274 layer, but also deeper (Fig. 4; Fig. 9). Therefore, each cell of the previous effective-porosity  
275 map is associated to a particular location within the weathering profile. Thus, for estimating  
276 the 3-D effective-porosity field, the system has been sliced according to the saprolite-  
277 fractured layer interface. This allows differentiating the two major layers of the aquifer  
278 (saprolite and fractured layer) as well as differentiating Sy-estimates according to depth below  
279 (or under) the interface.

280 Depth-intervals were chosen according to the number of available data—at least 30  
281 points to perform realistic geostatistical analyses—, but should not be too thin according to  
282 the vertical resolution of weathered thickness maps. In the present case, a minimum of 5 m  
283 was chosen and depth-intervals are the same over the entire watershed. We thus dispose of  
284 sets of Sy-estimates for several depth-intervals in the weathering profile. As each set does not  
285 cover the entire watershed, they were analysed (statistics, variogram analysis), and kriging  
286 was used to produce Sy field for each depth-interval. Because some zones of a depth-interval  
287 can be dry, maps do not systematically cover the whole watershed area (i.e. no computation  
288 for dry zones). The proposed technique is thus a 3-D Sy mapping based on Sy mapping of  
289 each depth-interval.

290 Finally, all Sy-depth-interval maps were aggregated to produce an average Sy map at the  
291 aquifer scale. This map can then easily be used for the computation of a groundwater storage  
292 map, defined as the amount of water that is present in the aquifer (amount=Sy\*saturated  
293 thickness), or a 'scarcity' map defined as the ratio groundwater storage/groundwater  
294 abstraction.

295

## 296 **4. Results**

### 297 **4.1. Maps of the weathered layers**

#### 298 *4.1.1. Saprolite layer*

299 Figure 5a shows the thickness of the saprolite layer based on geological and geophysical  
300 (resistivity logging in bore wells) observations using variogram analysis and kriging. The



301 variogram shows that the data are spatially structured and that kriging results in a relevant  
 302 map. A spherical model combined with a ‘nugget effect’ to account for random variability  
 303 was necessary to fit the experimental variogram (nugget: 10, sill: 43, length: 4500 m). The  
 304 nugget/sill ratio (0.23) is relatively low, suggesting that the variable has a strong spatial  
 305 dependency (Ahmadi and Sedghamiz, 2007). Saprolite thickness ranges from 0 m (boulder  
 306 area) to 28 m, and is on average 13 m thick at watershed scale. This result agrees with  
 307 previous work in the same granite (10–16 m; Maheshwaram granite, Dewandel et al., 2006).

308

#### 309 *4.1.2. Total weathering profile*

310 Resistivity well-logging in the 39 bore wells (Fig. 3) shows that the resistivity values of the  
 311 saprolite layer ranges between a few to 100  $\Omega\text{m}$  with low variations with depth. For the  
 312 fractured layer, averaged values range between a few hundred to 3000  $\Omega\text{m}$ , with high  
 313 variations between fractured zones (few tens to hundreds  $\Omega\text{m}$ ) and the poorly to unfractured  
 314 granite (up to several thousands  $\Omega\text{m}$ ). The unfractured bedrock is characterized by the highest  
 315 resistivity, 3000 up to 10,000  $\Omega\text{m}$ , with minor depth-variations. For consistency, each  
 316 saprolite thickness evaluated from these measurements was verified with the geological data  
 317 from nearby dug wells. According to these measurements, bedrock depth—which corresponds  
 318 to the total thickness of the weathering profile—varies from 26 to 66 m (average  $43\pm 10$  m)  
 319 for saprolite thickness ranging between 9 and 34 m (average  $19\pm 6$  m). These relatively high  
 320 variations determined at local scale make it, however, difficult to directly map the layer  
 321 thicknesses over the entire watershed.

322 For each of the 39 well-logging locations, the saprolite thickness was plotted against the  
 323 entire weathering-profile thickness (Fig. 5c). Results show that the two parameters are  
 324 linearly related according to the following relationship:

$$325 \quad \text{Tot\_weath\_thick.} = 1.42(\pm 0.14) \times \text{Sapro\_thick} + 17.0(\pm 2.8) \quad (3)$$

326 where Sapro\_thick is the saprolite thickness (m) and Tot\_weath\_thick. the thickness of the  
 327 entire weathering profile (m). The values between brackets give the 95% confidence interval.

328 The linear regression coefficient,  $R^2$ , is 0.75, indicating that this relationship is robust  
 329 enough for estimating bedrock depths at the 230 dug-well locations where saprolite thickness  
 330 was estimated by geological surveying. For the boulder area (145 points), since saprolite is  
 331 absent, the fractured layer is thus fixed at 17 m thick according to Eq. (3).

332 Figure 5b presents the total weathering-profile thickness map. A spherical variogram  
 333 model combined with a ‘nugget effect’ (nugget: 17, sill: 89, length: 4800 m) was used. The  
 334 nugget/sill ratio (0.19) again shows a strong spatial dependency, probably due to the spatial  
 335 continuity of weathering processes at the watershed scale. Weathering-profile thickness  
 336 ranges from 17 m (boulder area) to 56 m, and is on average 35 m. This result agrees with  
 337 Maheshwaram granite (26–38 m; Dewandel et al., 2006).

338

## 339 **4.2. Effective porosity**

### 340 *4.2.1. Effective porosity for the zone where the water table fluctuates (2-D approach)*

341 The water-table fluctuation map ( $\Delta h$ ) and net groundwater abstraction (Q-RF) were  
 342 computed. Figure 6 shows the  $\Delta h$  map and Q-RF (here on a 1250x1250 m cell-size grid)  
 343 between November 2009 and June 2010 (dry season). The  $\Delta h$  map is based on 104 mutual  
 344 water-level-observation locations and standard kriging techniques (variogram model:  
 345 spherical, sill: 9.3, length 2800 m). Mean  $\Delta h$  is 4.8 m ( $\pm 1.3$  m) at the watershed scale, and Q-  
 346 RF varies from 0 (mainly boulder area) to 310,000 m<sup>3</sup> (1250x1250 m cell-size grid). At the  
 347 watershed scale, Q-RF is 68 Mm<sup>3</sup>, or 68.9 mm (Table 3).

348 According to the proposed method,  $\Delta h$  and Q-RF were computed for seven cell sizes (Q-  
 349 RF and  $\Delta h$  maps being re-established for each cell size), whose sizes varied from 100x100 m  
 350 to 2150x2150 m. Computations of  $S_y$  with Eq. (2) on the seven grids were followed by  
 351 establishing  $S_y$  maps for each grid. Figure 7 presents the analysis of the impact of cell size on  
 352 the  $S_y$  values (arithmetic average, standard deviation, maximum and minimum values,  
 353 median, outliers, etc.). The arithmetic average shows a relatively flat trend: for small cell sizes  
 354 the value is about 0.011 and then slightly increases to reach a plateau at 0.013 for cell sizes  
 355 roughly larger than 1 000x1 000 m. This plateau value is very close to that obtained within the  
 356 same granite and weathering profile in the Maheshwaram watershed (0.014 $\pm$ 0.003, Maréchal  
 357 et al., 2006; Dewandel et al., 2010, 2012).

358 The expected decrease in arithmetic average at watershed scale with increasing cell size  
 359 is not observed, probably because the location of groundwater abstraction points results from  
 360 a land-use rather than a bore-wells database as in Dewandel et al. (2012); this point will be  
 361 discussed later. However, the number of outliers rapidly decreases when increasing the cell  
 362 size for computation. In statistical terms, these extreme values fall outside the main normal  
 363 distribution of the dataset, which may be due to very high data variability, or to abnormal  
 364 values (experimental error). These high  $S_y$  values, exceeding 7-10%, can be considered as  
 365 unrealistic for such aquifers, particularly in the fractured zone where  $S_y$  does not exceed a  
 366 few percent (e.g. Maréchal et al., 2004; Dewandel et al., 2012); they thus correspond to cases  
 367 where horizontal flow ( $q_{\text{off}}-q_{\text{on}}$ ) cannot be neglected. Therefore, outliers can be considered as  
 368 abnormal values indicative of cell-sizes with significant horizontal flows. The number of  
 369 outliers starts to disappear for cell-sizes over 800x800 m, suggesting that beyond this size  
 370 horizontal flows can be neglected and that  $S_y$  values can be used for mapping.

371  $S_y$  map was drawn for cells of 1250x1250 m (Fig. 8). Variogram analysis shows a strong  
 372 spatial dependency of the data (variogram model: exponential, sill:  $3.7 \times 10^{-5}$ , length: 4800 m).  
 373  $S_y$  values range between  $10^{-4}$  and 0.037, with an average of 0.013 ( $\pm 0.007$ ).

374

#### 375 4.2.2. 3-D effective-porosity field

376 A N-S cross section of the Kudaliar watershed (Fig. 9) shows the aquifer interval where the  
 377 water table fluctuates and thus the interval in which  $S_y$ -values were mapped (cell-size:  
 378 1250x1250 m, Fig. 8). According to the methodology described above, each  $S_y$ -value was  
 379 associated to its location in the weathering profile: about 9% of  $S_y$ -values lie in the saprolite  
 380 layer (51 data or cells) and 91% in the fractured layer (533 data), because mainly the fractured  
 381 layer is saturated. As the number of  $S_y$ -values in the saprolite layer is relatively low and as  
 382 estimates are provided for the first 10 m—the reference level is at the interface ‘saprolite-  
 383 fractured layer’—only one layer (0-10 m) was considered. This depth-interval has an  
 384 averaged saturated thickness of  $2.8 \pm 1.7$  m. For the fractured layer, the system has been sliced  
 385 into five depth intervals. The first four intervals are: 0-5 m (139 data), 5-10 m (217 data), 10-  
 386 15 m (145 data) and 15-22 m (32 data), the last layer being slightly thicker in order to gather

387 enough data (at least 30; see above). Corresponding saturated thicknesses are  $2.7\pm 1.7$  m for  
388 the first,  $3.6\pm 1.7$  m for the second,  $4.5\pm 1.1$  m for the third, and  $6.5\pm 1.3$  m for the fourth  
389 depth-interval. Because water-table fluctuation does not provide information on  $S_y$  in places  
390 where the fractured zone is thicker than 22 m, a linear interpolation was based on average  $S_y$ -  
391 values of each upper depth interval. This last, fifth, depth interval ( $>22$  m) concerns 396 cells,  
392 but corresponds to a small thickness at aquifer scale,  $1.8\pm 2.0$  m, and low  $S_y$  values (Fig. 10a).  
393  $S_y$  values in the saprolite layer and in the first three depth intervals of the fractured layer (0-5  
394 to 10-15 m; Fig. 10a) follow a similar normal distribution with comparable average values  
395 (0.014) and standard deviations (0.006 to 0.007).  $S_y$  values in the 15-22 m depth-interval  
396 again follow a near-normal distribution, but with a lower average (0.010), and  $S_y$  in the last  
397 layer (22 m down to unfractured rock) is also characterized by a near-normal distribution and  
398 an average of 0.005. The  $S_y$ -value variograms for each depth interval (Fig. 10a) show a strong  
399 to moderate spatial dependency of  $S_y$ , with a nugget/sill ratio varying from 0 to 0.49.  
400 However, we cannot be certain of this point because of the absence of data over the short  
401 distance (1 250-m cell size) used for the computation.

