



HAL
open science

Spatial variability of the relationships of runoff and sediment yield with weather types throughout the Mediterranean basin

D. Pena-Angulo, E. Nadal-Romero, J. C. Gonzalez-Hidalgo, J. Albaladejo, V. Andreu, V. Bagarello, H. Barhi, R. J. Batalla, S. Bernal, R. Bienes, et al.

► **To cite this version:**

D. Pena-Angulo, E. Nadal-Romero, J. C. Gonzalez-Hidalgo, J. Albaladejo, V. Andreu, et al.. Spatial variability of the relationships of runoff and sediment yield with weather types throughout the Mediterranean basin. *Journal of Hydrology*, 2019, 571, pp.390-405. 10.1016/j.jhydrol.2019.01.059 . hal-02154366

HAL Id: hal-02154366

<https://hal.science/hal-02154366>

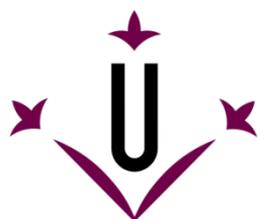
Submitted on 26 Apr 2021

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - NoDerivatives 4.0 International License



Universitat de Lleida

Document downloaded from:

<http://hdl.handle.net/10459.1/68341>

The final publication is available at:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2019.01.059>

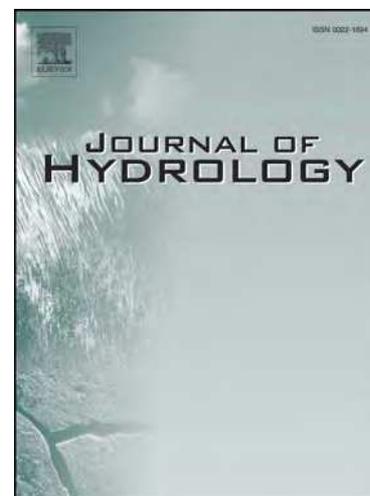
Copyright

cc-by-nc-nd, (c) Elsevier, 2019



Està subjecte a una llicència de [Reconeixement-NoComercial-SenseObraDerivada 4.0 de Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

Accepted Manuscript



Research papers

Spatial variability of the relationships of runoff and sediment yield with weather types throughout the Mediterranean basin

D. Peña-Angulo, E. Nadal-Romero, J.C. González-Hidalgo, J. Albaladejo, V. Andreu, V. Bagarello, H. Barhi, R..J.Batalla, S. Bernal, R. Bienes, J. Campo, M.A. Campo-Bescós, A. Canatario, Y. Cantón, J. Casali, V. Castillo, A. Cerdà, A. Cheggour, P. Cid, N. Cortesi, G. Desir, E. Díaz-Pereira, T. Espigares, J. Estrany, M. Fernández-Raga, C.S.S. Ferreira, V. Ferro, F. Gallart, R. Giménez, E. Gimeno, J.A. Gómez, A. Gómez-Gutiérrez, H. Gómez-Macpherson, O. González-Pelayo, P. Hueso-González, O. Kairis, G.P. Karatzas, S. Klotz, C. Kosmas, N. Lana-Renault, T. Lasanta, J. Latron, R. Lázaro, Y. Le Bissonnais, C. Le Bouteiller, F. Licciardello, J.A. López-Tarazón, A. Lucía, C. Marín, M.J. Marqués, J. Martínez-Fernández, M. Martínez-Mena, J.F. Martínez-Murillo, L. Mateos, N. Mathys, L. Merino-Martín, M. Moreno-de las Heras, N. Moustakas, J.M. Nicolau, A. Novara, V. Pampalone, D. Raclot, M.L. Rodríguez-Blanco, J. Rodrigo-Comino, A. Romero-Díaz, E. Roose, J.L. Rubio, J.D. Ruiz-Sinoga, S. Schnabel, J.M. Senciales-González, V. Simonneaux, A. Solé-Benet, E.V. Taguas, M.M. Taboada-Castro, M.T. Taboada-Castro, F. Todisco, X. Úbeda, E.A. Varouchakis, D. Vericat, L. Wittenberg, A. Zabaleta, M. Zorn

PII: S0022-1694(19)30130-1
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2019.01.059>
Reference: HYDROL 23455

To appear in: *Journal of Hydrology*

Received Date: 8 August 2018
Revised Date: 22 November 2018
Accepted Date: 31 January 2019

Please cite this article as: Peña-Angulo, D., Nadal-Romero, E., González-Hidalgo, J.C., Albaladejo, J., Andreu, V., Bagarello, V., Barhi, H., R..J.Batalla, Bernal, S., Bienes, R., Campo, J., Campo-Bescós, M.A., Canatario, A., Cantón, Y., Casali, J., Castillo, V., Cerdà, A., Cheggour, A., Cid, P., Cortesi, N., Desir, G., Díaz-Pereira, E., Espigares, T., Estrany, J., Fernández-Raga, M., Ferreira, C.S.S., Ferro, V., Gallart, F., Giménez, R., Gimeno, E., Gómez, J.A., Gómez-Gutiérrez, A., Gómez-Macpherson, H., González-Pelayo, O., Hueso-González, P., Kairis, O., Karatzas, G.P., Klotz, S., Kosmas, C., Lana-Renault, N., Lasanta, T., Latron, J., Lázaro, R., Le Bissonnais, Y., Le

Bouteiller, C., Licciardello, F., López-Tarazón, J.A., Lucía, A., Marín, C., Marqués, M.J., Martínez-Fernández, J., Martínez-Mena, M., Martínez-Murillo, J.F., Mateos, L., Mathys, N., Merino-Martín, L., Moreno-de las Heras, M., Moustakas, N., Nicolau, J.M., Novara, A., Pampalone, V., Raclot, D., Rodríguez-Blanco, M.L., Rodrigo-Comino, J., Romero-Díaz, A., Roose, E., Rubio, J.L., Ruiz-Sinoga, J.D., Schnabel, S., Senciales-González, J.M., Simonneaux, V., Solé-Benet, A., Taguas, E.V., Taboada-Castro, M.M., Taboada-Castro, M.T., Todisco, F., Úbeda, X., Varouchakis, E.A., Vericat, D., Wittenberg, L., Zabaleta, A., Zorn, M., Spatial variability of the relationships of runoff and sediment yield with weather types throughout the Mediterranean basin, *Journal of Hydrology* (2019), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2019.01.059>

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

Spatial variability of the relationships of runoff and sediment yield with weather types throughout the Mediterranean basin

Peña-Angulo, D.¹, Nadal-Romero, E.^{1,2}, González-Hidalgo, J.C.¹, Albaladejo, J.³, Andreu, V.⁴, Bagarello, V.⁵, Barhi, H.⁶, Batalla, R.J.^{7,8,9}, Bernal, S.¹⁰, Bienes, R.¹¹, Campo, J.⁴, Campo-Bescós, M.A.¹², Canatario, A.¹³, Cantón, Y.¹⁴, Casali, J.¹², Castillo, V.³, Cerdà, A.¹⁵, Cheggour, A.¹⁶, Cid, P.¹⁷, Cortesi, N.¹⁸, Desir, G.¹⁹, Díaz-Pereira, E.³, Espigares, T.²⁰, Estrany, J.²¹, Fernández-Raga, M.²², Ferreira, C.S.S.²³, Ferro, V.²⁴, Gallart, F.²⁵, Giménez, R.¹², Gimeno, E.⁴, Gómez, J.A.²⁶, Gómez-Gutiérrez, A.²⁷, Gómez-Macpherson, H.²⁶, González-Pelayo, O.²⁸, Hueso-González, P.²⁹, Kairis, O.³⁰, Karatzas, G.P.³¹, Klotz, S.³², Kosmas, C.³⁰, Lana-Renault, N.³³, Lasanta, T.², Latron, J.²⁵, Lázaro, R.³⁴, Le Bissonnais, Y.³⁵, Le Bouteiller, C.³², Licciardello, F.³⁶, López-Tarazón, J.A.^{7,21,37}, Lucía, A.³⁸, Marín, C.¹, Marqués, M.J.³⁹, Martínez-Fernández, J.⁴⁰, Martínez-Mena, M.³, Martínez-Murillo, J.F.²⁹, Mateos, L.²⁶, Mathys, N.³², Merino-Martín, L.^{41,42}, Moreno-de las Heras, M.²⁵, Moustakas, N.³⁰, Nicolau, J.M.⁴³, Novara, A.⁵, Pampalone, V.⁵, Raclot, D.⁴⁴, Rodríguez-Blanco, M.L.⁴⁵, Rodrigo-Comino, J.^{29,46}, Romero-Díaz, A.⁴⁷, Roose, E.⁴⁸, Rubio, J.L.⁴, Ruiz-Sinoga, J.D.²⁹, Schnabel, S.²⁷, Senciales-González, J.M.⁴⁹, Simonneaux, V.⁵⁰, Solé-Benet, A.³⁴, Taguas, E.V.⁵¹, Taboada-Castro, M.M.⁴⁵, Taboada-Castro, M.T.⁴⁵, Todisco, F.⁵², Úbeda, X.⁵³, Varouchakis, E.A.³¹, Vericat, D.^{7,54}, Wittenberg, L.⁵⁵, Zabaleta, A.⁵⁶, Zorn, M.⁵⁷

¹ Departamento de Geografía, Instituto Universitario de Ciencias Ambientales (IUCA), Universidad de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain

² Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología, IPE-CSIC, Zaragoza, Spain

³ Soil and water conservation research group, CEBAS-CSIC, Murcia, Spain

⁴ Department of Soil Degradation and Conservation. Centro de Investigaciones sobre Desertificación-CIDE (CSIC, UV. GV), Moncada, Valencia, Spain

⁵ University of Palermo, Department of Agricultural, Food and Forest Sciences, Viale delle Scienze, 90128 Palermo, Italy

- 6 National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water, and Forestry (INRGREF), Tunisia
- 7 Fluvial Dynamics Research Group – RIUS, University of Lleida, Lleida, Catalonia, Spain
- 8 Catalan Institute for Water Research, Girona, Catalonia, Spain
- 9 Faculty of Forest Sciences and Natural Resources, Universidad Austral de Chile, Valdivia, Chile
- 10 Integrative Freshwater Ecology Group, Centre d'Estudis Avançats de Blanes (CEAB-CSIC), Accés a la Cala St. Francesc 14, 17300, Blanes, Girona, Spain.
- 11 Departamento Investigación Aplicada y Extensión Agraria. Instituto Madrileño de Investigación y Desarrollo Rural, Agrario y Alimentario (IMIDRA), Madrid, Spain
- 12 Department of Projects and Rural Engineering, ISFOOD Institute, Public University of Navarre, Pamplona, Spain
- 13 Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco, School of Agriculture, Castelo Branco, Portugal, GEOBIOTEC – Center for GeoBioSciences, GeoTechnologies and GeoEngineering, UBI, Covilhã, Portugal
- 14 Department of Agronomy (Soil Science Area). University of Almeria. Engineering High School. Office 1.48. Carretera de Sacramento sn. La Cañada de San Urbano 04120. Almeria, Spain
- 15 Soil erosion and Degradation Research Group, Department of Geography. University of Valencia, 46010 Valencia, Spain
- 16 Universite Cadi Ayyad, Faculte des Sciences Semlalia, 40000 Marrakech, Morocco
- 17 Maize Genetics and Genomics Lab, Laboratorio Nacional de Genómica para la Biodiversidad, Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN (LANGE BIO - CINVESTAV) Irapuato, Mexico
- 18 Centro Nacional de Supercomputación, Department of Earth Sciences, Barcelona, Spain
- 19 Departamento de Ciencias de la Tierra, Universidad de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain
- 20 Departamento de Ciencias de la Vida, Unidad de Ecología, Universidad de Alcalá, 28805 Alcalá de Henares (Madrid), Spain
- 21 Mediterranean Ecogeomorphological and Hydrological Connectivity Research Team (MEDhyCON), Department of Geography, University of the Balearic Islands, 07122 Palma, Spain
- 22 Department of Applied Physics University of León, Leon, Spain
- 23 Research Centre for Natural Resources, Environment and Society (CERNAS), College of Agriculture, Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, 3045-601 Coimbra, Portugal

- 24 University of Palermo, Department of Earth and Marine Science, Via Archirafi 20, 90123 Palermo, Italy
- 25 Surface Hydrology and Erosion group, Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDÆA-CSIC), C/ Jordi Girona 18-26, 08034 Barcelona, Spain
- 26 Instituto de Agricultura Sostenible—CSIC, Córdoba, Spain
- 27 INTERRA Research Institute, University of Extremadura, Avda. de las Letras, 10071 Cáceres, Spain
- 28 Department of Environment and Planning, Earth Surface Processes Team (ESP) Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM), University of Aveiro Campus Universitario de Santiago, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal
- 29 Instituto de Geomorfología y Suelos (IGSUMA), Departamento de Geografía, Universidad de Málaga, Málaga, Spain
- 30 Department of Natural Resources Management and Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural University of Athens, Athens, Greece
- 31 School of Environmental Engineering, Technical University of Crete, Chania, Greece
- 32 Université Grenoble Alpes, Irstea, UR ETGR, F-38402 St-Martin-d'Hères, France
- 33 Area of Physical Geography, DCH, Luis Vives Building, Luis de Ulloa Street, University of La Rioja, 26004 Logroño, Spain
- 34 Experimental Station of Arid Zones, EEZA-CSIC, Almería, Spain
- 35 INRA - UMR LISAH (INRA, IRD, Montpellier SupAgro, University of Montpellier), 2 place Viala, Montpellier 34060, France
- 36 University of Catania, Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Catania, Italy
- 37 University of Potsdam, Institute of Earth and Environmental Science, Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 24-25, 14476 Potsdam, Germany
- 38 Center for Applied Geosciences, Faculty of Science, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany
- 39 Departamento de Geología y Geoquímica, Universidad Autónoma Madrid, Madrid, Spain
- 40 Instituto Hispano Luso de Investigaciones Agrarias, University of Salamanca, Duero 12, 37185, Villamayor, Spain
- 41 AMAP, INRA, CNRS, CIRAD, IRD, Univ Montpellier, Montpellier, France
- 42 C.N.R.S., UMR CEFE, Montpellier, France

43 Escuela Politécnica Superior, Instituto Universitario de Ciencias Ambientales, Universidad de Zaragoza, 22071 Huesca, Spain.