402 Figure 10b shows the resulting  $S_y$  maps. Maps for the depth-intervals 0-5 m, 5-10 m, 10-  
403 15 m and 15-22 m were established using standard kriging techniques. The two other maps  
404 (saprolite layer and 22 m down to unfractured rock) did not require such techniques as a  $S_y$   
405 value was available for all grid cells.

406

## 407 5. Discussion

408 To test its validity, the proposed approach was also applied to the 730 km<sup>2</sup> Anantapur  
409 watershed. Though fewer geological field observations are available for this watershed, all  
410 other data are similar in terms of density, such as land-use at parcel scale and 130 points for  
411 water-table measurements. The main information concerning this watershed is provided as  
412 ‘supplemental materials’.

### 413 5.1. Mapping the weathering profile

414 In the Kudaliar watershed, a linear relationship (Eq. 3) between saprolite thickness and the  
415 total weathering-profile thickness was founded. This relationship was used for estimating the  
416 total weathering-profile thickness at the watershed scale. This relationship is however  
417 empirical and, *a priori*, only valid for this particular weathering profile. The fairly good  
418 relationship also suggests that the weathering profile in the area is unique; otherwise relations  
419 would have been different from place to place. This relation also agrees with the observed  
420 weathering profile in the Maheshwaram watershed (same geology; Dewandel et al., 2006).

421 In the Anantapur watershed, a linear relationship was also found  
422 ( $\text{Tot\_weath\_thick.} = 3.51[\pm 0.70] \times \text{Sapro\_thick} + 13.6[\pm 5.2]$ ;  $R^2 = 0.78$ ; 9 points) but different  
423 from the one established in the Kudaliar area. Saprolite layer is thinner, on average  $5\pm 4$  m  
424 thick at watershed scale, resulting in a total weathering profile of  $31\pm 13$  m thick, thinner than  
425 in Kudaliar. Two main reasons may explain these differences, lithology and structure. The  
426 Anantapur watershed rocks, containing less biotite, are probably less affected by weathering  
427 (Eggler et al., 1969; Ledger and Rowe, 1980; Wyns et al., 2015), and the structural  
428 deformation of the rocks there—dominated by highly foliated gneisses—may further limit the  
429 deepening of the weathering front. Additionally, differences may come from different  
430 weathering-erosion contexts, one watershed having been more exposed to weathering or  
431 erosion because of landscape rejuvenation of the Indian peninsula (Radakrishna, 1993).

432

## 433 **5.2. Effective porosity**

### 434 *5.2.1. Effective porosity within the water-table fluctuation zone of the aquifer*

435 The approach consists in investigating how the groundwater budget depends on cell size in  
436 the absence of recharge from rainfall (Eq. 2). When this is carried out where precise locations  
437 of groundwater abstraction (i.e. bore wells) are available, the arithmetic average of effective  
438 porosity ( $S_y$ ) at watershed scale should decrease as the cell size increases, stabilizing around  
439 the mean value at watershed scale (Dewandel et al., 2012). Such stabilization starts from a  
440 particular threshold cell-size that depends on the water-level depression caused by groups of  
441 wells and local aquifer properties. In the Kudaliar watershed (Fig. 7), this decrease is not  
442 observed and  $S_y$  values stabilize rapidly around the mean watershed-scale value ( $S_y=0.013$ ).  
443 But, as the number of  $S_y$  outlier values (here considered as abnormal data) decreases rapidly,  
444 it is possible to evaluate the threshold size.

445 In Kudaliar, groundwater abstraction data derive from a land-use map (100x100 m cells),  
446 thus assuming that a bore well and its irrigated land are located within the same cell.  
447 Therefore, the precise bore well locations are unknown. When groundwater budget is  
448 computed over small cells, land-use may indicate the presence of irrigated crops within the  
449 cell though the actual bore well is located in an adjacent cell. Therefore, for small cell sizes,  
450 some cells with high Q-RF and low  $\Delta h$  that give high  $S_y$  values, and others with low Q-RF  
451 and high  $\Delta h$  that give low  $S_y$  values, both cases corresponding to what we identify as  
452 ‘outliers’. This absence of accurate data on bore-well locations requires a significant increase  
453 of the cell size (over 800x800 m) in order to include in the same cell both area of groundwater  
454 use and corresponding pumping well, as well as water-level depressions caused by groups of  
455 wells making negligible horizontal flow balance (i.e.  $q_{\text{off}}-q_{\text{on}} \sim 0$ ). In the Maheshwaram  
456 watershed (Dewandel et al., 2012), the cell-size threshold was smaller (520x520 m) as  
457 pumping-well locations were known. However,  $S_y$  maps based on computations performed on  
458 larger cell sizes (800x800 m and 1040x1040 m) were not significantly different from those  
459 based on a smaller cell-size, showing that increasing the cell-size for computation does not  
460 affect significantly the result. In Kudaliar though, the larger threshold size (over 800x800 m)  
461 still depends on water-level depression caused by groups of wells and local aquifer properties,  
462 but also on the technique used for estimating groundwater abstraction, and on the possible  
463 presence of land-use errors.

464 In the Anantapur watershed, the same investigations were carried out, and data analysis  
465 shows a decrease in the arithmetic average of  $S_y$  at watershed scale as the cell size increases,  
466 but only between the first two cell-sizes of computation (100x100 m to 500x500 m,  
467 Supplemental Materials). The number of outliers rapidly decreases to disappear for cell sizes  
468 larger than 1000x1000 m; this threshold size is similar to the one found in Kudaliar and  
469 computation were performed for cell-size of 1250x1250 m. At the watershed scale, the  $S_y$   
470 value—for the zone where the water table fluctuates—is on average about 0.017, a value  
471 relatively close to the Kudaliar one (0.013).

472

### 473 *5.2.2. 3-D Effective porosity*

474 Figure 11a,b shows cross sections of  $S_y$ -values for both watersheds. In some places,  $S_y$ -  
475 values decrease with depth and in others  $S_y$ -value is almost homogeneous on a vertical scale.

476 In crystalline aquifers, very few data are available on the vertical distribution of  $S_y$ . Estimates  
477 from Protonic Resonance Soundings (PRS) (Wyns et al., 2004; Baltassat et al., 2005;  
478 Vouillamoz, 2002, 2005, 2014) highlight a depth-decrease in  $S_y$  that is interpreted as a  
479 consequence of a depth-decrease in fracture density and grade of weathering. However, PRS  
480 measurements are made at the site scale (few tens of  $m^2$ ) and do not provide information on  
481 possible lateral variations at the watershed scale, or within the same weathering profile.

482 At the watershed scale (Fig. 11a,b), we found a major lateral variability in  $S_y$  values,  
483 suggesting that within a same weathering profile the density of open fractures and/or degree  
484 of weathering in the fractured zone may significantly vary from a place to another. Figure 12  
485 shows how the average of  $S_y$  values varies according to depth in the weathering profile at  
486 watershed scale. For Kudaliar,  $S_y$  is almost constant from the last metres of the saprolite layer  
487 down to 12 to 15 m in the fractured zone (0.013 to 0.014), then decreases to less than 0.005  
488 for the deepest part of the fractured layer (20-25 m). At Anantapur, the  $S_y$ -depth variation is  
489 different: the saprolite layer on average is characterized by the higher porosity (about 0.04),  
490 followed by a rapid decrease within the first 15 m of the fractured layer ( $<0.004$  for the depth-  
491 interval 10-15 m). Our results shows that, at watershed scale and depending on the geology  
492 and structure of the weathering profile, the vertical distribution of  $S_y$  can be very different,  
493 and that not all fractured zones in crystalline aquifers are necessarily characterized by a rapid  
494 depth-decrease in effective porosity, as is generally assumed.

495 Mean  $S_y$ -values for the entire saturated thickness were computed (Fig. 13), based on  
496 depth-interval  $S_y$ -maps and the corresponding saturated thickness of each layer. No clear  
497 relation with geology is observed. Only boulder areas, because of a less developed weathering  
498 profile (a few tens of metres of fractured zone), exhibit the lowest values regardless of the  
499 underlying geology. This absence of relation was also observed by Dewandel et al. (2012)—  
500 for  $S_y$  values for the zone where the water table fluctuates—in an area covered by biotite- and  
501 leucocratic granite. This suggests that in granitic rocks the lateral  $S_y$  variability within the  
502 weathering profile can be more important than the  $S_y$  variability between rocks of the same  
503 group.

504

### 505 **5.3. Implications for mapping groundwater storage and scarcity**

506 The understanding of 3-D effective-porosity distribution provides new insights that can help  
507 explaining an observed local seasonal water-level decrease as well as a hydraulic  
508 disconnection in the aquifer because of pumping (Guiléneuf et al., 2014).

509 Combining the map of  $S_y$  values established for the entire saturated thickness (Fig. 13)  
510 with the thickness of the saturated aquifer, provides a groundwater storage map (Fig. 14a, c)  
511 and thus location of potential aquifers. Depth-variation of the groundwater storage at  
512 watershed scale is presented in Figure 15.  $S_y$  being higher in the Kudaliar watershed, the  
513 groundwater storage is higher as well,  $175.2 \text{ Mm}^3$  (or 178 mm) and relatively deep, with 84%  
514 between 5 and 22 m in the fractured layer (Fig. 15). In Anantapur, groundwater storage is  
515 lower at  $107.3 \text{ Mm}^3$  (or 145 mm), and rapidly decreases with depth, making this area more  
516 vulnerable to intensive pumping and drought as productive layers will be more rapidly  
517 desaturated. In both watersheds, the groundwater-storage values are nevertheless highly  
518 variable in space, ranging from over 450 mm where the weathering profile is thick and  
519 porous, to very low values where the profile is very thin (e.g. boulder areas) or of low  
520 porosity.

521 With the objective of having a clear view on how aquifers are exposed to drought and  
522 pumping, a map showing water scarcity and vulnerability to overexploitation of the aquifer  
523 has been computed for each watershed (Fig. 14b, d). It is based on the ratio groundwater-  
524 storage over net-annual-groundwater-abstraction (i.e., Q-RF), thus showing the duration in  
525 years of groundwater storage available with present abstraction rates—determined from land-  
526 use maps—and without recharge from rainfall, assuming thus successive low monsoons with  
527 insignificant recharge (<10 mm in 2004; Dewandel et al., 2010)). Such maps don't have the  
528 objective to predict where or during how many years groundwater can be pump, but to  
529 highlight how the degree of groundwater scarcity varies within watersheds. According to our  
530 commutations results show that on average groundwater storage corresponds to 2.2 years  
531 ( $\pm 2.7$ ) of pumping in Kudaliar and 3.9 years ( $\pm 5.3$ ) in Anantapur. Additionally, in Kudaliar  
532 85% of the area has less than 3 years of storage while this is 70% in Anantapur.

533 This demonstrates that both watersheds are clearly exposed to drought because of  
534 intensive pumping, but that their exposure is contrasted. Even if the Kudaliar watershed has  
535 the greater aquifer reserve, it is the most exposed to groundwater scarcity because of intensive  
536 pumping. Net groundwater abstraction ( $Q-RF_{\text{annual}}$ : 114 mm) is probably balanced by recharge  
537 from normal (110-120 mm/year; Dewandel et al., 2010, Perrin et al., 2012) and high  
538 monsoons, but not by low monsoons (<10 mm in 2004; Dewandel et al., 2010). At Anantapur,  
539 the area is drier—annual rainfall is 60% less than in Kudaliar—and also highly pumped. Even  
540 so, the years of available storage are on average significantly longer, indicating that the area is  
541 more subject to groundwater scarcity because of low monsoon recharge than, surprisingly,  
542 because of pumping. However, the northern part of the area is highly exposed to drought, with  
543 less than 2 years of groundwater storage. It seems that farmers at Anantapur have adapted  
544 their groundwater needs (irrigation, water supply) to what can be provided by the natural  
545 resource. This may have been induced by water-policy strategies and local experience of  
546 cultivation in a drier climate, motivating farmers to save groundwater for future dry years.  
547 This confirms that, even if groundwater storage is less, the adaptability of farmers to adjust  
548 their cropping patterns to bore-well yields and climate plays an important role in facing  
549 successive drought periods (Fishman et al., 2011; Aulong et al., 2012).

550

## 551 6. Conclusions

552 Mapping the weathered layer in crystalline aquifers is generally difficult, requiring a great  
553 surveying effort. Field work, based on geological observations and basic geophysical  
554 surveying (resistivity logging in bore wells), covered two large watersheds (Kudaliar,  
555 983 km<sup>2</sup>, and Anantapur, 730 km<sup>2</sup>). The results show linear relationships between saprolite  
556 thickness and total-weathering-profile thickness that are *a priori* valid for one lithology in the  
557 same geological and weathering-profile context. They help in mapping the total weathering  
558 profile thickness. The maps are, however, valid at large scale (here 500x500 m) and do not  
559 consider local variations, for instance deepening of the weathering front because of local  
560 geological heterogeneity (faults, veins; Dewandel et al., 2011; Roques et al., 2014a&b). In  
561 Anantapur, additional field data should be collected to determine if the relationship varies  
562 significantly according to the geology, which is more complex.

563 We show that alternative methods using basic field measurements and satellite remote-  
564 sensing data can be used for regionalizing effective-porosity values in 3-D. The method is  
565 particularly interesting in fractured crystalline formations, where hydrodynamic-parameter

566 datasets deduced from hydraulic tests are generally not available on enough locations to allow  
567 a relevant mapping.

568 The method is applicable to aquifers intensively pumped from numerous bore wells,  
569 requires a good knowledge of water-table variations in the absence of recharge and the  
570 weathering profile structure. At watershed scale,  $S_y$ -values for the saturated aquifer range  
571 from 0.5% to 2% in the Kudaliar watershed (1.3% on average), and from 0.3% to 1% (0.6%  
572 on average) at Anantapur. The proposed method provides information on the spatial  
573 distribution of porosity that can be used in groundwater modelling and for testing the impact  
574 of climate change (Vigaud et al., 2012; Ferrant et al., 2014).

575 The 3-D effective-porosity field shows that lateral variations are generally more  
576 important than vertical ones, suggesting that, within a same weathering profile, the density of  
577 open fractures and/or the degree of weathering within the fractured zone (low-permeable but  
578 porous materials) may significantly vary from place to place. Our results also show that the  
579 vertical distribution of effective porosity within the fractured zone is not necessarily  
580 characterized by a rapid decrease in effective porosity.

581 No clear relationship was found between  $S_y$  and geology, indicating that, for these  
582 watersheds, lateral  $S_y$  variations within the same geology and weathering profile are more  
583 important than the variability in  $S_y$  between rocks of similar mineralogy exposed to the same  
584 weathering processes. However, both watersheds being mainly composed of granitoid rocks  
585 (granite and gneiss), we cannot exclude that other crystalline rocks, such as schist, or other  
586 weathering conditions, may present different behaviours.

587 The capability of producing groundwater-storage maps is very useful for establishing  
588 water-protection zones and improving groundwater-management policies. This last point is  
589 particularly important as, for example in India, water demand for agricultural and industrial  
590 development is increasing every year, which has led to the overpumping of numerous aquifers  
591 (e.g., Rodell et al., 2009; Tiwari et al., 2009) and may further increase the frequency of  
592 aquifer drought and scarcity (e.g. Kumar et al., 2005; CGWB, 2009). Thus, maps showing the  
593 ratio between groundwater-storage and net-annual-groundwater-abstraction are of prime  
594 interest for identifying the areas more exposed to groundwater scarcity. Results also show the  
595 capabilities of farmers to adapt their cropping pattern to their natural resource, and also that  
596 aquifer drought may occur more frequently in Kudaliar, which may lead to a further increase  
597 of the already high number of dry bore wells. In extreme cases, such as the low 2004  
598 monsoon in Andhra Pradesh, this has led to bankruptcy and suicides, due to the failure of bore  
599 wells producing enough water to sustain crops (Maréchal, 2010).

600 Further research should confirm the linear dependency of saprolite thickness according to  
601 total-weathering-profile thickness, particularly over other hard-rock formations than granite  
602 (e.g. schist). The technique used for estimating the 3-D effective-porosity field should also be  
603 improved, particularly by developing techniques to refine the location of groundwater  
604 abstraction, adapted to areas without groundwater exploitation or applied to other hard-rock  
605 environments. Decision-support tools using the water-table-fluctuation and groundwater-  
606 budget techniques at watershed scale (e.g., Dewandel et al., 2010) could be downscaled to cell  
607 size, for example by incorporating the 3-D  $S_y$  field, to predict water levels with variable agro-  
608 climatic scenarios and thus improve groundwater management.

609

610

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619

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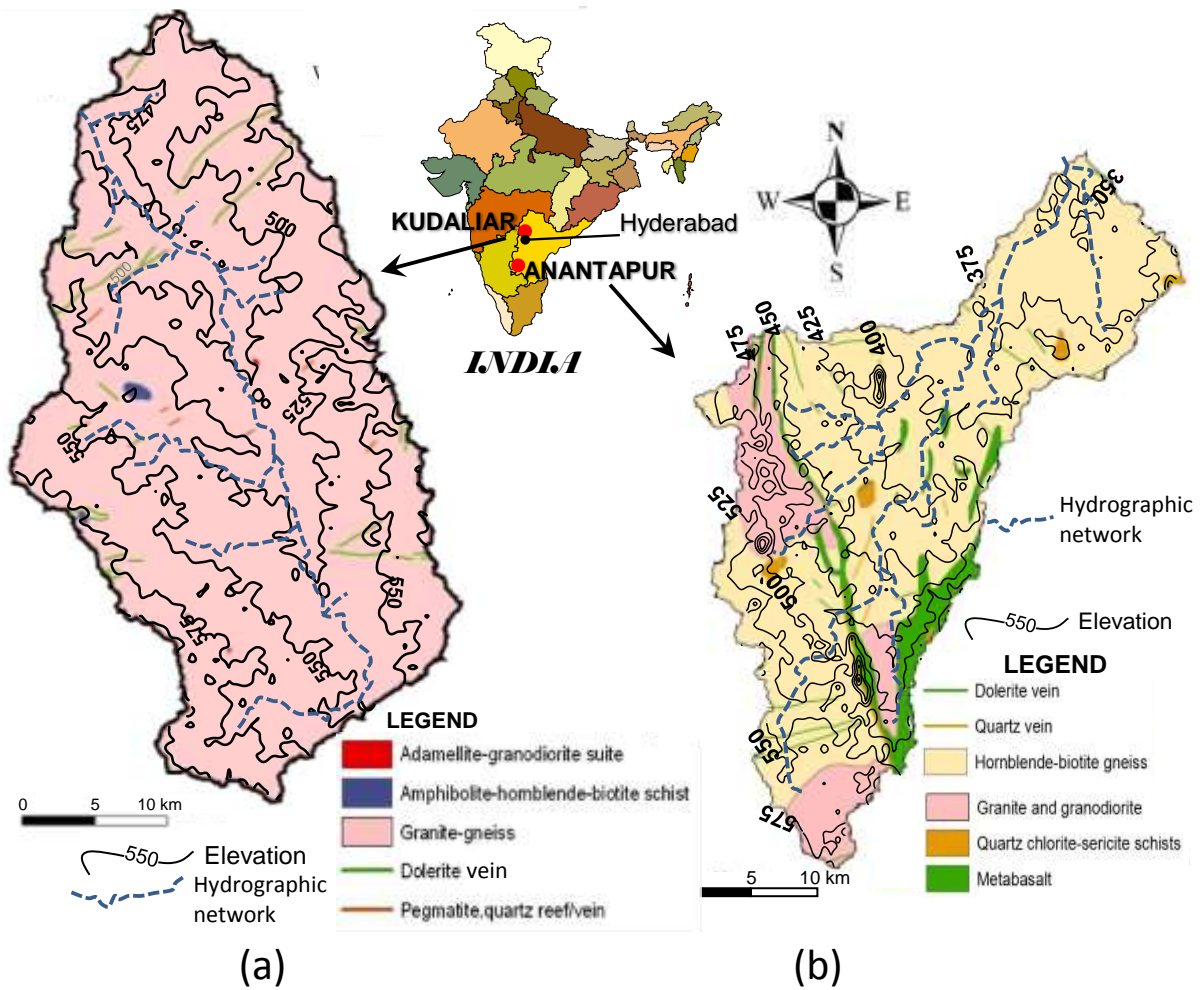
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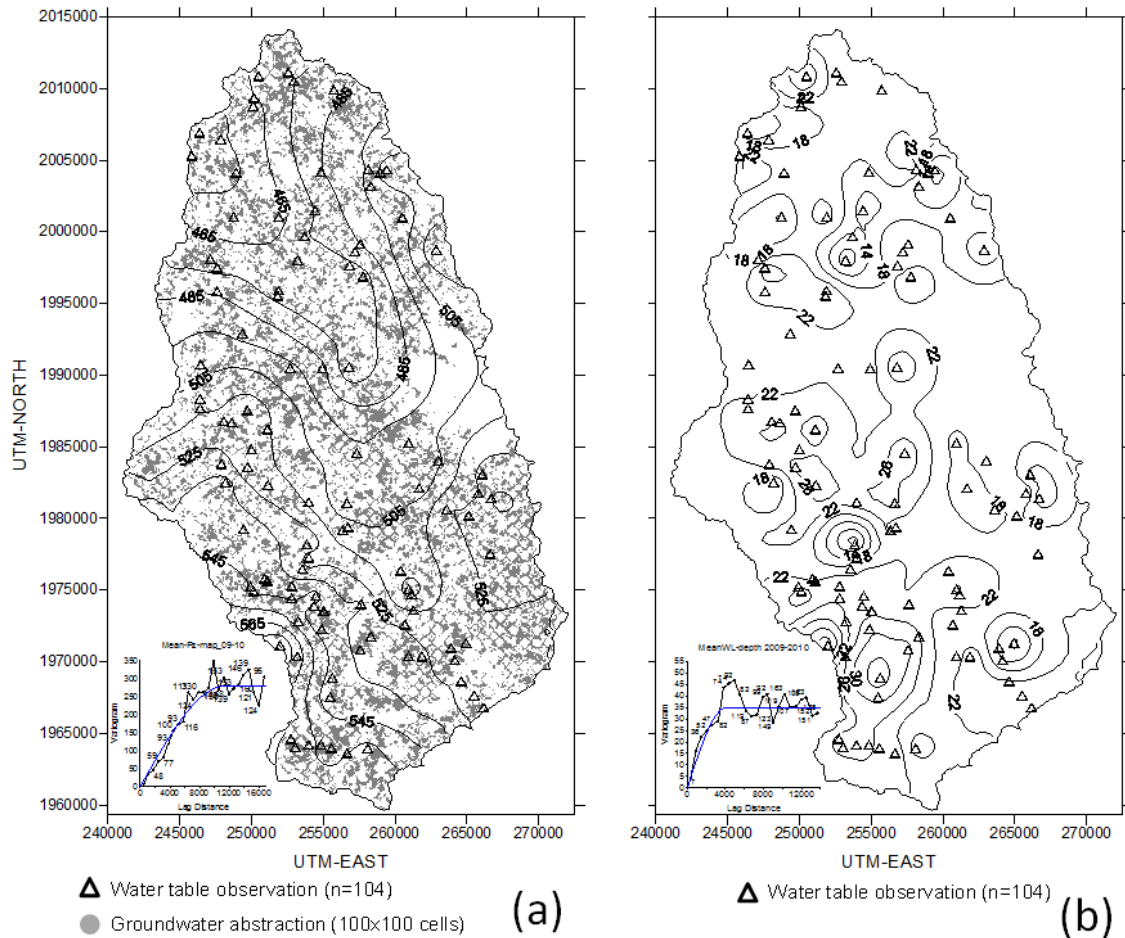
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801 **Figure**