44 LISAH, Univ Montpellier, INRA, IRD, Montpellier SupAgro, 2 place Viala, Montpellier 34060, France

45 University of A Coruña, Faculty of Sciences, Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (CICA), 15071 A Coruña, Spain

46 Physical Geography, Trier University, 54286 Trier, Germany

47 Departamento de Geografía Universidad de Murcia Campus de La Merced 30.001, Murcia, Spain

48 UMR Eco&Sols, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, Montpellier, France

49 Department of Geography, University of Málaga, 29079 Málaga, Spain

50 CESBIO (Centre d'Etudes Spatiales de la Biosphere, UMR CNES-CNRS-IRD-UPS), 18 Av. Edouard Belin, 31401 Toulouse Cedex 9, France

51 University of Cordoba –ETSIAM Campus Rabanales, Leonardo Da Vinci building, Córdoba, Spain

52 Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Research Unit, Department of Agriculture-Food and Environmental Sciences, University of Perugia, Italy

53 Grup de Recerca Ambiental Mediterrània, Departamento de Geografía, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

54 Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia, Solsona, Catalonia, Spain

55 Department of Geography and Environmental Studies University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel

56 Hydro-Environmental Processes Research Group, Science and Technology Faculty, University of the Basque Country, 48940 Leioa, Basque Country, Spain

57 Geographical Institute, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Corresponding author: Estela Nadal-Romero. Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología. Avda. Montañana, 1005. Zaragoza 50059 (Spain). E-mail: estelanr@ipe.csic.es

Abstract

Soil degradation by water is a serious environmental problem worldwide, with specific climatic factors being the major causes. We investigated the relationships of synoptic atmospheric patterns (*i.e.* weather types, WTs) with runoff, erosion and sediment yield throughout the Mediterranean basin by analyzing a large database of natural rainfall events at 68 research sites in 9 countries. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was used to identify spatial relationships of the different WTs including three hydro-sedimentary variables: rainfall, runoff, and sediment yield (SY, used to refer to both soil erosion measured at plot scale and sediment yield registered at catchment scale). The results indicated 4 spatial classes of rainfall and runoff: (a) northern sites dependent on N and NW flows; (b) eastern sites dependent on E and NE flows; (c) southern sites dependent on S and SE flows; and, finally, (d) western sites dependent on W and SW flows. Conversely, three spatial classes are identified for SY characterized by: (a) N and NE flows in northern sites (b) E flows in eastern sites, and (c) W and SW flows in western sites. Most of the rainfall, runoff and SY occurred during a small number of daily events, and just a few WTs accounted for large percentages of the total. Our results confirm that characterization by WT improves understanding of the general conditions under which runoff and SY occur, and provides useful information for understanding the spatial variability of runoff, and SY throughout the Mediterranean basin. The procedures used here could be useful to aid in the design of regional water management and soil conservation measures.

Keywords: synoptic weather types, erosion, sediment yield, runoff, Mediterranean basin

1. Introduction

General climatic conditions, particularly precipitation, are one of the most important factors that trigger soil degradation. The seminal paper of Langbein and Schumm (1958) identified a complex non-linear relationship of specific sediment yield with annual precipitation, based on the link between moisture conditions and plant cover. Thus, a rapid rise in sediment yield occurs with increasing rainfall in regions that have an annual rainfall of 100 to 500 mm and little protection by vegetation. In contrast, if the mean annual precipitation is greater, the presence of a dense plant cover decreases sediment yield. Further examination of this relationship by Walling and Kleo (1979) showed that the Mediterranean climatic zone, together with monsoonal and semi-arid areas, is especially vulnerable to soil degradation and water erosion. They proposed several explanations. First, the mean annual precipitation in Mediterranean regions is relatively low, and this leads to dispersed or low-density plant cover. Second, the Mediterranean climate has high spatial and temporal variability, with extremely intense rainstorms that can increase soil erosion and sediment availability. Third, human activities further compromise the vulnerability of these landscapes (Grove and Rackham, 2003; García-Ruiz et al., 2013). Therefore, identifying the environmental factors that control the spatial and temporal patterns of rainfall, runoff, erosion and sediment yield in Mediterranean regions is important for designing effective regional water and soil conservation measures.

There has been extensive research on soil erosion throughout the Mediterranean basin in the past 3 decades (Kosmas et al., 1997; García-Ruiz et al., 2013). This research has examined study sites with different physiographic features, soil types, land uses and cover management practices on different spatial scales (Gallart et al., 2013; Nadal-Romero et al., 2013). Most studies conclude that seasonal rainfall regimes (climate conditions) control runoff, soil erosion and sediment transport (García-Ruiz et al., 2013), and that a small number of annual events are usually responsible for soil erosion (González-Hidalgo et al., 2007). Likewise, the majority of the sediment load in Mediterranean rivers is also carried in a small fraction of the time, clearly influenced by the availability of sediment (i.e. López-Tarazón et al., 2010). However, there has been no synthetic analysis of how climate conditions influence runoff, soil erosion and sediment yield across the Mediterranean basin.

Previous studies in the Mediterranean basin have examined the spatial and temporal distribution of precipitation defining the weather conditions under which they occur, also named weather types (WTs) (Ramos et al., 2015). This integrative approach is a well-established methodology, using daily synoptic conditions according to the surface pressure field and identifies the main direction of surface wind. Thus, each WT compiles daily information on the various origins and characteristics of air masses responsible for generating rainfall and runoff leading to erosion and sediment yield.

There have been several climate studies analyzing the relationships of WTs to different climate phenomena, such as teleconnection indices (Navarro-Serrano and López-Moreno, 2017), spatial distribution of precipitation (Fernández-González et al., 2011; Hidalgo-Muñoz et al., 2011; Cortesi et al., 2014; Fernández-Raga et al., 2016), and temperature (Peña-Angulo et al., 2016). Other studies have examined the link between WTs and natural hazards, such as landslides, floods and hydrological droughts

(Messeri et al., 2015; Teale et al., 2017), and the distribution and occurrence of forest fires (Trigo et al., 2016; Ruffault et al., 2016, 2017; Rodrigues et al., 2019). Other research has examined the relationships of WT with atmospheric contaminants, human health and pathologies (Santurtún et al., 2014; Royé et al., 2016; Liao et al., 2017), and air quality (Collaud-Coen et al., 2011). Therefore, the WT has been proved a useful tool in understanding the relationship between climate and many connected processes. However, information on the relationships of different WTs with runoff, soil erosion, and sediment yield is scarce.

Wilby et al. (1997) found that historical changes in the frequency of winter cyclonic WTs could account for a significant proportion of the variation in sediment yield in rivers of the United Kingdom. In addition, Foster and Lees (1999) found that long-term trends in sediment yield of large catchments in the United Kingdom were linked to changes in the occurrence of specific WTs. In northwest Spain, Fernández-Raga et al. (2010) concluded that WTs with a western component produced most of the precipitation with high kinetic energy. Recently, Tylkowski (2017) and Montreuil et al. (2016, 2017) analyzed coastal erosion in the Polish Baltic and Belgian coasts, respectively, concluding that only a few atmospheric conditions are responsible for heavy storm surge and large percentages of coastal erosion. All of these studies indicate that research into WTs holds great promise for finding the relationship between geomorphological processes and specific atmospheric patterns.

The main objective of this research was to analyze the relationships between rainfall, runoff, soil erosion, and sediment yield (SY, hereafter used to refer both to soil erosion measured at plot scale and sediment yield registered at catchment scale) with WTs throughout the Mediterranean basin. We compiled the most complete database for the area containing information on rainfall, runoff, and SY at high temporal resolution

(event scale) from experimental plots and catchments. This study aims to progress beyond previous analyses by Nadal-Romero et al. (2014, 2015), and to pioneer the use of collective efforts aimed at understanding hydrological and erosion dynamics in the Mediterranean region (Merheb et al., 2016; Taguas et al., 2017).

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Database creation

2.1.1. Rainfall, runoff and sediment yield

A database of rainfall events with hydrological and SY information was compiled from a network of experimental plots and catchments (<50 km²) throughout the Mediterranean basin. This information was collected by research groups from several universities and research institutes, with most financial support provided by the European Commission, with further aid from national and regional governments. The data set included information from 68 sites, 28 experimental plots and 40 catchments, referenced to 182 case studies, and from 9 countries: Morocco, Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Tunisia, Slovenia, Greece and Israel (Figure 1a and Figure 7 in supplementary material). The number of study sites varied greatly among countries, and most of the data came from Spain. In total, 22,458 rainfall events between 1985 and 2015 were entered in the database. Fifty-seven of the study sites (84%) had data on SY.

The datasets for each site differed in the duration of the record (1 to 29 years), the size of the study area (a few m² to 50 km²), and land use and land cover (Table 1). 62% of the datasets included records for more than 5 years, and 41% for 10 years or more. Only 10% of the datasets covered less than 3 years. Likewise, 67% contained over 50 events, and 50% more than 100 events. Therefore, an inter-comparison of different time periods, from 1988 to 2015 (Table 1), was performed to gain a broad

assessment of Mediterranean environmental characteristics. This is similar to the procedures of previous research that examined these global characteristics (García-Ruiz et al., 2015; Panagos et al., 2017).

2.1.2. Weather types

The classification of daily WTs over the Mediterranean region relies on the daily sea level pressure dataset from NCEP/NCAR 40-year Reanalysis Project (Kalnay et al., 1996) for the period 1985-2015. We used the WT classification proposed by Jenkinson and Collinson (1997), based on the original work of Lamb (1972), and an approach suggested by Jones et al. (1993) and Trigo and DaCamara (2000). Briefly, for each grid cell and daily record, a WT is calculated by a set of indices that take into account the direction and vorticity of the geostrophic flow of the nearest 22 NCAR pressure points. The result (*i.e.* the WT for day *n*) is then assigned to the study site according to location (Figure 1b).

In the present research, the 26 WTs of the original classification were aggregated into 10 types, by combining the original, pure directional, and hybrid types: Anticyclonic (A) and Cyclonic (C), and 8 directional types, North (N), Northeast (NE), East (E), Southeast (SE), South (S), Southwest (SW), West (W) and Northwest (NW).

2.2. Database Analysis

The analysis of WTs was performed across the Mediterranean basin according to the NCEP Re-analysis grid resolution, and final WT classification was assigned to the different local study sites, depending on their location (see Figure 1b). The rainfall, runoff, and SY were related to the daily WTs estimated in each site. In that respect, WT evaluation is spatially independent, but based on sea level pressure data from NCEP Re-analysis (*i.e.* the same day can be classified as northerly or southerly WTs in different study sites). Each of the 22,458 daily events was associated with a WT type for

individual sites. For each site, the percentage of total rainfall, runoff and SY produced under each WT was estimated. A Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was used to summarize and classify these data (Everitt and Horton, 2011). The 8 directional WTs were considered as variables, and the percentages of rainfall, runoff, and SY associated with each WT at each site were considered observations (Cyclonic (C) and Anticyclonic (A) WTs were discarded from the PCA analysis which was based only on directional WTs). Each PC was selected according to the percentage of the total variance explained, and interpreted from its correlation with the different WTs. The results of the PCA established spatial patterns of rainfall, runoff and SY and their relationships with WTs in the Mediterranean basin (based on the loadings from the PCA). All statistical analyses were carried out using R software (R, version 3.2.3) (R Development Team Core 2013). The results were divided into four sub-sections describing the relationship of WTs with rainfall, runoff and SY. In each sub-section, the spatial distribution of the association of WTs with hydro-sedimentary variables was determined, with grouping into classes defined by the PCA results. For each distribution class, three representative study sites were selected to show the total distribution of WTs (including A and C). Detailed results for the 68 sites examined in this study are provided as supplementary material (Figures 9-19). At the end of the results section, we present 6 examples showing the relationships of daily WTs with rainfall, runoff, and SY at specific sites (synoptic situations).

3. Results

The PCA analysis showed the location of the 8 directional WTs in the factor space for rainfall, runoff and SY (Figure 2). For rainfall and runoff data, all study cases clearly separate these WTs, but groups of WTs were not as strongly defined for the SY

data. Figure 8 of the supplementary material shows the distribution of the different study sites in the factor space.

3.1. Rainfall classes

PC1 accounted for 40% of the total variance, and had significant positive correlations with E and NE WTs, and significant negative correlations with W and SW WTs. PC2 accounted for 19% of the total variance, and showed significant positive correlations with the N and NW WTs, and significant negative ones with the S and SE WTs. The contribution of the directional WTs to total rainfall differed notably among sites (Table 3 in the supplementary material). Thus, we grouped the study sites into 4 classes based on their distribution in the PCA plane (Figure 3).

The first class encompassed sites with predominantly NW and N WTs ($n = 17$). In most of these sites, these 2 WTs accounted for more than 25% of total rainfall (mean: 31.2%, Table 2), and for more than 45% of rainfall for Añarbe and Latxaga (Spain) (Table 3 in the supplementary material and Figure 3). This class included sites in the Basque Country and Navarre regions of northern Spain, as well as those in the Ebro Valley and Pre-Pyrenees (Spain), northeastern Tunisia, Sicily (Italy), and Crete (Greece).

The second class contained sites with predominantly E and NE WTs ($n = 21$), which accounted for 44% of total rainfall (Table 2). In some of the sites of this class, these WTs produced more than 55% of the total rainfall (*e.g.* Abanilla in Spain and Slovenian Istria) (Table 3 and Figure 3). The sites were located along the Spanish Mediterranean coast, Morocco, and Slovenia (Figure 3).

The third class included those sites in which rainfall was dominated by W and SW WTs ($n = 22$), accounting for 43% of total rainfall (Table 2). In some cases, such as Idanha (Portugal), these WTs produced up to 70% of the total rainfall (Table 3). Most of

the sites in this class were on the western side of the Mediterranean basin (Atlantic sites), Andalusia and the Central Pyrenees (Spain), the Italian Peninsula and Sicily (Italy), Crete (Greece) and Israel (Figure 3).

The fourth class was a specific area in which most rainfall was associated with S and SE WTs ($n = 8$; Figure 3). The S and SE WTs accounted for more than 40% of the total rainfall (Table 2), with greater influence from southerly flows. Most of the southern sites were around the Gulf of Lion (Spain and France) (Figure 3).

3.2. *Runoff classes*

PC1 accounted for 32% of the total variance, and had significant positive correlations with the E and NE WTs, and significant negative correlations with the W and SW WTs. PC2 comprised 19% of the total variance, and showed significant positive correlations with the N and NW WTs, and significant negative ones with the S and SE WTs. The contribution of runoff differed among sites and WTs (Table 3 in the supplementary material). We grouped the study sites into 4 classes based on their distribution in the PCA plane (Figure 4). Notably, the sites included in each runoff class were not necessarily coincident with those in each rainfall class, but spatial distributions were similar.

The NW and N WTs accounted for almost 40% of total runoff ($n = 16$) (Table 2), and up to 55% in some cases (e.g. Latxaga and Barrendiola in Spain; Figure 4 and Table 3). Locally, and only at 3 sites, the C WT had a strong influence (e.g. almost 40% in Avgeniki, Greece; Figure 4). The spatial distribution of sites in this class was similar to that of the first rainfall class: northern Spain (Basque Country and Navarre), some sites in the central Iberian Peninsula (IP), Málaga, Tunisia, Sicily (Italy) and Crete (Greece) (Figure 4).

The E and NE WTs accounted for about 45% of total runoff in the second class ($n = 21$), and up to 70% in some cases (*e.g.* Montnegre, Albaladejito and Abanilla in Spain; Table 3 and Figure 4). The spatial distribution of the sites in this class was similar to that of the second rainfall class: the Mediterranean coast of the IP, Morocco and Slovenia (Figures 3 and 4).

The W and SW WTs accounted for 52% of total runoff in the third class ($n = 18$, Table 2), and more than 75% in Rinconada, Villamor and Coimbra (Table 3 in the supplementary material). These 2 WTs produced more than 40% of total runoff in most sites, with the exception of Mesara (Greece) and Carrasquero (Spain), where the C WT caused a large amount of runoff (supplementary Figure 16). The sites in this class were in the western Mediterranean (Atlantic sites), and in Andalusia, the Pyrenees, Sicily, Crete and Israel, similar to the pattern for the third rainfall class (Figure 4).

The S and SE WTs accounted for 33% of total runoff (Table 2) in the fourth class ($n = 12$), and up to 50% in Roujan (France), Venergà, and Almachar (Spain) (Table 3 and Figure 4). However, the contribution of the predominant WTs varied greatly among sites (coefficient of variation: 68%). The spatial distribution of sites in this class was similar to that of the fourth rainfall class: southern and northern sites of the IP and central Italy (Figure 4).

3.3. Erosion and sediment yield classes (SY)

PC1 accounted for 33% of the total variance and had significant positive correlations with the N and NE WTs, and significant negative ones with the W and SW WTs. PC2 was responsible for 21% of the total variance, and had a significant positive correlation with the E WT. Notably, the SY classes had higher variability than those for rainfall and runoff (Figure 5 and Table 2). We grouped the study sites into 3 classes based on their distribution on the PCA plane (Figure 2c).

The N and NE WT's accounted for 48.6% of the total SY in the first class ($n = 17$, Table 2). In addition, the NE WT comprised more than 90% of the total SY at the Moroccan site (Rheraya), and both WT's amounted to approximately 40% of the total SY in all cases (Table 2). The sites in this class were in Morocco, the eastern IP (including Mallorca), Sicily (Italy) and Crete (Greece) (Figure 5).

The E WT accounted for 25% of the total SY in the second class ($n = 16$), but this rose to 50% in El Cautivo, Abanilla, Ardal, Santomera and Venta del Olivo (all on the south-east Spanish Mediterranean coast) (Figure 5). In addition, the C WT had a strong influence in 3 cases (Malaga, Burete, and Porta Coeli in Spain, Figure 5). These sites were in the eastern IP (Figure 5), Slovenia, Tunisia and Italy.

The W and SW WT's accounted for 40% of SY in the third class ($n = 24$), and 60-80% in the most western Mediterranean sites (Portugal and Galicia [Spain], Table 3 and Figure 5). These 2 WT's caused approximately 40% of the total SY in Israel.

3.4. Synoptic patterns

Figure 6 shows six representative examples of daily atmospheric patterns throughout the Mediterranean basin, obtained from NCEP Re-analysis, and the corresponding WT's of selected sites where an event was registered on a chosen day.

Figure 6a presents an event on September 11, 1996, a date when E flows affected all sites where rainfall, runoff or SY were recorded (Albaladejito, La Concordia, El Cautivo and Porta Coeli in Spain), or NE (Santomera). The isobaric configuration shows a low-pressure system located between the IP and North Africa, and the resulting predominant wind directions were east-west and northeast-southwest, accordingly.

The second synoptic chart (Figure 6b) presents an event on February 19, 2003 and shows a low-pressure system in the northwest of the IP. The 1010 mb isobar

includes the Western Mediterranean, causing W and S flows in the Gulf of Lion (Roujan and Vernegà).

The third synoptic chart (Figure 6c) shows a low pressure system located in the centre of the IP on March 29, 2004, that generated synchronic responses in the Mediterranean basin. E-NE flows were recorded on the Spanish Mediterranean side (La Concordia, Porta Coeli, Navalón, and Sa Vall), with SE flows in the Ebro basin (Bárdenas, La Puebla, Lanaja, and Mediana). On the other hand, the data for Morocco indicated that the response was due to N/NW flows.

The fourth chart (Figure 6d), recorded on October 16, 2009, shows the synoptic configuration related to central and eastern sites of the Mediterranean region, in which a low pressure system between southern Italy and Greece produced mostly S WTs in Greece and N/NW flows in Tunisia.

The fifth chart (Figure 6e), recorded on February 9, 2010, shows a new configuration related to the Western Mediterranean basin, in which a deep low pressure system around the Balearic Sea gave rise to W and S flows in Tunisia and Sicily.

The last chart (Figure 6f), recorded on October 10, 2010, shows high variability. There was a low-pressure system in the IP and the eastern Mediterranean basin, but not affecting North Africa. Different WT patterns were recorded in many different sites. C patterns were observed in the Pyrenees and the Gulf of Lion, such as Araguás, Vernegà, Ca L'Isard, Can Vila (Spain) and Roujan (France); N WTs were recorded in Oskotz (Navarre, Spain) and Burete (Murcia, Spain); and W WTs were observed in the western sites of the IP (Corbeira in Galicia and Conchuela in Andalucía). There was also an event in the Eastern Mediterranean (Agia Varvara, Greece), although the synoptic situation did not allow the classification used to determine the S/SE flows in detail.

Synoptic charts are affected by the synchrony of the recorded data, and must therefore, be interpreted with caution. However, the charts shown here indicated that the disturbances associated with low-pressure systems were generally responsible for most responses in the Mediterranean basin.

4. Discussion

During the last three decades, many studies of experimental plots and catchments throughout the Mediterranean basin have quantified the factors that are most responsible for runoff, soil erosion and SY (Kosmas et al., 1997). There is now a huge amount of information on how of these parameters relate to climatic factors, plant cover, land use and land management practices (García-Ruiz et al., 2008; Taguas and Gómez, 2015; Rogger et al., 2017); also on the temporal and spatial variations of these processes (Boix-Fayos et al., 2005, 2006, 2007; Vanmaercke et al., 2012, 2015; García-Ruiz et al., 2015; Merheb et al., 2016). In this study, we tried to go beyond these previous studies by compiling the largest data set available for the Mediterranean basin to analyze the relationships between daily rainfall, runoff, and SY with WTs. This was possible only due to the efforts of numerous research groups from several universities and research institutes in 9 Mediterranean countries, with the Iberian Peninsula being the most widely-represented region (Figure 1 and Figure 7 supplementary material). Most of the sites are located in Spain with fewer are in France, Italy and other countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Slovenia, Greece and Israel).

The scarcity of information in central and far east of the Mediterranean basin did not enable us to conduct a global detailed analysis, and in that respect, the heavier representation of Spanish study sites could be understood as a limitation of the data set. A similar situation occurred to García-Ruiz et al. (2013) who carried out a review on

erosion in Mediterranean landscapes based on more than 650 published studies, from which more than 60% came from Spanish sites. Nevertheless, we consider that the over-representation of sites in Spain is counterbalanced by the fact that each one has been analyzed individually and the results not extrapolated to those areas with no or little data. Notwithstanding this limitation, the present study provides interesting results, showing clear relationships between WTs and rainfall, runoff, and SY, as well as clear spatial patterns throughout the Mediterranean basin (each case can be individually analyzed in Figures 9-19). Despite the inherent limitations associated with the available dataset, we believe that the spatial patterns emerging from this analysis are of interest, even more so because they allow for a discussion on the influence of WTs on the studied variables. Additional data, especially SY information from the less well-represented regions in the dataset, would be essential to confirm the extent and influence of WTs on the identified rainfall, runoff, and SY classes.