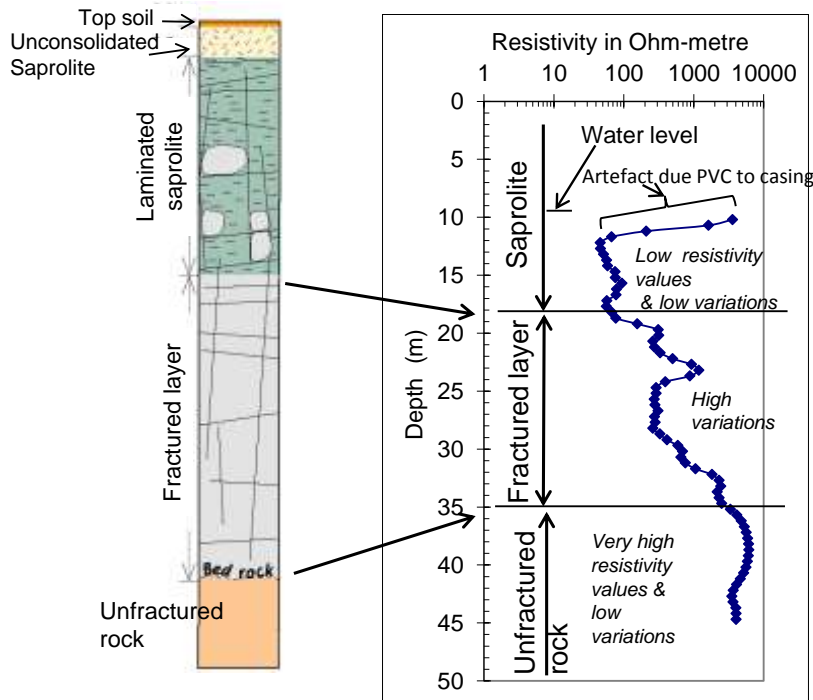
802

803 **Figure 1.** Geological maps of the Kudaliar and Anantapur watersheds (State of Telangana,  
 804 India), and topographic levels (metres above sea level). Contour interval: 25 m.



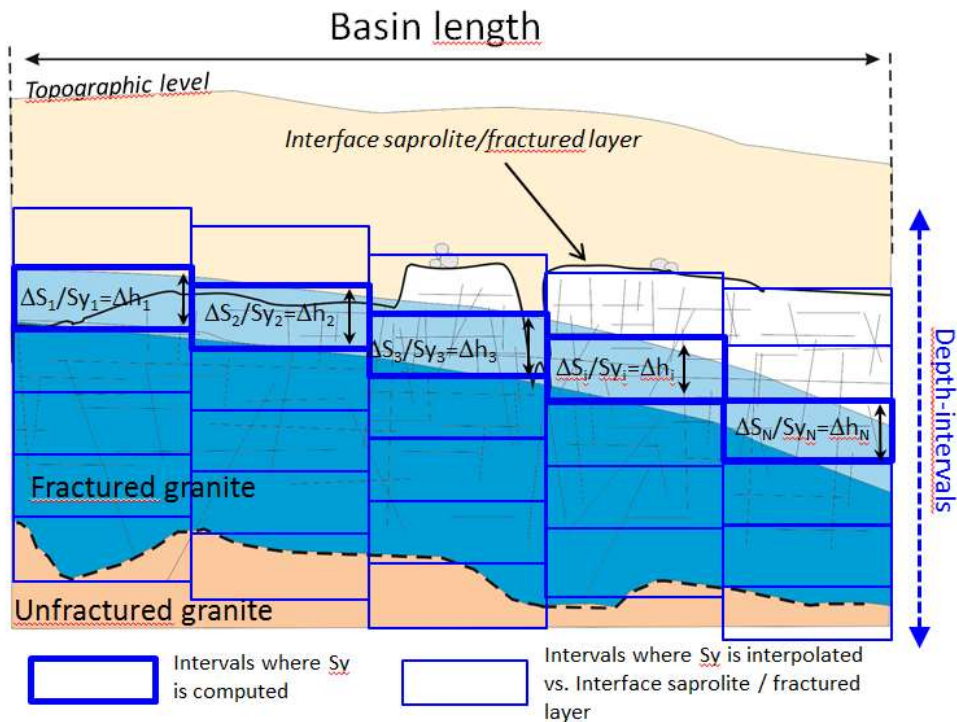
805

806 **Figure 2.** a) Mean water-table map (metres above sea level) ; contour interval: 10 m and b)  
 807 Mean water-table depth map (metres; contour interval: 4 m) of the Kudaliar watershed during  
 808 the 2010 dry season. Location of observation (104) and pumping wells (cell size: 100x100 m)  
 809 deduced from land-use at parcel scale are also presented. The inserts present the variograms  
 810 used for data interpolation (water-table map= model: spherical, length: 11500 m, sill: 280;  
 811 water table depth map= model: spherical, length: 4100 m, sill: 35).



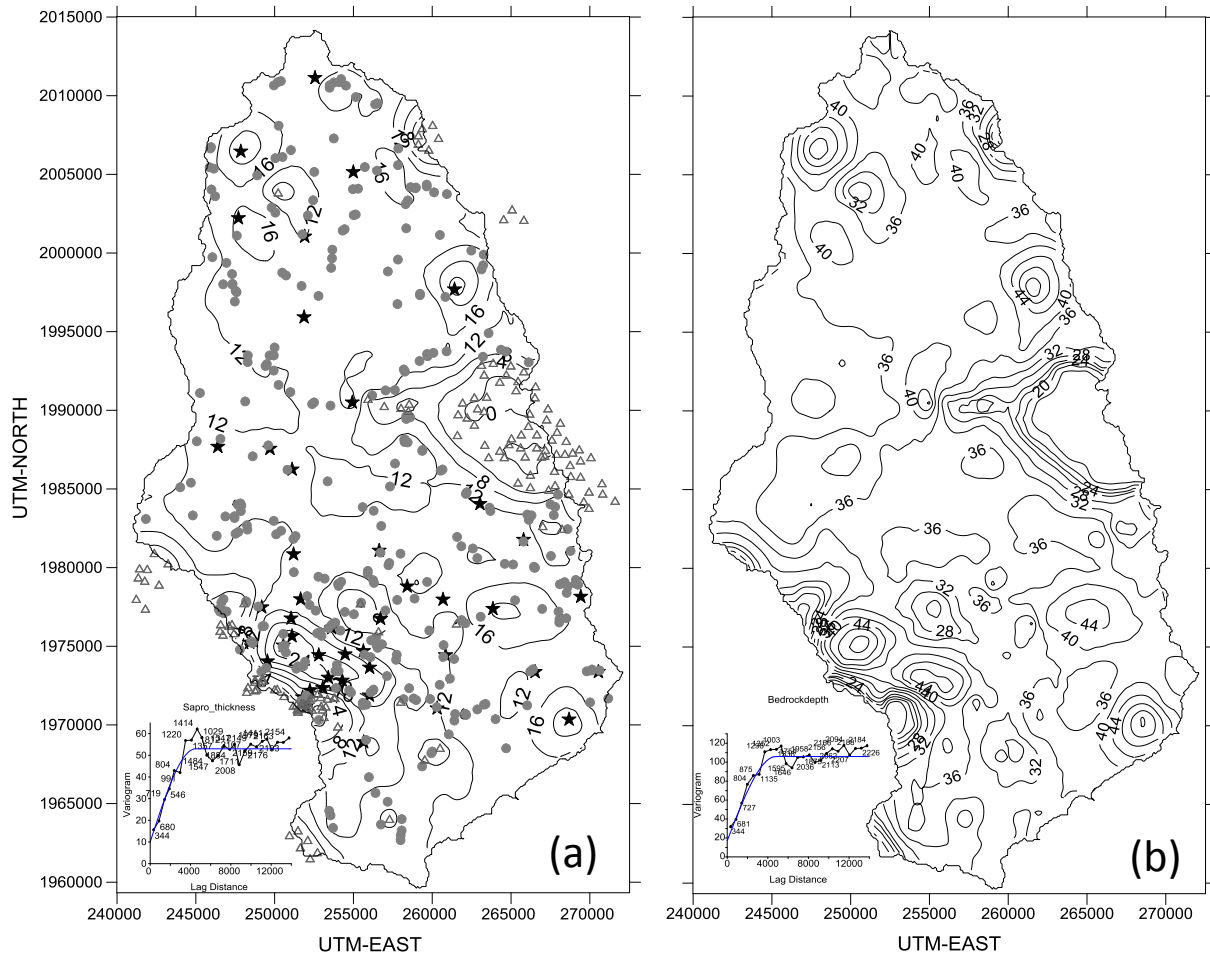
812

813 **Figure 3.** Example of electrical resistivity well logging (apparent resistivity) used for  
 814 estimating the total thickness of the weathering profile; Kudaliar watershed.