Recent spatial studies have highlighted the importance of analyzing the relationships of environmental variables with atmospheric circulation patterns (Ramos et al., 2015). However, there are no previous global analyses of the effects of atmospheric conditions in the Mediterranean basin on rainfall, runoff and SY. Our analysis allowed representative study sites around the Mediterranean basin to be identified according to synoptic weather patterns. Our results show the presence of 4 homogeneous classes for rainfall and runoff, and 3 classes for SY. In general, the spatial patterns of the rainfall and runoff classes were similar, with only minor variations. The first class (N WTs) covered mainly the Basque and Navarre sites, some study areas within the Iberian Peninsula, and others in Italy (Sicily) and Greece (Crete). The second class (E WTs) mostly corresponded to eastern Spanish Mediterranean sites. The third class (S WTs) contained the fewest sites, mostly in the Gulf of Lion (Spain and France)

and displayed high variability in the relationships. The fourth class (W WTs) corresponded to western Mediterranean sites in Portugal and Spain, the Central Pyrenees and Israel. However, there were only 3 classes for SY: sites dominated by N and NE WTs, those with E flows, and ones with W and SW flows. On the other hand, there was greater variability for SY than rainfall and runoff, probably due to its more diverse and complex causative factors.

Similar spatial patterns were obtained in different studies analyzing several environmental variables. For example, Gámiz-Fortis et al. (2011) analyzed the spatial and temporal streamflow variability of the Ebro River Basin (Spain) and its association with large-scale patterns of atmospheric circulation. These authors identified 3 spatial patterns: the Basque-Cantabrian region, the southern-Mediterranean area, and the Pyrenees. Ramos et al. (2014) studied the relationships between WTs and daily rainfall in the IP, and identified four areas: the northern Cantabrian coastland, the Central-southwest, the Mediterranean coastland, and the Ebro Basin. Nevertheless, rainfall events are not only linked to synoptic scale atmospheric circulations, as has been demonstrated by various authors in climatological studies (Cortesi et al., 2014; Peña-Angulo et al., 2016). Local factors, such as convective processes, orography and distance to the sea, could play a major role in the frequency of rainfall and runoff events and in the extent of spatial patterns. For example, the geographical layout of the main mountain chains (i.e. Pyrenees, Alps) could be one of the most important factors promoting the spatial patterns, and could help to establish sharply delimited areas according to specific effects from WTs.

PCA groups were found to characterize spatial patterns at Mediterranean scale, although individual WTs displayed some variations between sites. Consequently, an interesting finding of our study is that a high percentage of rainfall, runoff and SY

events occurred for a small number of WTs, representing atmospheric conditions that are often rare. For example, in Idanha (Portugal) 60.6% of SY occurred during an SW WT, and in Rheraya (Morocco) 91.3% of SY occurred during an NE flow. These results are similar to those of Pattison and Lane (2012), who indicated that only 5 WTs accounted for 80% of the recorded extreme events in the River Eden (United Kingdom). These results also agree with those of Ramos et al. (2014), who concluded that a high percentage of monthly rainfall (about 70%) occurred during only 7 WTs. Additionally, studies elsewhere in the world confirmed that a small number of extreme events generate most rainfall, runoff and SY (López-Bermúdez, 1990; Martínez-Mena et al., 2001; González-Hidalgo et al., 2007). Related to these results, changes in the frequency of these WTs are bound to have a significant impact on the hydrological and erosion response and the export of sediment. These results may provide an insight into the development of water planning and soil conservation measures. Over time, the Mediterranean basin has become drier and the rainfall patterns more erratic. The insights from the present study might help to evaluate the relationships of atmospheric conditions with rainfall, runoff and SY around the Mediterranean basin in a context of global change.

Furthermore, this study shows that the predominance of one WT for rainfall does not mean that this WT also predominates for runoff or SY (Table 3 in the supplementary material). Indeed, the patterns obtained suggest that rainfall, runoff and SY had different responses to different WTs, probably as a consequence of the non-linear relationships among these variables, especially for SY events. These results agree with those of previous studies in Mediterranean areas (López-Tarazón et al., 2010; Rodríguez-Caballero et al., 2014; Hueso-González et al., 2015), and illustrate the complexity of water and sediment dynamics. This non-linearity could be at least

partially explained by the availability of detached material that can be readily eroded, and the existence of different sediment sources, which in turn depend on various processes (*e.g.* previous weathering processes and rainfall conditions) influencing sediment availability and SY.

The analyzed dataset comprises a wide range of physiographical and geomorphological conditions (topography, soils, plant cover) and length of data records (see Table 1). The latter can lead to biased results, because the minimum record length is an issue that has not yet been resolved in geomorphology studies. Most authors claim that short temporal series present compressed variance (Kirkby, 1987). Wischmeier and Smith (1978) stated that “care must be taken to ensure that the duration is sufficient to account for cyclical effects and random fluctuations in uncontrolled variables whose effects are averaged in the USLE factor values”. The time frame varies from author to author and usually is expressed in years (Lane and Kidwell, 2003; Ollesch and Vacca, 2002). However, González-Hidalgo et al. (2012) suggested including a minimum number of 100 events instead of years to avoid the effects of maximum erosion events. In the present study, the records vary between 9 and more than 800 events spanning from 1 to 22 years. Furthermore, the reliability of the dataset is guaranteed because more than 67% of the study sites recorded more than 50 events, and 50% of sites included over 100 events. In this respect, the range of the dataset ensures the reliability of results and, regardless of the spatial distribution of the study sites, the global conclusions are not affected by the effect of maximum events. However, a few WT's are responsible for a high percentage of runoff and SY, varying at spatial level.

Characterization of the relationships of rainfall, runoff, and SY with WT's is crucial for understanding hydrological and SY dynamics in the Mediterranean basin. In fact, improving our understanding of hydrology and soil erosion dynamics is a strategic

research step, essential for the development of protection and management policies, with adaptations to the distinct environments within the Mediterranean basin. However, we acknowledge that many other environmental factors related to runoff and soil erosion dynamics are outside the scope of the present study, such as land use/land cover, topography, weathering dynamics, antecedent conditions such as soil moisture, and the distribution of rainfall and rainfall intensity within storms. We consider that further research is needed to better understand the relationships of rainfall, runoff, and SY with WTs. This is particularly important, because a small increase in the frequency of certain WTs may lead to more frequent events with high runoff volumes and greater SY. Therefore, future research should focus on: (i) analyzing the temporal and seasonal variability of the relationships of WTs with different hydro-sedimentary variables, (ii) evaluating extreme events and their relationships with different WTs (Hidalgo-Muñoz et al., 2011), and (iii) studying the effect of changes in the frequencies of different WTs.

5. Conclusions

This study investigated the relationships of three hydro-sedimentary variables — rainfall, runoff and SY — with different WTs, and their spatial variability in the Mediterranean basin. Compilation and analysis of this very large dataset required the cooperation of a sizable group of scientists from 9 Mediterranean countries, whose common aim was to advance knowledge of rainfall, runoff, and SY dynamics throughout the Mediterranean basin. Thus, the prime innovation of the present work concerns the compilation of this Mediterranean database, which has taken information from 68 study sites (plots or catchments) and 22,458 events. The results demonstrate that WTs influence to a different extent rainfall, runoff, and SY, and that the relationships of these hydro-sedimentary variables with WTs have distinct spatial

patterns throughout the Mediterranean basin. Moreover, our study indicated that the synoptic WT classification can be effectively used to study hydrological and SY responses in Mediterranean areas, and that this is a valuable new tool for studies of hydrological responses, soil erosion, and sediment delivery.

In addition to these, there are several specific insights from this study:

(i) A small number of WTs are responsible for most rainfall, runoff, and SY in Mediterranean environments.

(ii) For each site, different WTs are associated with the greatest rainfall, runoff, and SY, indicating a non-linear relationship between these hydro-sedimentary variables.

(iii) There were 4 spatial classes of sites that had similar rainfall and runoff relationships with WTs: (a) northern sites (including the Basque country and Navarre in Spain, inland of the Iberian Peninsula, and some sites in Sicily and Crete), which depend on N and NW flows; (b) eastern sites (including the eastern Iberian Peninsula, Morocco, and Slovenia), which depended on E and NE flows; (c) southern sites (located around the Gulf of Lion but with high variability) which depended on S and SE flows; and (d) western sites (from the western Mediterranean to Israel), which depended on W and SW flows.

(iv) There were 3 spatial classes that had higher variability in SY than observed for rainfall and runoff: (a) northern sites, characterized by N and NE flows, (b) eastern sites, characterized by E flows, and (c) western sites, characterized by W and SW flows.

This study confirms that Mediterranean dynamics are highly variable due to geographical and atmospheric factors: atmospheric patterns provide meaningful information toward understanding the spatial variations in the Mediterranean, identifying regions with different behavior, most of which are influenced by the relief.

Finally, the analysis of the spatial variability of the relationships of runoff and sediment yield with weather types and the database generated would be useful tools presenting practical applicability for designing regional water and soil conservation measures (e.g. combined with meteorological forecasting).

Author contributions: DPA, ENR and JCGH together conceived and designed the study. All the authors contributed with experimental data to the compilation of the hydrological dataset. DPA, ENR and JCGH analyzed the data and led the writing of the paper, with significant contributions from all the other authors.

Acknowledgements

This research was supported by projects funded by the MINECO-FEDER: CGL2014-52135-C3-3-R, CGL2014-59946-R, CGL2015-65569-R, CGL2015-64284-C2-2-R, and PCIN-2017-061/AEI. Estela Nadal-Romero and Damià Vericat received a “Ramón y Cajal” postdoctoral contract (RYC-2013-14371 and RYC- 2010- 06264, Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, MEC). Damià Vericat is now a Serra Húnter Fellow at the University of Lleida. María Fernández-Raga received a “José Castillejo” postdoctoral grant (Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports). Carla Ferreira was supported by a post-doctoral research grant from the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (SFRH/BPD/120093/2016). Mariano Moreno-de las Heras received a Juan de la Cierva postdoctoral contract (IJCI-2015-26463) from the MEC. José Andrés López-Tarazón received a Vicenç Mut postdoctoral fellowship from the Autonomous Balearic Government (CAIB PD/038/2016). José Andrés López-Tarazón and Ramon Batalla also acknowledge the Secretariat for Universities and Research of the Department of the Economy and Knowledge of the Autonomous

Government of Catalonia for supporting the Consolidated Research Group 2014 SGR 645 (RIUS- Fluvial Dynamics Research Group), and the CERCA Programme. This paper has benefited from the Lab and Field Data Pool created within the framework of the COST action CONNECTEUR (ES1306).

References

- Andreu, V., Imeson, A.C., Rubio, J.L., 2001. Temporal changes in soil aggregates and water erosion after a wildfire in a Mediterranean pine forest. *Catena* 44 (1), 69-84. DOI: 10.1016/S0341-8162(00)00177-6
- Bagarello, V., Ferro, V., Pampalone, V., 2013. A new expression of the slope length factor to apply USLE-MM at Sparacia experimental area (Southern Italy). *Catena* 102, 21-26. DOI: 10.1016/j.catena.2011.06.008
- Bernal, S., Sabater, F., 2012. Changes in discharge and solute dynamics between hillslope and valley-bottom intermittent streams. *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.* 16 (6), 1595-1605. DOI: 10.5194/hess-16-1595-2012
- Bienes, R., Moré, A., Marqués, M.J., Moreira, S., Nicolau, J.M., 2005. Efficiency of different plant cover to control water erosion in central Spain. In: A. Faz Cano R, Ortíz Silla AR, Mermut (Eds.), *Sustainable Use and Management of Soils. Arid and Semiarid Regions. Advances in Geoecology* 36, 155-162.
- Bienes, R., Guerrero-Campo, J., Aroca, J.A., Gómez, B., Nicolau, J.M., Espigares, T., 2001. Evolución del coeficiente de escorrentía en campos agrícolas del centro de España con diferentes usos del suelo. *Ecología* 15, 23-36.
- Boix-Fayos, C., Martínez-Mena, M., Calvo-Cases, A., Castillo, V., Albaladejo, J., 2005. Concise review of interrill erosion studies in SE Spain (Alicante and Murcia):

- erosion rates and progress of knowledge in the last two decades. *Land Degrad. Dev.* 16, 517-528. DOI: 10.1002/ldr.706
- Boix-Fayos, C., Martínez-Mena, M., Arnau-Rosalen, E., Calvo-Cases, A., Castillo, V., Albaladejo, J., 2006. Measuring soil erosion by field plots, Understanding the sources of variation. *Earth-Sci Rev.* 78 (3-4), 267-285. DOI: 10.1016/j.earscirev.2006.05.005
- Boix-Fayos, C., Martínez-Mena, M., Calvo-Cases, A., Arnau-Rosalén, E., Albaladejo, J., Castillo, V., 2007. Causes and underlying processes of measurement variability in field erosion plots in Mediterranean conditions. *Earth Surf. Process. Landf.* 32 (1), 85-101. DOI: 10.1002/esp.1382
- Brosinsky, A., Foerster, S., Segl, K., López-Tarazón, J.A., Piqué, G., Bronstert, A., 2014. Spectral fingerprinting: characterizing suspended sediment sources by the use of VNIR-SWIR spectral information. *J. Soils Sediments* 14 (12), 1965-1981. DOI: 10.1007/s11368-014-0927-z
- Canatario-Duarte, A., 2011. Water pollution induced by rainfed and irrigated agriculture in mediterranean environment, at basin scale. *Ecohydrology and Hydrobiology Journal* 11 (1-2), 35-46. DOI: 10.2478/v10104-011-0034-3
- Cambon, J.P., Esteves, M., Klotz, S., Le Bouteiller, C., Legout, C., Liebault, F., Mathys, N., Meunier, M., Olivier, J.E., Richard, D., 2015. Observatoire hydrosédimentaire de montagne Draix-Bleone. Irstea. DOI: 10.17180/obs.draix.
- Cantón, Y., Domingo, F., Solé-Benet, A., Puigdefábregas, J., 2001. Hydrological and erosion response of a badlands system in semiarid SE Spain. *J. Hydrol.* 252 (1-4), 65-84. DOI: 10.1016/S0022-1694(01)00450-4

- Casalí, J., Gastesi, E., Álvarez-Mozos, J., et al., 2008. Runoff, erosion, and water quality of agricultural watersheds in central Navarre (Spain). *Agric. Water Manage.* 95 (10), 1111-1128. DOI: 10.1016/j.agwat.2008.06.013
- Casalí, J., Gimenez, R., Diez, J., et al., 2010. Sediment production and water quality of watersheds with contrasting land use in Navarre (Spain). *Agric. Water Manage.* 97 (10), 1683-1694. DOI: 10.1016/j.agwat.2010.05.024
- Castillo, V., Gómez-Plaza, A., Martínez Mena, M., 2003. The role of antecedent soil water content in the runoff response of semiarid catchment. A simulation approach. *J. Hydrol.* 284 (1-4), 114-130. DOI: 10.1016/S0022-1694(03)00264-6
- Cerdà, A., Rogrigo-Comino, J., Giménez-Morera, A., Keesstra, S.D., 2017. An economic, perception and biophysical approach to the use of oat straw as mulch in Mediterranean rainfed agriculture land. *Ecol. Eng.* 108, 162-171. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecoleng.2017.08.028
- Cid, P., Gómez-Macpherson, H., Boulal, H., Mateos, L., 2016. Catchment scale hydrology of an irrigated cropping system under soil conservation practices. *Hydrol. Process.* 30 (24), 4593-4608. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10944.
- Collaud Coen, C.M., Weingartner, E., Furger, M., Nyeki, S., Prevot, A., Steinbacher, M., Baltensperger, U., 2011. Aerosol climatology and planetary boundary influence at the Jungfrauch analyzed by synoptic weather types. *Atmos. Chem. Phys.* 11, 5931-5944. DOI: 10.5194/acp-11-5931-2011
- Cortesi, N., Gonzalez-Hidalgo, J.C., Trigo, R.M., Ramos, A.M., 2014. Weather types and spatial variability of precipitation in the Iberian Peninsula. *Int. J. Climatol.* 34 (8), 2661-2677. DOI: 10.1002/joc.3866

- Desir, G., Sirvent, J., Gutierrez, M., Sancho, C., 1995. Sediment yield from gypsiferous degraded areas in the middle Ebro basin (NE, Spain). *Phys. Chem. Earth* 20 (3-4), 385-393. DOI: 10.1016/0079-1946(95)00052-6
- Desir, G., Marín, C., 2007. Factors controlling the erosion rates in a semi-arid zone (Bardenas Reales, NE Spain). *Catena* 71 (1), 31-40. DOI: 10.1016/j.catena.2006.10.004
- Díaz, E., Roldán, A., Castillo, V., Albaladejo, J., 1997. Plant colonization and biomass production in a Xeric Torriorthent amended with urban refuse. *Land Degrad. Dev.* 8 (3), 245-255. DOI: 10.1002/(SICI)1099-145X(199709)8:3<245::AID-LDR255>3.0.CO;2-8
- Estrany, J., Garcia, C., Batalla, R.J., 2009a. Suspended sediment transport in a small Mediterranean agricultural catchment. *Earth Surf. Process. Landf.* 34 (7), 929-940. DOI: 10.1002/esp.1777
- Estrany, J., Garcia, C., Batalla, R.J., 2009b. Groundwater control on the suspended sediment load in the Na Borges River, Mallorca, Spain. *Geomorphology* 106 (3-4), 292-303. DOI: 10.1016/j.geomorph.2008.11.008
- Everitt, B., Horton, R., 2011. *An Introduction to Applied Multivariate Analysis with R*. Springer, New York.
- Ferreira, C.S.S., Walsh, R.P.D., Costa, M.L., Coelho, C.O.A., Ferreira, A.J.D., 2016. Dynamics of surface water quality driven by distinct urbanization patterns and storms in a Portuguese peri-urban catchment. *J. Soils Sediments* 16 (11), 2606-2621. DOI: 10.1007/s1136801614234
- Fernández-González, S., del Río, S., Castro, A., Penas, A., Fernández-Raga, M., Calvo, A.I., Fraile, R., 2011. Connection between NAO, weather types and precipitation in León, Spain (1948-2008). *Int. J. Climatol.* 32, 2181-2196. DOI: 10.1002/joc.2431

- Fernández-Raga, M., Fraile, R., Keizer, J.J., Varela-Teijeiro, M.E., Castro, A., Palencia, C., Calvo, A.I., Koenders, J., Marques, R.L., 2010. The kinetic energy of rain measured with an optical disdrometer: an application on splash erosion. *Atmos. Res.* 96, 225-240. DOI: 10.1016/j.atmosres.2009.07.013
- Fernández-Raga, M., Castro, A., Marcos, E., Palencia, C., Fraile, R., 2016. Weather types and rainfall microstructure in Leon, Spain. *Int. J. Climatol.* 37 (4), 1834-1842. DOI: 10.1002/joc.4816
- Foster, I.D.L., Lees, J.A., 1999. Changing headwater suspended sediment yields in the LOIS catchment over the last century: a paleolimnological approach. *Hydrol. Process.* 13 (7), 1137-1153. DOI: 10.1002/(SICI)1099-1085(199905)13:7<1137::AID-HYP794>3.0.CO;2-M
- Gallart, F., Pérez-Gallego, N., Latron, J., Catari, G., Martínez-Carreras, N., Nord, G., 2013. Short- and long-term studies of sediment dynamics in a small humid mountain Mediterranean basin with badlands. *Geomorphology* 196, 242-251. DOI: 10.1016/j.geomorph.2012.05.028
- Gámiz-Fortis, S.R., Hidalgo-Muñoz, J.M., Argüeso, D., Esteban-Parra, M.J., Castro-Díez, Y., 2011. Spatio-temporal variability in Ebro river basin (NE Spain): Global SST as potential source of predictability on decadal time scales. *Journal of Hydrology* 409: 759-775. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhydrol.2011.09.014
- García-Ruiz, J.M., Regüés, D., Alvera, B., et al., 2008. Flood generation and sediment transport in experimental catchments affected by land use changes in the central Pyrenees. *J. Hydrol.* 256, 245-260. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhydrol.2008.04.013
- García-Ruiz, J.M., Nadal-Romero, E., Lana-Renault, N., Beguería, S., 2013. Erosion in Mediterranean landscapes: Changes and future challenges. *Geomorphology* 198, 20-30. DOI: 10.1016/j.geomorph.2013.05.023

- García-Ruiz, J.M., Beguería, S., Nadal-Romero, E., González-Hidalgo, J.C., Lana-Renault, N., Sanjuán, Y., 2015. A meta-analysis of soil erosion rates across the world. *Geomorphology* 239, 160-170. DOI: 10.1016/j.geomorph.2015.03.008
- Gimeno-García, E., Andreu, V., Rubio, J.L., 2007. Influence of vegetation recovery on water erosion at short and medium-term after experimental fires in a Mediterranean shrubland. *Catena* 69 (2), 150-160. DOI: 10.1016/j.catena.2006.05.003
- Gómez, J.A., Vanwalleghem, T., De Hoces, A., Taguas, E.V., 2014. Hydrological and erosive response of a small catchment under olive cultivation in a vertic soil during a five year period: implications for sustainability. *Agric. Ecosyst. Environ.* 188, 229-244. DOI: 10.1016/j.agee.2014.02.032
- González-Hidalgo, J.C., Peña-Monné, J.L., de Luis, M., 2007. A review of daily soil erosion in Western Mediterranean areas. *Catena* 71, 193-199. DOI: 10.1016/j.catena.2007.03.005.
- González-Hidalgo, J.C., Batalla, R., Cerdá, A, de Luis, M., 2012. A regional analysis of the effects of n-largest events on USLE database. *Catena* 95, 85-90. DOI 10.1016/j.catena.2012.03.006
- Grove, A.T., Rackham, O., 2003. *The nature of Mediterranean Europe. An Ecological History*. Yale University Press, London, 384 pp.
- Hernández-Santana, V., Martínez-Fernández, J., 2008. TDR measurement of stem and soil water content for two Mediterranean oak species. *Hydrol. Sci. J.* 53 (4), 921-931. DOI: 10.1623/hysj.53.4.921
- Hidalgo-Muñoz, J.M., Argüeso, D., Gámiz-Fortis, S.R., Esteban-Parra, M.J., Castro-Díez, Y., 2011. Trends of extreme precipitation and associated synoptic patterns over the southern Iberian Peninsula. *J. Hydrol.* 409, 497-511. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhydrol.2011.08.049

- Hueso-González, P., Ruiz-Sinoga, J.D., Martínez-Murillo, J.F., Lavee, H., 2015. Overland flow generation mechanisms affected by topsoil treatment: Application to soil conservation. *Geomorphology* 228, 796-804.
- Inoubli, N., Raclot, D., Moussa, R., Habaieb, H., Le Bissonnais, Y., 2016. Soil cracking effects on hydrological and erosive processes: a study case in Mediterranean cultivated vertisols. *Hydrol. Process.* 30 (22), 4154-4167. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10928
- Jenkinson, A.F., Collison, F.P., 1977. *An initial climatology of gales over the North Sea, Synoptic Climatology Branch Memorandum*, No. 62. Meteorological Office, Bracknell.
- Jones, P.D., Hulme, M., Briffa, K.R., 1993. A comparison of Lamb circulation types with an objective classification scheme. *Int. J. Climatol.* 13 (6), 655-663. DOI: 10.1002/joc.3370130606
- Kalnay, E., et al., 1996. The NMC/NCAR 40-Year Reanalysis Project. *Bull. Amer. Meteorol. Soc.* 77 (3), 437-471. DOI: 10.1175/1520-0477(1996)077<0437:TNYRP>2.0.CO;2
- Kairis, O., Karavitis, C., Kounalaki, A., Salvati, L., Kosmas, C., 2013. The effect of land management practices on soil erosion and land desertification in an olive grove. *Soil Use Manage.* 29 (4), 597-606. DOI: 10.1111/sum.12074
- Kairis, O., Karavitis, C., Salvati, L., Kounalaki, A., Kosmas, C., 2015. Exploring the Impact of overgrazing on Soil Erosion and Land Degradation in a Dry Mediterranean Agro-Forest Landscape (Crete, Greece). *Arid Land Res. Manag.* 29 (3), 360-374. DOI: 10.1080/15324982.2014.968691
- Kirkby, M.J., 1987. The Hurst effect and its implications for extrapolating processes data. *Earth Surf. Proc. Land.* 12 (1), 57-67. DOI: 10.1002/esp.3290120108

- Kosmas, C. et al., 1997. The effect of land use on runoff and soil erosion rates under Mediterranean conditions. *Catena* 29 (1), 45-99. DOI: 10.1016/S0341-8162(96)00062-8
- Lamb, H.H., 1972. British Isles weather types and a register of daily sequence of circulation patterns. *Geophysical Memoir* 116. HMSO, London, pp. 1861-1971.
- Lana-Renault, N., Latron, J., Karssenber, D., Serrano, P., Regüés, D., Bierkens, M.F.P., 2011. Differences in stream flow in relation to changes in land cover: a comparative study in two sub-Mediterranean mountain catchments. *J. Hydrol.* 411 (3-4), 366-378. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhydrol.2011.10.020
- Lana-Renault, N., López-Vicente, M., Nadal-Romero E. et al., 2018. Catchment based hydrology under post farmland abandonment scenarios. *Cuadernos de Investigación Geográfica* 44 (2), 503-534. DOI: 10.18172/cig.3475
- Lane, L.J., Kidwell, M.R., 2003. Hydrology and soil erosion. USDA Forest Services Proceeding RMRS-P-30, pp. 92-100.
- Langbein, W.B., Schumm, S.A., 1958. Yield of sediment in relation to mean annual precipitation. *Transactions, American Geophysical Union* 39 (6), 1076- 1084.
- Latron, J., Llorens, P., Gallart, F., 2009. The hydrology of Mediterranean mountain areas. *Geography Compass* 3 (6), 2045-2064. DOI: 10.1111/j.1749-8198.2009.00287.x
- Latron, J., et al. 2010. Hydrology in a Mediterranean mountain environment - The Vallcebre research basins (northeastern Spain). I. 20 years of investigations of hydrological dynamics. "Status and Perspectives of Hydrology in Small Basins". IAHS Publication 336, 38-43.