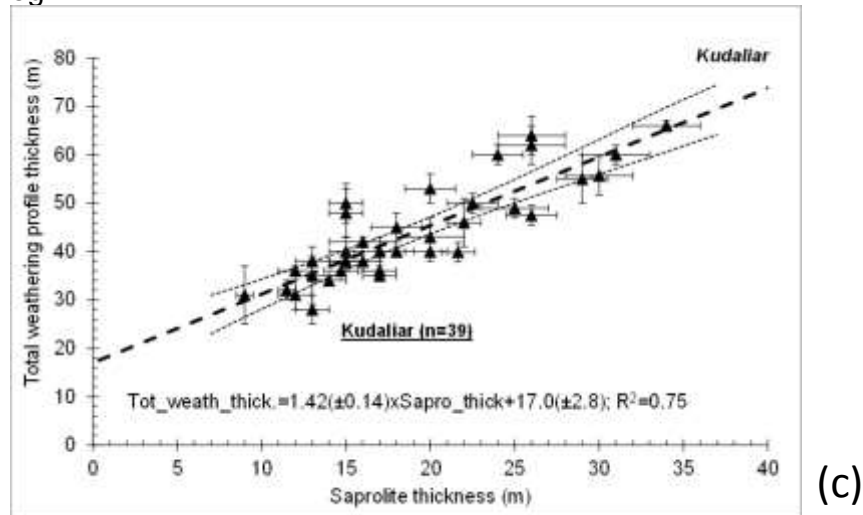
815

816 **Figure 4.** Sketch for computing the effective porosity ( $S_y$ ) of each depth-interval according to  
 817 the interface between saprolite and fractured layer.



**Geological survey:** ● saprolite estimates    △ Boulders (large amount of fresh rock)

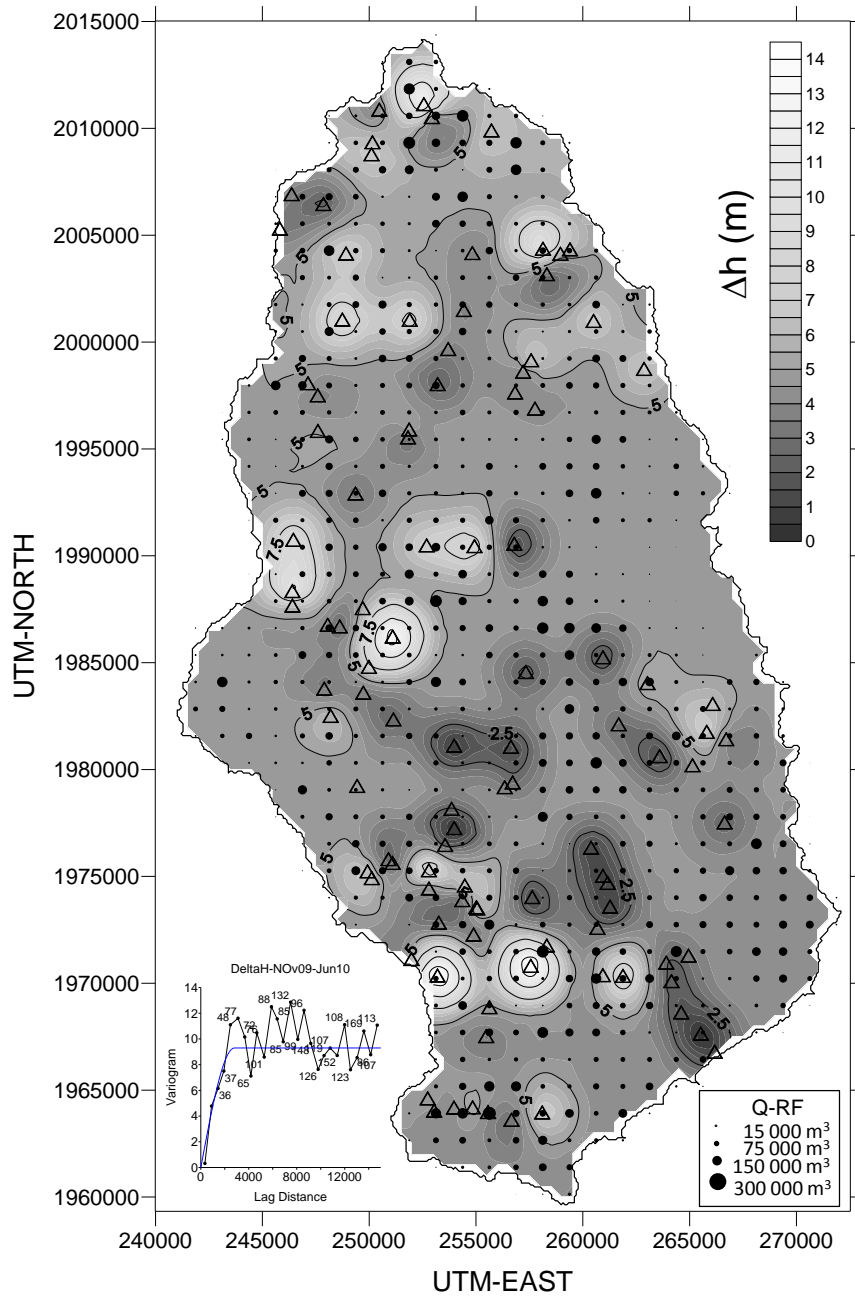
★ Geophysical log



818

819 **Figure 5.** Mapping of the weathered layers, Kudaliar watershed. a) Saprolite thickness map.  
 820 b) Total weathering-profile-thickness map. c) Relationship between saprolite thickness and  
 821 the entire weathering-profile thickness; dotted lines present the 95% interval. The inserts  
 822 present the variograms used for data interpolation (saprolite map= model: spherical, nugget:  
 823 10, length: 4500 m, sill: 43; total weathering-profile thickness map= model: spherical, nugget:  
 824 17, length: 4800 m, sill: 89). Contour interval: 4 m.

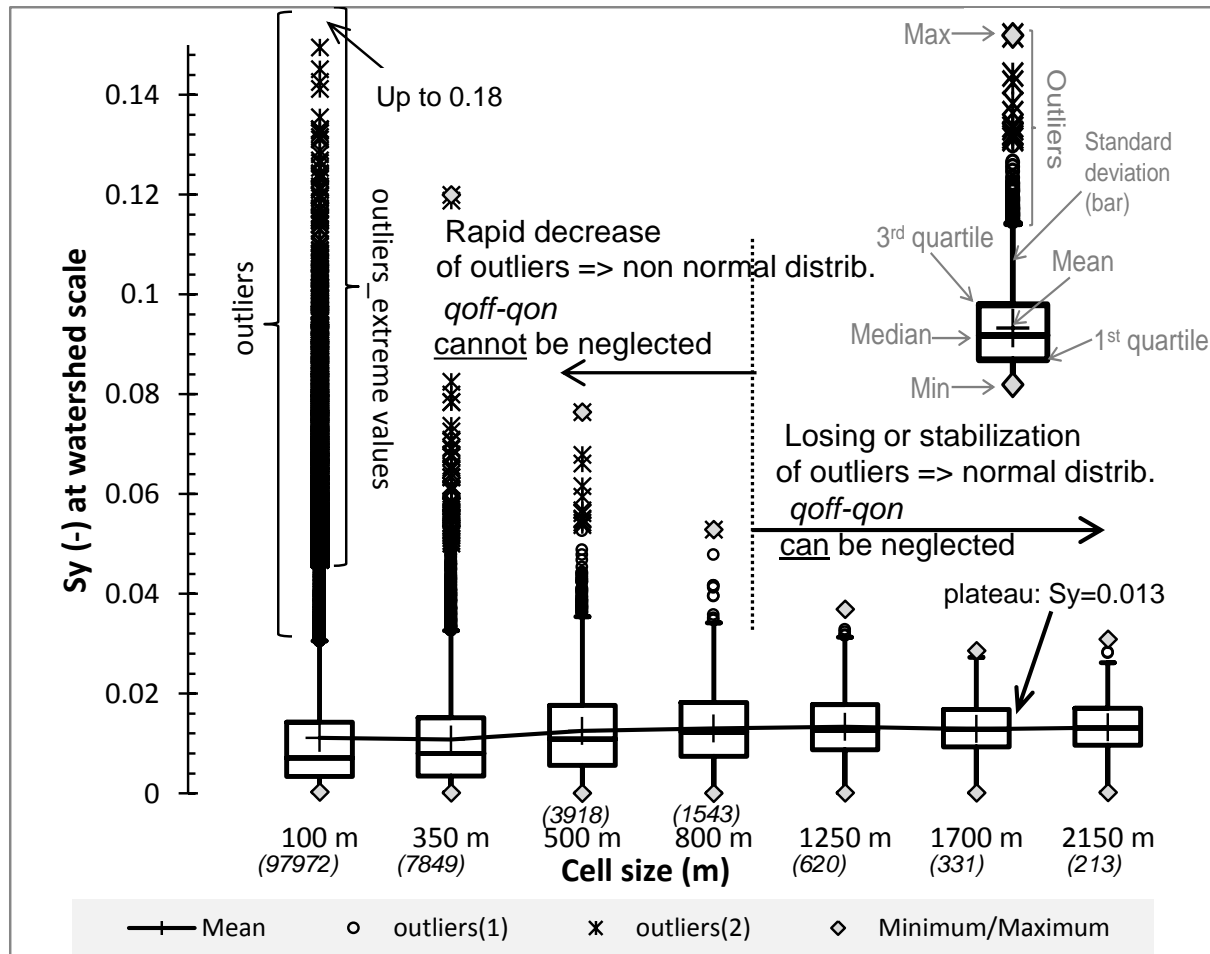


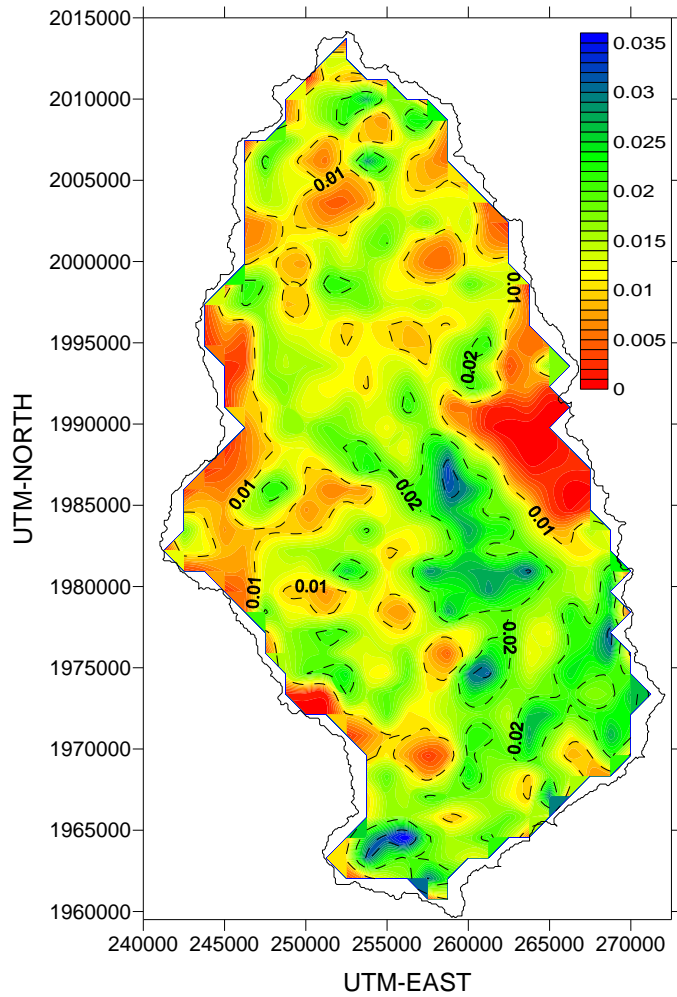


- ▲ Water table observation (n=104)
- Q-RF aggregated on 1255x1255 m cells

825

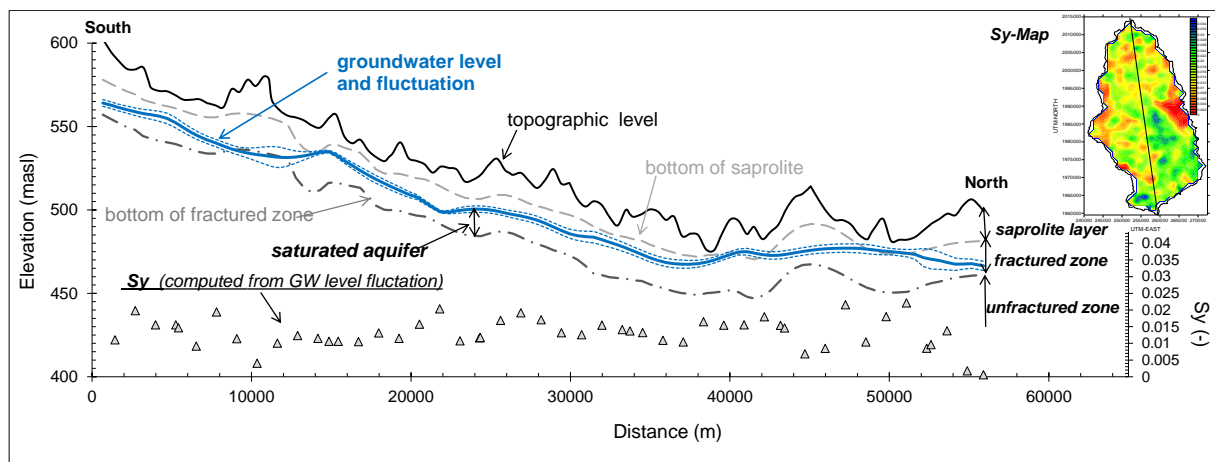
826 **Figure 6.** Water table fluctuation map ( $\Delta h$ ; contours: 2.5 m and coloured scale) and net  
 827 groundwater abstraction (Q-RF on 1250x1250 m cell-size grid), Kudaliar watershed. The  
 828 insert presents the variogram used for data interpolation (model: spherical, length: 2800 m,  
 829 sill: 9.3).





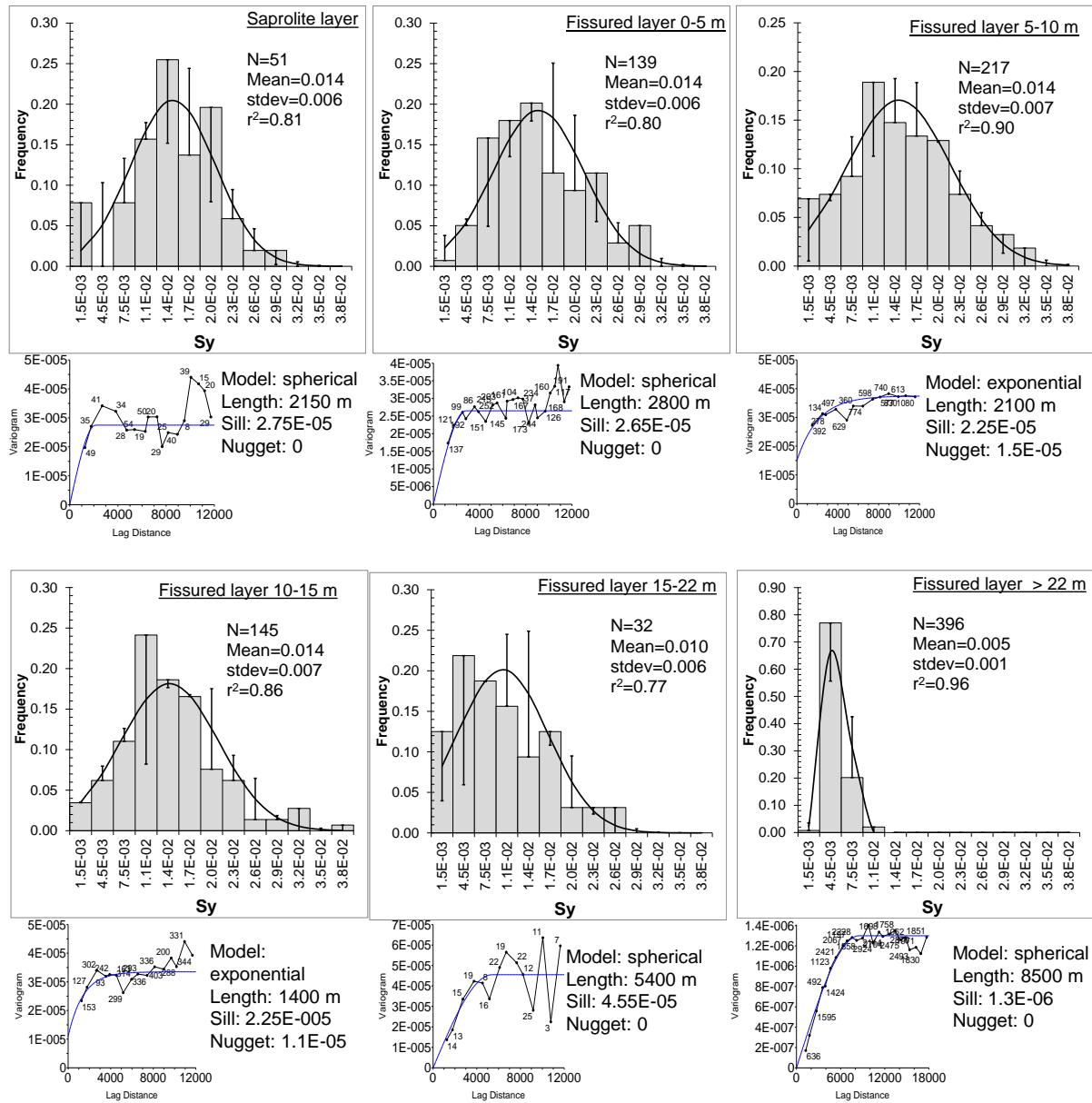
834

835 **Figure 8.** Sy map for the zone where water table fluctuates, cell-size 1250x1250 m, Kudaliar  
 836 watershed. The insert presents the variogram used for data interpolation (model: exponential,  
 837 length: 4800 m, sill:  $3.7 \times 10^{-5}$ ). Cell size 1250x1250 m.



838

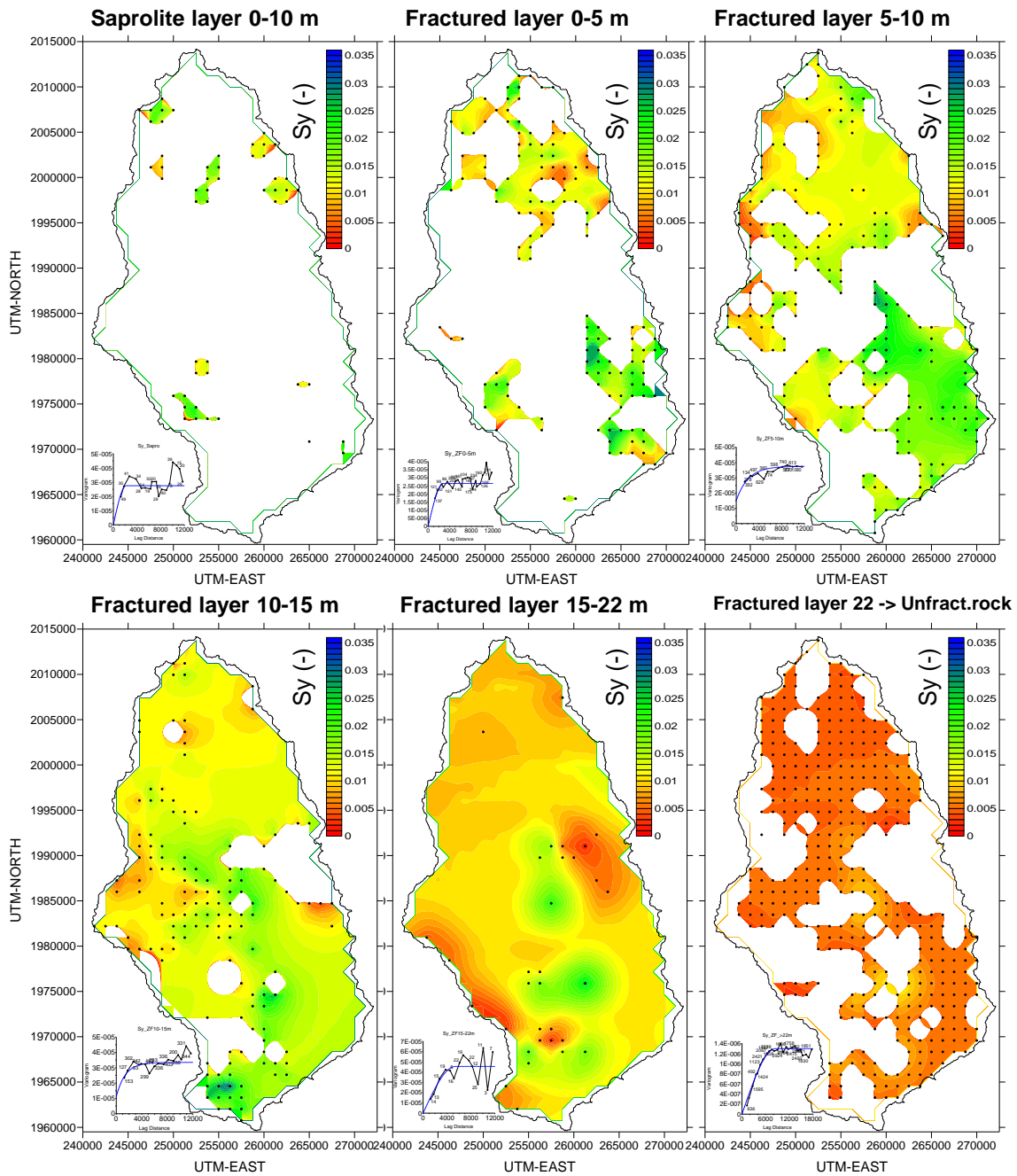
839 **Figure 9.** Cross section, Kudaliar watershed. Shown are topographic level, bottom of  
 840 saprolite layer and of fractured layer, zone where water table fluctuates during the dry season  
 841 2010, and corresponding computed Sy-values. The insert map (Sy-map; Fig. 8) presents the  
 842 location of the cross section.