- Liao, Z., Gao, M., Sun, J., Fan, S., 2017. The impact of synoptic circulation on air quality and pollution-related human health in the Yangtze River Delta region. *Sci. Total Environ.* 607-608, 838-846. DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2017.07.031
- Licciardello, F., Zema, D.A., Zimbone, S.M., Bingner, R.L., 2007. Runoff and soil erosion evaluation by the AnnAGNPS model in a small Mediterranean watershed. *Transactions of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers* 50 (5), 1585-1593. DOI: 10.13031/2013.23972
- López-Bermúdez, F., 1990. Soil erosion by water on the desertification of a semi-arid Mediterranean fluvial basin: The Segura basin, Spain. *Agric. Ecosyst. Environ.* 33 (2), 129-145. DOI: 10.1016/0167-8809(90)90238-9
- López-Tarazón, J.A., Batalla, R.J., Vericat, D., Balasch, J.C., 2010. Rainfall, runoff and sediment transport relations in a mesoscale mountainous catchment: The River Isábena (Ebro basin). *Catena* 82, 23-34. DOI:10.1016/j.catena.2010.04.005
- López-Tarazón, J.A., Batalla, R.J., Vericat, D., Francke, T., 2012. The sediment budget of a highly dynamic mesoscale catchment: The River Isábena. *Geomorphology* 138 (1), 15-28. DOI: 10.1016/j.geomorph.2011.08.020
- Lucía, A., Laronne, J.B., Martín-Duque, J.F., 2011. Geodynamic processes on sandy slope gullies in central Spain – field observations, methods and measurements in a singular system. *Geodin. Acta* 24 (2), 61-79. DOI: 10.3166/ga.24.61-79
- Martínez Fernández, J., Sánchez Martín, N., Rodríguez Ruiz, M., Scaini, A., 2012. Dinámica de la humedad del suelo en una cuenca agrícola del sector central de la cuenca del Duero. *Cuadernos de Investigación Geográfica* 38 (2), 75-90.
- Martínez-Mena, M., Castillo, V., Albaladejo, J., 2001. Hydrological and erosional response to natural rainfall in semi-arid area of south-east Spain. *Hydrol. Process.* 15 (4), 557-571. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.146

- Martínez-Mena, M., Álvarez Rogel, J., Albaladejo, J., Castillo, V., 2002. Organic carbon and nitrogen influenced by vegetation removal in a semiarid Mediterranean. *Biogeochemistry* 61 (3), 309-321. DOI: 10.1023/A:1020257208048
- Martínez-Mena, M., López, J., Almagro, M., Boix-Fayos, C., Albaladejo, J., 2008. Effect of water erosion and cultivation on the soil carbon stock in a semiarid area of South-East Spain. *Soil Tillage Res.* 99 (1), 119-129. DOI: 10.1016/j.still.2008.01.009
- Martínez-Murillo, J.F., Hueso-González, P., Ruiz-Sinoga, J.D., Lavee, H., 2016. Short-term experimental fire effects in overland flow and soil loss from plots in Mediterranean conditions (South of Spain). *Land Degrad. Dev.* 27 (5), 1513-1522. DOI: 10.1002/ldr.2504
- Merheb, M., Moussa, R., Abdallah, C., Colin, F., Perrin, C., Baghdadi, N., 2016. Hydrological response characteristics of Mediterranean catchments at different time scales: a meta-analysis. *Hydrol. Sci. J.* 61 (14), 2520-2539. DOI: 10.1080/02626667.2016.1140174
- Messeri, A., Morabito, M., Messer, G. et al., 2015. Weather-related flood and landslide damage: a risk index for Italian regions. *Plos One* 10 (12), e0144468. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0144468
- Montreuil, A.L., Elyahyoui, J., Chen, M., 2016. Effect of Large-Scale Atmospheric Circulation and Wind on Storm Surge Occurrence. *J. Coast. Res.* 75, 755-759.
- Montreuil, A.L., Chen, M., Elyahyoui, J., 2017. Assessment of the impacts of storm events for developing an erosion index. *Regional Studies in Marine Science* 16, 124-130.
- Moreno-de las Heras, M., Nicolau, J.M., Merino-Martín, L., Wilcox, B.P., 2010. Plot-scale effects on runoff and erosion along a slope degradation gradient. *Water Resour. Res.* 46, W04503. DOI: 10.1029/2009WR007875

- Nadal-Romero, E., Cortesi, N., González-Hidalgo, J.C., 2014. Weather types, runoff and sediment yield in a Mediterranean mountain landscape. *Earth Surf. Process. Landf.* 39, 427-437. DOI: 10.1002/joc.4709
- Nadal-Romero, E. et al., 2015. Relationship of runoff, erosion and sediment yield to weather types in the Iberian Peninsula. *Geomorphology* 228, 372-381. DOI: 10.1016/j.geomorph.2014.09.011
- Nadal-Romero, E., Lasanta, T., García-Ruiz, J.M., 2013. Runoff and sediment yield from land under various uses in a Mediterranean mountain area: long-term results from an experimental station. *Earth Surf. Process. Landf.* 38 (4), 346-355. DOI: 10.1002/esp.3281
- Nadal-Romero, E., Regüés, D., 2010. Geomorphological dynamics of subhumid mountain badland areas – weathering, hydrological and suspended sediment transport processes: A case study in the Araguás catchment (Central Pyrenees) and implications for altered hydroclimatic regimes. *Prog. Phys. Geogr.* 4 (2), 123-150. DOI: 10.1177/0309133309356624
- Navarro-Serrano, F., López-Moreno, J.I., 2017. Spatio-temporal analysis of snowfall events in the Spanish Pyrenees and their relationship to atmospheric circulation. *Cuadernos de Investigación Geográfica* 43 (1), 233-254. DOI: 10.18172/cig.3042
- Novara, A., Keesstra, S., Cerdà, A., Pereira, P., Gristina, L., 2016. Understanding the role of soil erosion on CO₂-C loss using ¹³C isotopic signatures in abandoned Mediterranean agricultural land. *Sci. Total Environ* 550, 330-336. DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2016.01.095
- Ollesch, G., Vacca, A., 2002. Influence of time on measurements results of erosion plot studies. *Soil Till. Res.* 67 (1), 23-39. DOI: 10.1016/S0167-1987(02)00029-6

- Outeiro, L., Úbeda, X., Farguell, J., 2010. The impact of agriculture on solute and suspended sediment load on a Mediterranean watershed after intense rainstorms. *Earth Surf. Process. Landf.* 35 (5), 549-560. DOI: 10.1002/esp.1943
- Panagos, P. et al., 2017. Global rainfall erosivity assessment based on high-temporal resolution rainfall records. *Scientific Reports* 7, 4175. DOI: 10.1038/s41598-017-04282-8
- Pattison, I., Lane, S.N., 2012. The relationship between Lab weather types and long-term changes in flood frequency, River Eden, UK. *Int. J. Climatol.* 32 (13), 1971-1989.
- Peña-Angulo, D., Trigo, R.M., Cortesi, N., González-Hidalgo, J.C., 2016. The influence of weather types on the monthly average maximum and minimum temperatures in the Iberian Peninsula. *Atmos. Res.* 178-179, 217-230. DOI: 10.1016/j.atmosres.2016.03.022
- Raclot, D., Le Bissonnais, Y., Louchart, X., Andrieux, P., Moussa, R., Voltz, M., 2009. Soil tillage and scale effects on erosion from fields to catchment in a Mediterranean vineyard area. *Agric. Ecosyst. Environ.* 134 (3-4), 201-210. DOI: 10.1016/j.agee.2009.06.019
- Ramos, A.M., Barriopedro, D., Dutra, E., 2015. Circulation weather types as a tool in atmospheric, climate, and environmental research. *Frontiers in Environmental Science* 3 (44), 1-44. DOI: 10.3389/fenvs.2015.00044
- Ramos, A.M., Cortesi, N., Trigo, R., 2014. Circulation weather types and spatial variability of daily precipitation in the Iberian Peninsula. *Frontiers in Earth Science* 2, 25-45. DOI: 10.3389/feart.2014.00025

- Rodrigues, M., González-Hidalgo, J.C., Peña-Angulo, D., Jiménez-Ruano, A., 2019. Identifying wildfire-prone atmospheric circulation weather types on mainland Spain. *Agr. Forest Meteorol.* 264, 92-103. DOI: 10.1016/j.agrformet.2018.10.005
- Rodríguez-Caballero, E., Cantón, Y., Lázaro, R., Solé-Benet, A., 2014. Cross-scale interactions between Surface components and rainfall properties. Non-linearities in the hydrological and erosive behavior of semiarid catchments. *J. Hydrol.* 517, 815-825. DOI: 10.1016/j.jhydrol.2014.06.018
- Rodríguez-Blanco, M.L., Taboada-Castro, M.M., Taboada-Castro, M.T., 2013. Linking the field to the stream: soil erosion and sediment yield in a rural catchment, NW Spain. *Catena* 102, 74-81. DOI: 10.1016/j.catena.2010.09.003
- Rodrigo-Comino, J., Senciales, J.M., Ramos, M.C., Martínez-Casasnovas, J.A., Lasanta, T., Brevik, E.C., Ries, J.B., Ruiz Sinoga, J.D., 2017. Understanding soil erosion processes in Mediterranean sloping vineyards (Montes de Málaga, Spain). *Geoderma* 296, 47-59. DOI: 10.1016/j.geoderma.2017.02.021
- Rogger, M. et al., 2017. Land use changes impacts on floods at the catchment scale: Challenges and opportunities for future research. *Water Resour. Res.* 53, 5209-5219. DOI: 10.1002/2017WR020723
- Romero Díaz, A., Cammeraat, L.H., Vacca, A., Kosmas, C., 1999. Soil erosion at experimental sites in three Mediterranean countries: Italy, Greece and Spain. *Earth Surf. Process. Landf.* 24 (13), 1243-1256. DOI: 10.1002/(SICI)1096-9837(199912)24:13<1243::AID-ESP43>3.0.CO;2-Z
- Royé, D., Taboada, J.J., Martí, A., Lorenzo, M.N., 2016. Winter circulation weather types and hospital admissions for respiratory diseases in Galicia, Spain. *Int. J. Biometeorol.* 60 (4), 507-520. DOI 10.1007/s00484-015-1047-1

- Ruffault, J., Moron, V., Trigo, R.M., Curt, T., 2016. Objective identification of multiple large fire climatologies: an application to a Mediterranean ecosystem. *Environ. Res. Lett.* 11, 075006. DOI:10.1088/1748-9326/11/7/075006
- Ruffault, J., Moron, V., Trigo, R.M., Curt, T., 2017. Daily synoptic conditions associated with large fire occurrence in Mediterranean France: evidence for a wind-drive fire regime. *Int. J. Climatol.* 37, 524-533. DOI: 10.1002/joc.4680.
- R Development Team Core, 2013. *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing.*
- Santurtún, A., González-Hidalgo, J.C., Sánchez-Lorenzo, A., Zarrabeitia, M.T., 2014. Surface ozone concentration trends and its relationship with weather types in Spain (2001-2010). *Atmos. Environ.* 101, 10-22 DOI: 10.1016/j.atmosenv.2014.11.005
- Schnabel, S., Gómez Gutiérrez, Á., 2013. The role of interannual rainfall variability on runoff generation in a small dry sub-humid watershed with disperse tree cover. *Cuadernos de Investigación Geográfica* 39 (2), 259-285. DOI: 10.18172/cig.1991
- Simonneaux, V., Cheggour, A., Deschamps, C., Mouillot, F., Cerdan, O., Le Bissonnais, Y., 2015. Land use and climate change effects on soil erosion in a semi-arid mountainous watershed (High Atlas, Morocco). *J. Arid. Environ.* 122, 64-75. DOI: 10.1016/j.jaridenv.2015.06.002
- Sirvent, J., Desir, G., Gutierrez, M., Sancho, C., Benito, G., 1997. Erosion rates in badland areas recorded by collectors, erosion pins and profilometer techniques (Ebro Basin, NE-Spain). *Geomorphology* 18, 61-75. DOI: 10.1016/S0169-555X(96)00023-2
- Taguas, E.V., Ayuso, J.L., Pérez, R., Giráldez, J.V., Gómez, J.A., 2013. Intra and inter-annual variability of runoff and sediment yield of an olive micro-catchment with soil