843

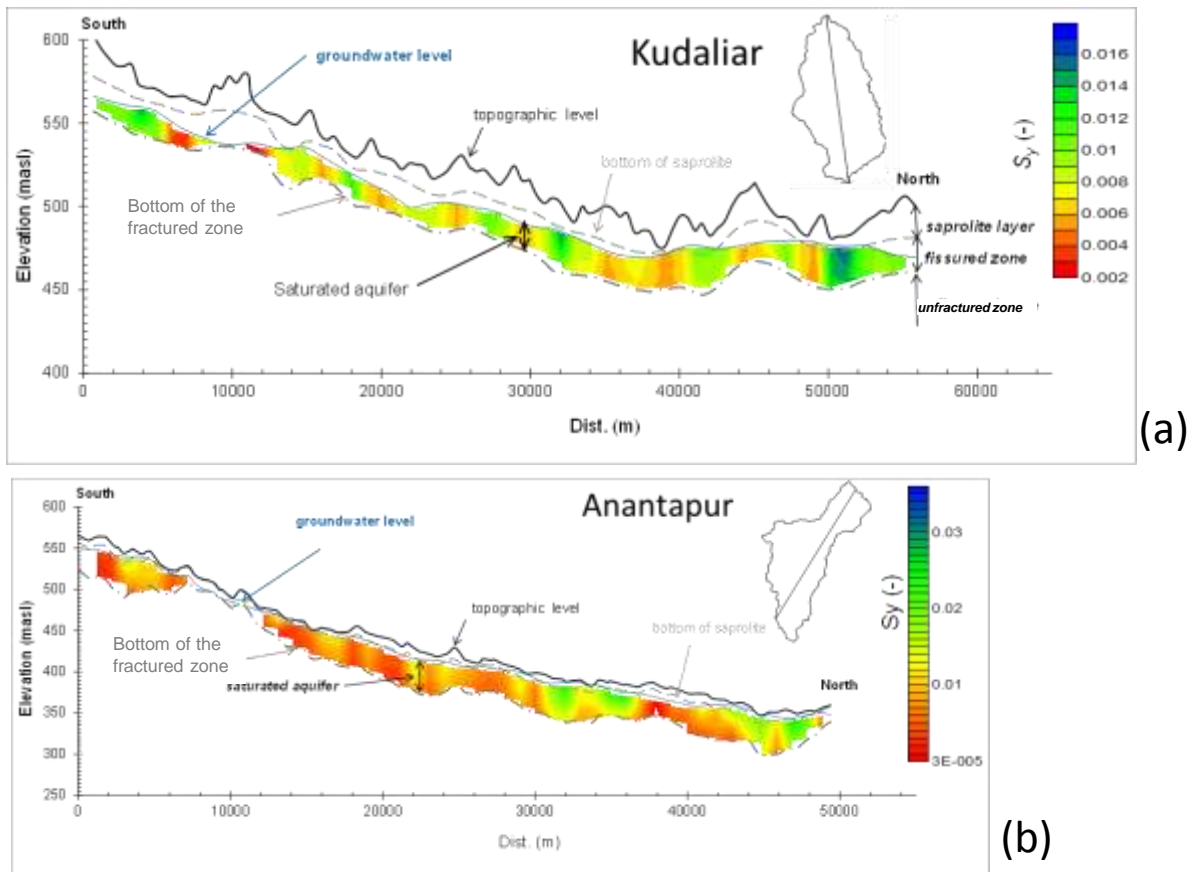
844 **Figure 10.** *Sy* vs. depth intervals in the weathering profile for the Kudaliar watershed (one for  
 845 the saprolite layer and five for the fractured layer). a) Histograms and variograms.

846



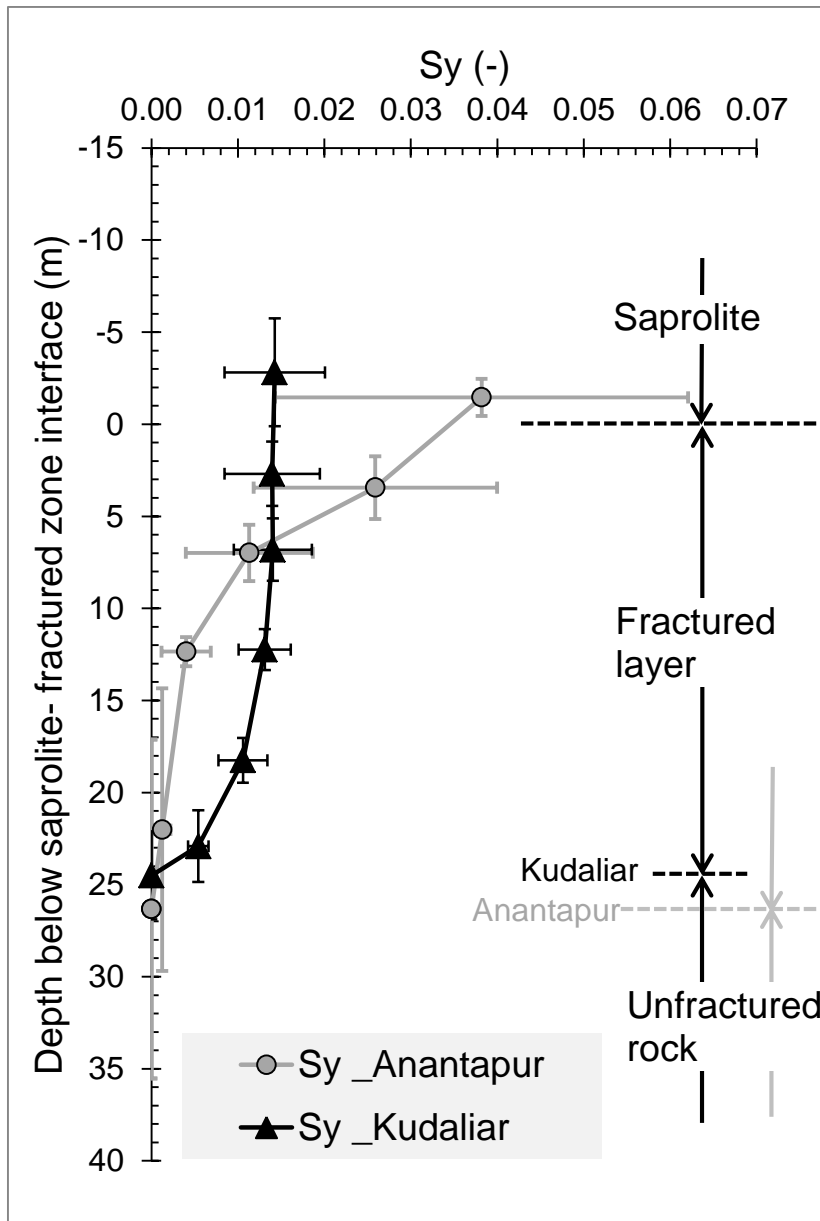
847

848 **Figure 10.** Sy vs. depth intervals in the weathering profile for the Kudaliar watershed (one for  
 849 the sapolite layer and five for the fractured layer). b) Corresponding maps (inserts present  
 850 variogram used for data interpolation except for the sapolite layer and for the last depth-  
 851 interval of the fractured zone [22 m to unfractured rock], see text for explanation). Cell size  
 852 1250x1250 m. Note that cells of each interval are not necessarily saturated as this depends on  
 853 both location of the water table and aquifer depth.



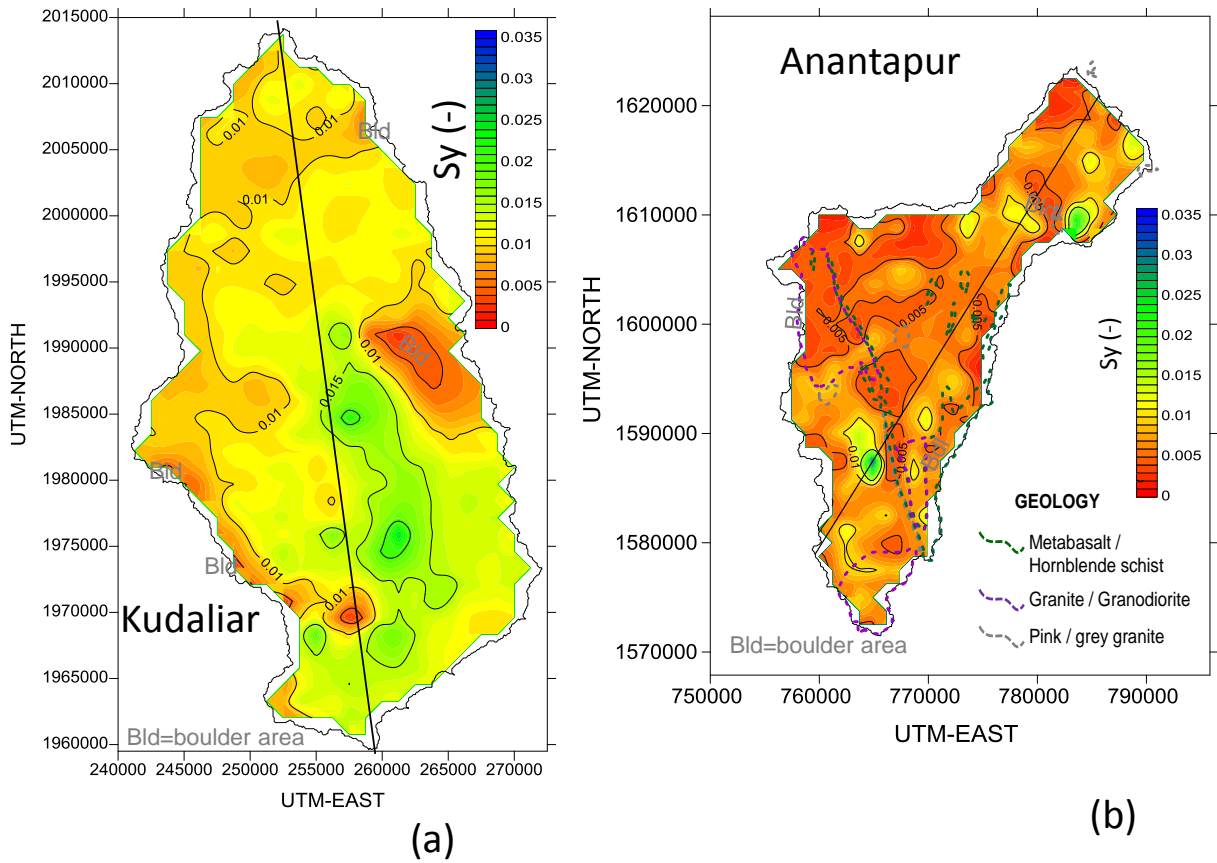
854

855 **Figure 11.** Cross sections of  $S_y$ -values for Kudaliar (a) and Anantapur (b) watersheds. The  
856 inserted maps locate cross sections.