- protection by natural ground cover in Southern Spain. *Geoderma* 206, 49-62. DOI: 10.1016/j.geoderma.2013.04.011
- Taguas, E.V., Gómez, J.A., 2015. Vulnerability of olive orchards under the current CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) regulations on soil erosion: a study case in Southern Spain. *Land Use Pol.* 42, 683-694. DOI: 10.1016/j.landusepol.2014.09.001
- Taguas, E.V., Guzmán, E., Guzmán, G., Vanwalleghem, T., Gómez, J.A., 2015. Characteristics and importance of rill and gully erosion: A case study in a small catchment of a marginal olive grove. *Cuadernos de Investigación Geográfica* 41 (1), 107-126. DOI: 10.18172/cig.2644
- Taguas, E.V. et al., 2017. Hydrological signatures based on event runoff coefficients in rural catchments of the Iberian Peninsula. *Soil Sci.* 182 (5), 159-171. DOI: 10.1097/SS.0000000000000210
- Teale, N.G., Quiring, S.M., Ford, T.W., 2017. Association of synoptic-scale atmospheric patterns with flash flooding in watersheds of the New York City water supply system. *Int. J. Climatol.* 37, 358-370. DOI: 10.1002/joc.4709
- Todisco, F., Vergni, L., Mannocchi, F., Bomba, C., 2012. Calibration of the soil loss measurement method at the Masse experimental station. *Catena* 91, 4-9. DOI: 10.1016/j.catena.2011.02.003
- Trigo, R.M., DaCamara, C., 2000. Circulation weather types and their influence on the precipitation regime in Portugal. *Int. J. Climatol.* 20 (13), 1559-1581. DOI: 10.1002/1097-0088(20001115)20:13<1559::AID-JOC555>3.0.CO;2-5
- Trigo, R.M., Sousa, P.M., Pereira, M.G., Rasilla, D., Gouveia, C.M.M., 2016. Modelling wildfire activity in Iberia with different atmospheric circulation weather types. *Int. J. Climatol.* 36, 2761-2778. DOI: 10.1002/joc.3749

- Tylkowski, J., 2017. The temporal and spatial variability of coastal dune erosion in the Polish Baltic coastal zone. *Baltica* 30(2), 97-106.
- Vanmaercke, M., Maetens, W., Poesen, J., Jankauskas, B., Jankauskiene, G., Verstraeten, G., de Vente, J., 2012. A comparison of measured catchment sediment yields with measured and predicted hillslope erosion rates in Europe. *J. Soils Sediments* 12 (4), 586-602. DOI: 10.1007/s11368-012-0479-z
- Vanmaercke, M., Poesen, J., Govers, G., Verstraeten, G., 2015. Quantifying human impacts on catchment sediment yield: A continental approach. *Glob. Planet. Change* 130, 22-36. DOI: 10.1016/j.gloplacha.2015.04.001
- Varouchakis, E.A., 2016. Integrated water resources analysis at basin scale: a case study in Greece. *J. Irrig. Drainage Eng-ASCE -ASCE* 142 (3), 05015012.
- Walling, D.E., Kleo, A.H.A., 1979. Sediment yields of rivers in areas of low precipitation: a global view. In: *Hydrology of areas of low precipitation* (Proc. Canberra symposium, December 1979), 479-493. IAHS Publication 128. IAHS Press, Wallingford, UK.
- Wilby, R.L., Dalglish, H.Y., Foster, I.D.L., 1997. The impact of weather patterns on historic and contemporary catchment sediment yields. *Earth Surf. Process. Landf.* 22 (4), 353-363. DOI: 10.1002/(SICI)1096-9837(199704)22:4<353::AID-ESP692>3.0.CO;2-G
- Wischmeier, W.H., Smith, D.D., 1978. Predicting rainfall erosion losses – A guide to conservation planning. USDA Agric. Handbook, 537. US Gov. Print Office, Washington DC.
- Wittenberg, L., Malkinson, D., Barzilai, R., 2014. The differential response of surface runoff and sediment loss to wildfire events. *Catena* 121, 241-247. DOI: 10.1016/j.catena.2014.05.014

- Zabaleta, A., Martínez, M., Uriarte, J.A., Antigüedad, I., 2007. Factors controlling suspended sediment yield during runoff events in small headwater catchments of the Basque Country. *Catena* 71 (1), 179-190. DOI: 10.1016/j.catena.2006.06.007
- Zorn, M., 2009. Erosion processes in Slovene Istria - part 1: Soil erosion. *Acta geographica Slovenica* 49 (1), 39-87. DOI: 10.3986/AGS49102

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Highlights

1. An extensive rainfall-runoff-erosion database was compiled in the Mediterranean basin
2. We analyzed the relationships between weather types, rainfall, runoff and sediment yield
3. Most rainfall, runoff, and sediment yield occurred in a small number of weather types
4. Four spatial classes driven by N-NW, E-NE, S-SE and W-SW flows dominated rainfall/runoff
5. Three classes were identified for sediment yield, comprising N-NE, E and W-SW flows

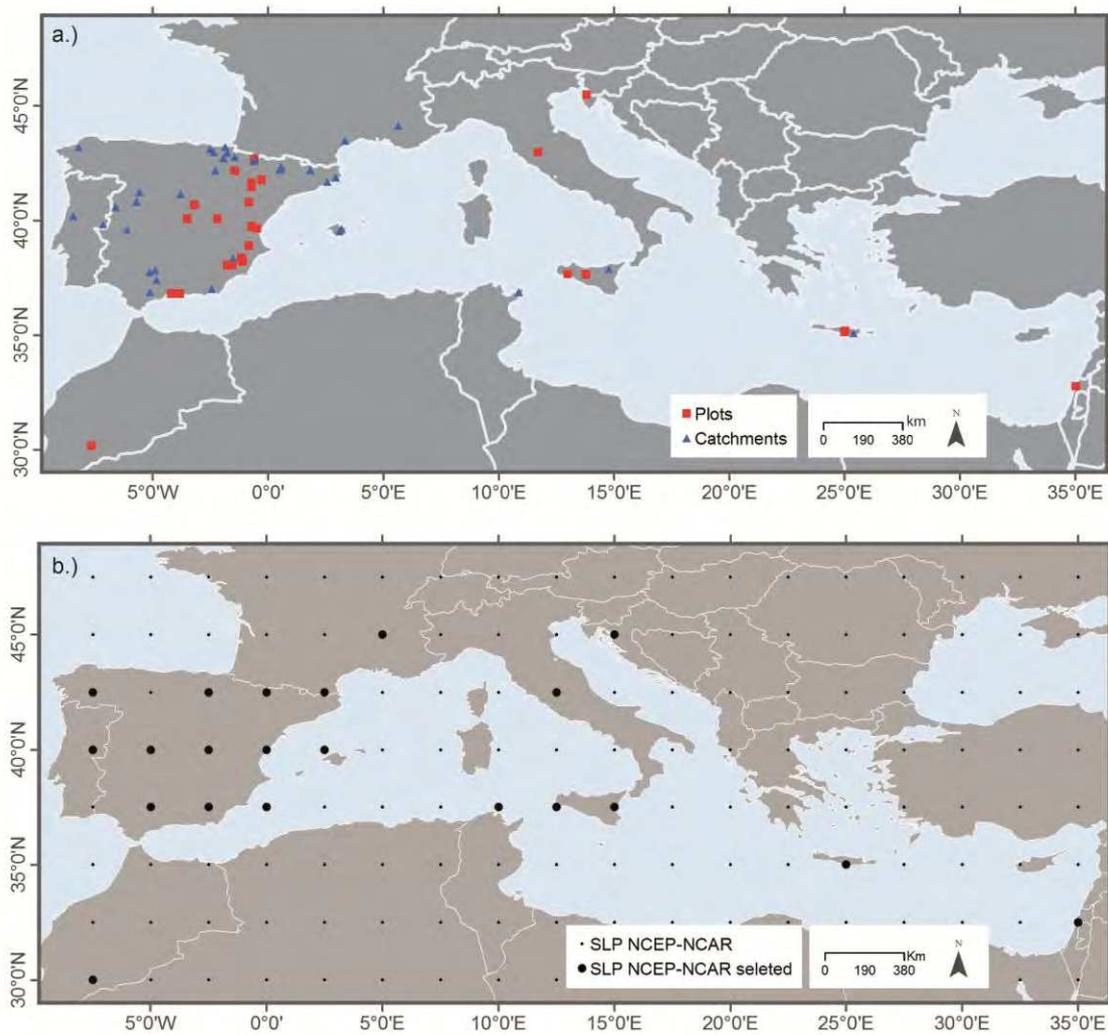
Country	Name	Location		Scale	Study period		Length of the dataset	Number of rainfall recorded events	Land cover
		Lat.	Long.		Start period	End period			
Greece	Agia Varvara	35.1433	24.9894	Plots	2008	2011	4	111	Pastures
Spain	Aisa	42.6744	-0.6119	Plots	1995	2010	16	637	Cereal, shrubland, crop abandonm
Spain	Aixola	43.1529	-2.5014	Catch.	2003	2008	6	222	Mostly reforested with <i>Pinu</i>
Spain	Albaladejito	40.0762	-2.1957	Plots	1994	1997	4	28	Cereal and pastures
Spain	Añarbe	43.2255	-1.8498	Catch.	2003	2005	4	18	Reforested and mature <i>P. nigra</i> in t autochthonous (<i>Quercus robur</i> and <i>Fa</i> upper part
Spain	Araguás	42.5958	-0.6208	Catch.	2005	2015	11	360	Badlands, reforested (<i>P. nigra</i> and <i>P. s</i>
Spain	Aranjuez	40.0798	-3.5250	Plots	1994	1997	4	38	Cereal and pastures
Spain	Abanilla	38.1994	-1.0917	Plots	1988	1992	5	40	Open shrubland
Spain	Ardal	38.0741	-1.5383	Plots	1989	2000	12	146	Cereal, shrubland and aband
Spain	Arnas	42.6430	-0.5847	Catch.	1999	2009	11	96	Abandoned sloping fields with sh
Greece	Avgeniki	35.1911	25.0222	Plots	2008	2010	3	92	Olives orchards
Spain	Bardenas Norte	42.1677	-1.4547	Plots	1993	2004	12	118	Badlands
Spain	Bardenas Sur	42.1550	-1.4191	Plots	1993	2004	12	89	Badlands
Spain	Barrendiola	43.0026	-2.3509	Catch.	2003	2004	2	25	Autochthonous vegetation (<i>F. sylvat</i> <i>petraea</i>) and reforested (<i>P. radiata</i> . <i>P. n</i>
Spain	Burete	38.0500	-1.7667	Plots	2006	2011	6	142	Forest
Spain	Can Revull	39.5500	3.1011	Catch.	2004	2007	4	19	Rainfed herbaceous crops, rainfed tre
Italy	Cannata	37.8833	14.7666	Catch.	1996	2006	11	169	Rangeland and cere
Spain	Carrasquero	42.3112	0.5327	Catch.	2007	2009	3	24	Forest, grassland, shrubland, agr
Spain	Ceguera	42.2386	0.5109	Catch.	2007	2009	3	30	Forest, grassland, shrub
Portugal	Casal das Hortas	40.1886	-8.4619	Catch.	2011	2013	4	9	Permanent crops, rangeland, pastures, (16%)
Spain	Corbeira	43.2181	-8.2285	Catch.	2005	2014	10	651	Forest, pasture, cultivated land, in
Spain	El Cautivo	37.0027	-2.4404	Catch.	1992	2014	23	134	Low-intensity hunting and cereals far hunting; hiking
Portugal	Idanha	39.8467	-7.1667	Catch.	2010	2015	6	27	Oak and cork trees (young forest), wh meadow
Tunisia	Kamech	36.8773	10.8753	Catch.	2005	2012	8	167	Cropland (mainly cereal crops occasi leguminous crops); Mediterranean shrub and grazing
Spain	La Conchuela	37.8178	-4.8958	Catch.	2006	2011	6	185	Conventional tillag
Spain	La Concordia	39.7500	-0.7167	Plots	1995	2012	18	203	Forest
Spain	La Parrilla	37.7333	-5.1500	Catch.	2010	2013	4	74	Irrigated annual crop
Spain	La Puebla	41.6645	-0.7239	Plots	1991	2003	13	187	Badlands
Spain	La Tejeria	42.7363	-1.9492	Catch.	2000	2014	15	177	Winter cereals (wheat and
Spain	Lanaja	41.7797	-0.2889	Plots	1991	2004	14	163	Badlands
Spain	Lascuarre	42.2066	0.4977	Catch.	2007	2009	3	32	Forest, shrubland, agricultu
Spain	Latxaga	42.7854	-1.4364	Catch.	2003	2014	12	189	Winter cereals (wheat and
France	Laval	44.1406	5.6392	Catch.	1985	2014	30	465	Badlands
Spain	Malaga	36.8001	-3.8492	Plots	2011	2013	3	23	Shrubland
Spain	Marchamalo	40.6822	-3.2147	Plots	1994	1997	4	48	Cereal and pastures
Italy	Masse	42.9928	11.7089	Plots	2008	2015	8	78	Bare and seeding be
Spain	Mediana	41.4534	-0.7158	Plots	1991	2004	14	137	Badlands
Greece	Mesara	35.0833	25.3800	Catch.	2012	2015	4	250	Olives, vines, citrus fruit and
Spain	Morille	40.8315	-5.7053	Catch.	2002	2010	9	88	Open forest
France	Moulin	44.1406	5.6392	Catch.	1988	2003	16	149	Badlands
Spain	Munilla	42.1912	-2.2908	Catch.	2012	2015	4	17	Abandoned terraces with herbaceous v shrubland
Spain	Oskotz	42.9584	-1.7792	Catch.	2003	2014	10	416	61% Forest and 39% pa