857

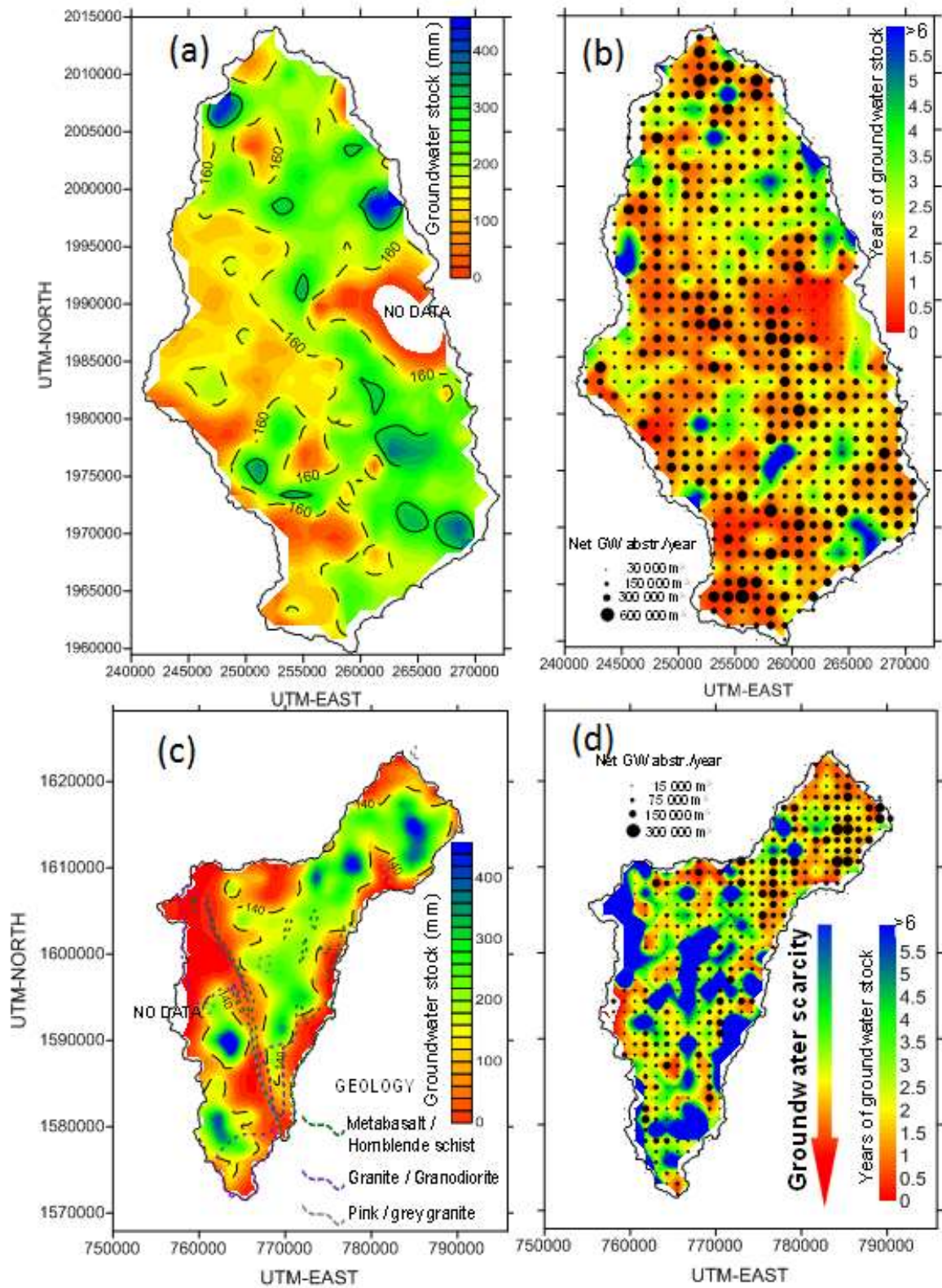
858 **Figure 12.** Average vertical  $S_y$  variations in the weathering profile for both watersheds; bars  
 859 depict standard deviations.



860

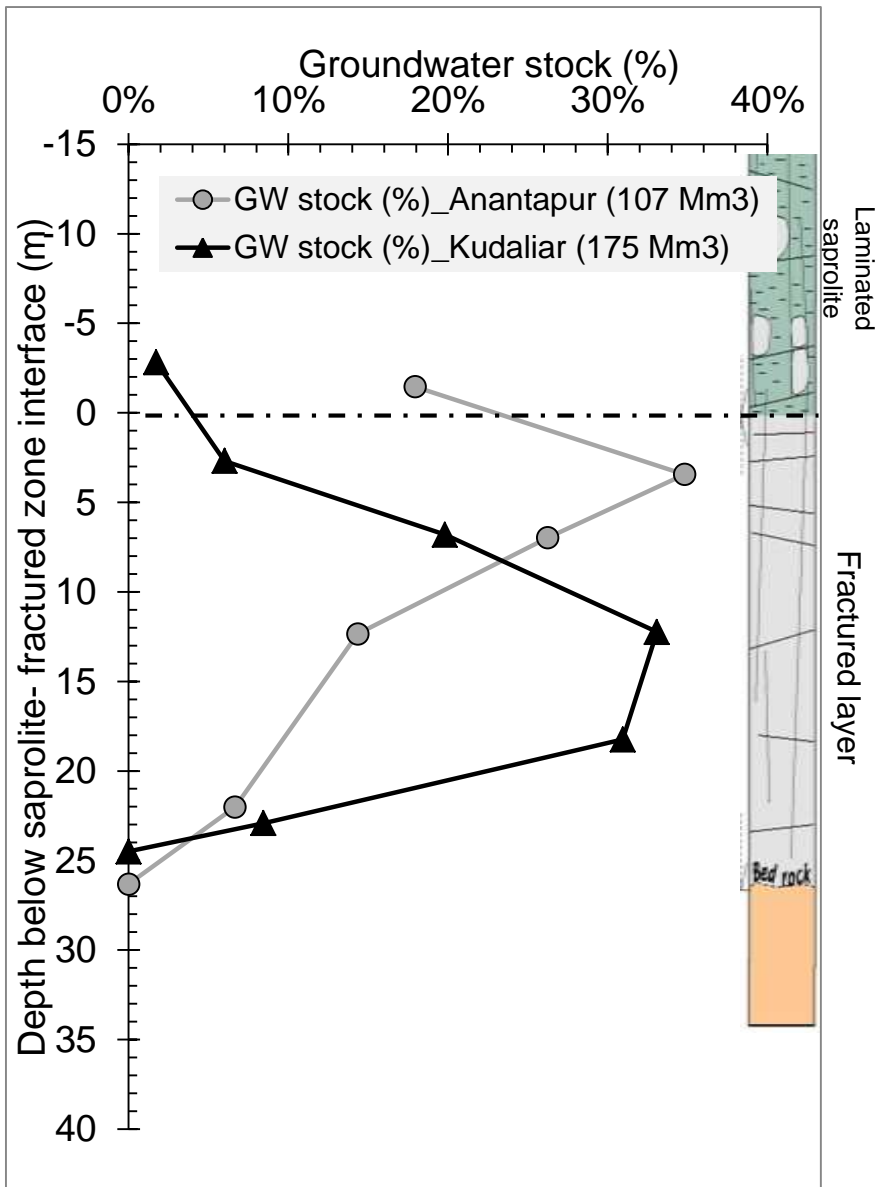
861 **Figure 13.** Mean  $S_y$ -values for the entire saturated thickness. Kudaliar (a) and Anantapur (b)  
862 watersheds. Lines locate cross sections of Fig. 11. Cell size 1250x1250 m.





863

864 **Figure 14.** Groundwater storage maps for Kudaliar (a) and Anantapur (c); for Anantapur the  
 865 main geological unit, gneiss, is not shown (see Fig. 1b). Maps showing groundwater scarcity  
 866 and vulnerability to overpumping of the aquifer for Kudaliar (b) and Anantapur (d). Cell size  
 867 1250x1250 m.



868

869 **Figure 15.** Depth-variation of groundwater storage at the watershed scale, Kudaliar and  
 870 Anantapur watersheds.

871

872 **Tables****Rainy season (Khariff) 2009 (June 2009-Oct. 2009)**

Use	% of the area	Plot watering (mm/day)	Frequency of irrigation (/day)	% of plot concerned by irrigation	Cropping stages			GW-Abs. (m3)	GW-Abs. (mm)
					Nursery (day)	Growing (day)	Maturation (day)		
Rice	10.2%	8.8	1.00	100%	30	90	15	8.2E+07	83.0
Maize	15.5%	9.0	0.26	7%	-	93	20	2.2E+06	2.2
Vegetables	0.0%	9.0	0.26	100%	-	99	-	1.4E+04	0.0
Other crops	0.0%	9.0	0.13	100%	-	116	-	2.8E+03	0.0
Cotton	19.2%	9.0	0.15	3%	-	201	30	1.6E+06	1.6
Domestic	302703 (inhab.)	30.0 (l/d/inhab.)	1.00	100%	-	-	-	1.4E+06	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>8.7E+07</b>	<b>88.1</b>

873

**Dry season (Rabi) 2010 (Nov. 2009-June 2010)**

Use	% of the area	Plot watering (mm/day)	Frequency of irrigation (/day)	% of plot concerned by irrigation	Cropping stages			GW-Abs. (m3)	GW-Abs. (mm)
					Nursery (day)	Growing (day)	Maturation (day)		
Rice	7.2%	12.3	1.00	100%	30	107	15	9.5E+07	96.6
Maize	1.9%	9.0	0.26	100%	-	93	20	4.1E+06	4.2
Vegetables	6.9%	9.0	0.26	100%	-	99	-	1.5E+07	15.8
Other crops	2.1%	9.0	0.13	100%	-	116	-	2.7E+06	2.8
Domestic	302703 (inhab.)	30.5 (l/d/inhab.)	1.00	100%	-	-	-	1.4E+06	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1.2E+08</b>	<b>120.6</b>

874

875 Table1. Groundwater abstraction in Kudaliar watershed (983 km<sup>2</sup>) during the 2009 rainy  
 876 season and the 2010 dry season. GW-Abs.: groundwater abstraction in m<sup>3</sup> and mm. Plot  
 877 watering: amount of water brought for irrigation. Cropping stages, for rice only 7% of the  
 878 plots are irrigated during the nursery stage (before transplanting the young rice plant with rice  
 879 seeds sown in small plots); during pre-harvesting (maturation stage) rice is not watered.

880

Use	Crf_Rabi	Crf_Khariff
Rice	0.48	0.51
Maize	0.24	0.26
Vegetables	0.24	0.26
Other crops	0.11	0.13
Domestic	0.20	0.20
Cotton	not cultivated	0.13

881 Table 2. Irrigation return-flow coefficients (from Maréchal et al., 2006; Dewandel et al.,  
 882 2008). Rabi: dry season; Khariff: rainy season.

883

884

<b>Rainy season (Khariff) 2009 (June 2009-Oct. 2009)</b>				
Use	RF (m3)	RF (mm)	Q-RF (m3)	Q-RF (mm)
Rice	4.2E+07	42.3	4.0E+07	40.7
Maize	5.6E+05	0.6	1.6E+06	1.6
Vegetables	3.6E+03	0.0	1.0E+04	0.0
Other crops	3.7E+02	0.0	2.5E+03	0.0
Cotton	2.0E+05	0.2	1.4E+06	1.4
Domestic	2.7E+05	0.3	1.1E+06	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.3E+07</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>4.4E+07</b>	<b>44.8</b>

885

<b>Dry season (Rabi) 2010 (Nov. 2009-June 2010)</b>				
Use	RF (m3)	RF (mm)	Q-RF (m3)	Q-RF (mm)
Rice	4.6E+07	46.4	4.9E+07	50.2
Maize	9.8E+05	1.0	3.1E+06	3.2
Vegetables	3.7E+06	3.8	1.2E+07	12.0
Other crops	3.0E+05	0.3	2.4E+06	2.5
Domestic	2.8E+05	0.3	1.1E+06	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.1E+07</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>6.8E+07</b>	<b>68.9</b>

886

887 Table 3. Net groundwater abstractions for the 2009 rainy season and the 2010 dry season. Q  
 888 (groundwater abstraction) is taken from Table 1 (GW-Abs.).