Spain	Porta Coeli	39.6590	-0.4890	Plots	1988	2012	25	240	Forest land
Spain	Puente Genil	37.4128	-4.8383	Catch.	2005	2011	7	93	Olive orchard
Spain	Rinconada	40.6020	-6.6153	Catch.	2000	2010	11	331	Dense forest
France	Roujan	43.4917	3.3213	Catch.	1992	2015	24	410	Vineyards and cereals crops, orchard shrubland
Spain	Santomera	38.2700	-1.1167	Plots	1989	2002	14	283	Forest
Spain	Sa Vall	39.6386	3.1766	Catch.	2004	2006	3	77	Rainfed tree crops, rainfed herbaceous crops
Spain	La Barranca de los Pinos	41.1582	-3.8086	Catch.	2010	2010	1	13	Forest and pastures
Spain	Setenil	36.8736	-5.1269	Catch.	2005	2011	7	121	Olive orchard
Italy	Sicilia Agata	37.6547	12.9853	Plots	2014	2014	1	11	Bare soil
Italy	Sparacia	37.6366	13.7658	Plots	2002	2015	14	210	Bare soil
Slovenia	Slovenian Istria	45.4982	13.7983	Plots	2005	2006	2	52	Badlands, bare soil (in an olive grove)
Spain	Venta Olivo	38.3544	-1.5194	Catch.	1997	2011	15	108	Shrubland
Spain	Venta Olivo plot	38.3833	-1.1667	Plots	2001	2008	8	161	Shrubland
Spain	Vernega Bosc	41.8772	2.9325	Catch.	1993	2011	19	44	Forest
Spain	Vernega Campas	41.8738	2.9213	Catch.	1993	2011	19	44	Agricultural practices
Spain	Villacarli	42.3489	0.5540	Catch.	2006	2008	3	20	Forest, grassland, shrubland
Spain	Villamor	41.2457	-5.5839	Catch.	2002	2010	9	87	Cereal
Morocco	Rheraya	31.2000	-7.9300	Plots	2003	2009	7	15	Rangeland (stones cover and vegetation)
Spain	Navalón	38.9166	-0.8333	Plots	2004	2014	11	470	Cultivated area
Spain	Almáchar	36.8000	-4.2167	Plots	2014	2015	2	13	Conventional sloping vineyard
Spain	Ca L'Isard	42.1934	1.8232	Catch.	2005	2012	8	55	Forest, meadows, sparse vegetation, rock
Spain	Can Vila	42.1981	1.8234	Catch.	2005	2012	8	93	Forest, meadows, sparse vegetation, rock
Spain	Utrillas	40.796231	-0.839938	Plots	2005	2006	2	24	Reclaimed mining slope
Spain	Parapuños	39.6105	-6.1333	Catch.	2001	2015	15	161	Dehesa
Spain	Montnegre	41.7000	2.5666	Catch.	1998	2002	15	77	Forest
Israel	Israel	32.75631	35.019918	Plots	2006	2007	2	24	Natural recovery of post fire Mediterranean forest

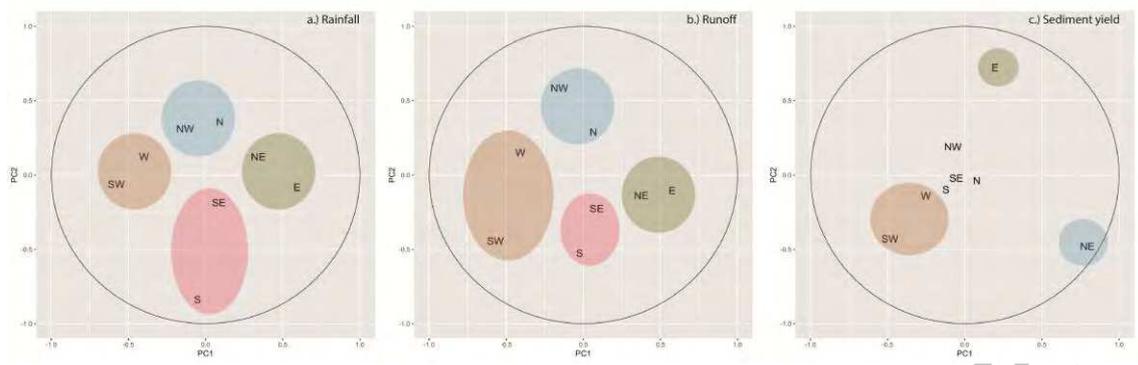
Table 1. Location, time of data collection, and characteristics of the study sites included in the database.

Table 2. Relative contributions of the different WTs to total rainfall, runoff, and SY at the different study sites (plots and experimental catchments) within each spatial class, based on PCA analysis.

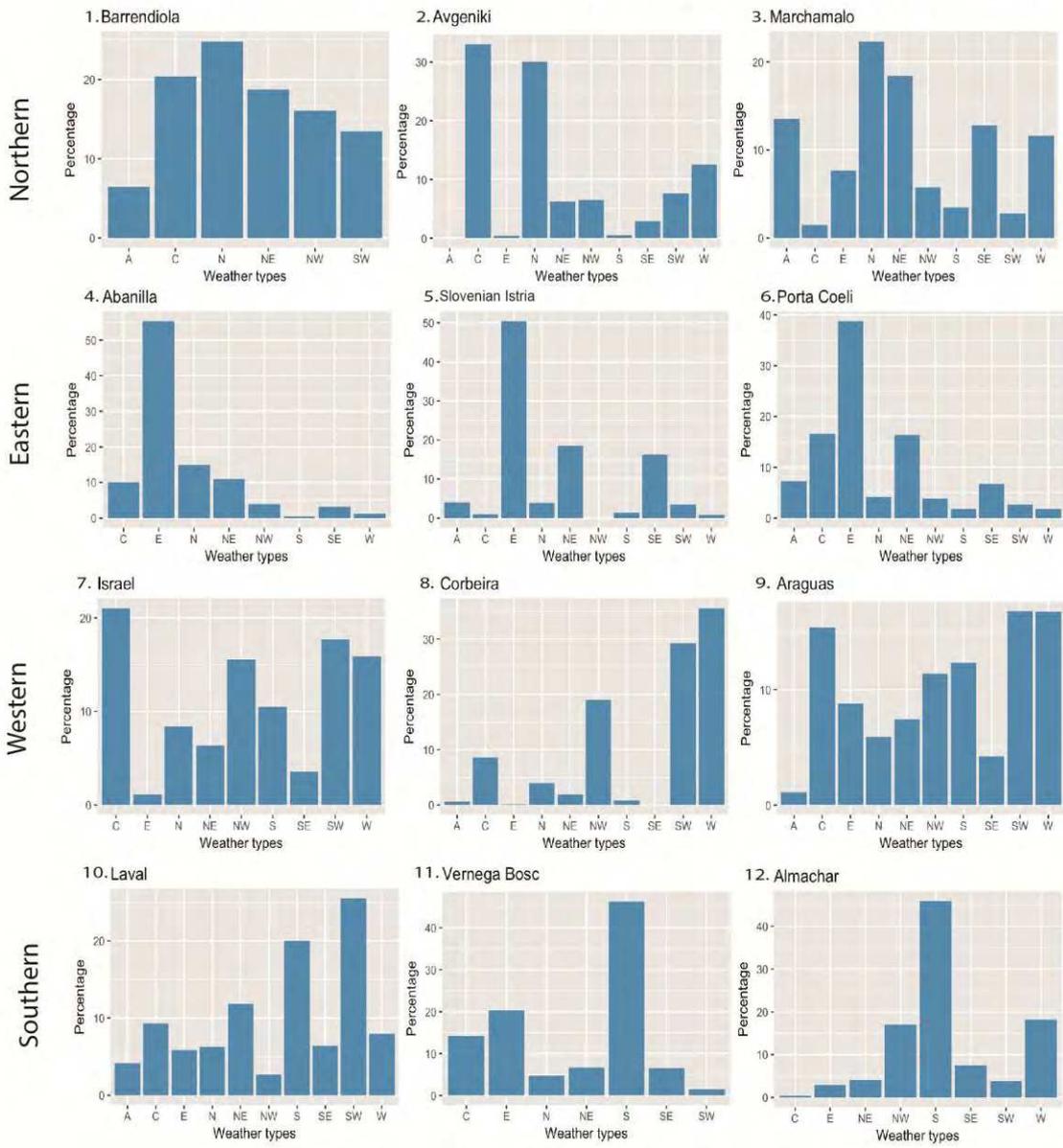
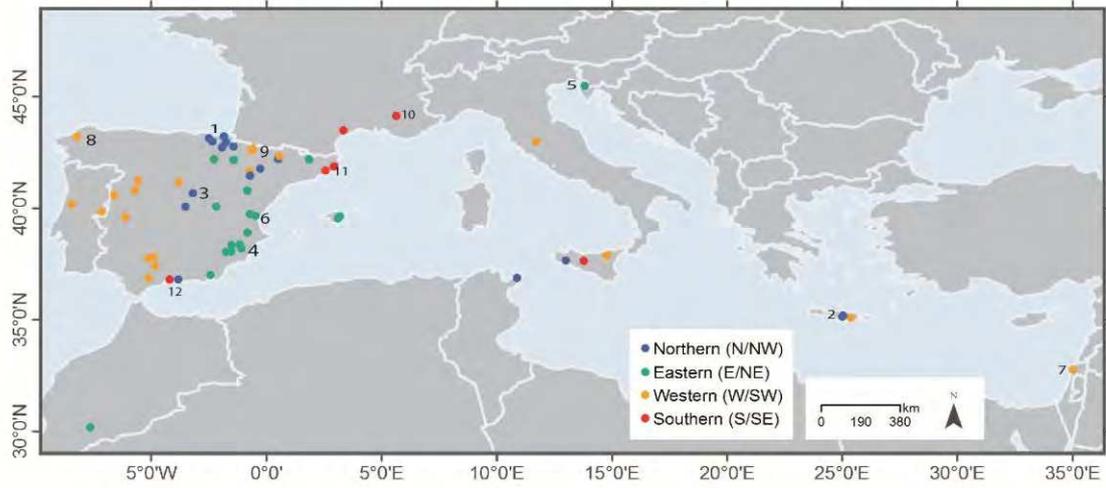
PCA classes	Environmental variables (%)	mean	standard deviation	Coefficient of variation	Max
Northern (NW, N)	<i>rainfall</i>	31.2	11.5	37	51.1
	<i>runoff</i>	38.6	15.6	41	64.7
	<i>SY</i>	48.6	16.1	33	92.3
Eastern (E, NE)	<i>rainfall</i>	43.8	14.7	34	69.0
	<i>runoff</i>	45	21.2	47	72.7
	<i>SY</i>	25.1	21.5	86	60.7
Southern (SE, S)	<i>rainfall</i>	42.7	12.1	28	58.0
	<i>runoff</i>	32.9	22.2	68	82.0
	<i>SY</i>	-	-	-	-
Western (SW, W)	<i>rainfall</i>	43.3	15.2	35	71.9
	<i>runoff</i>	52.2	15.4	30	80
	<i>SY</i>	40.3	19.8	49	83.1



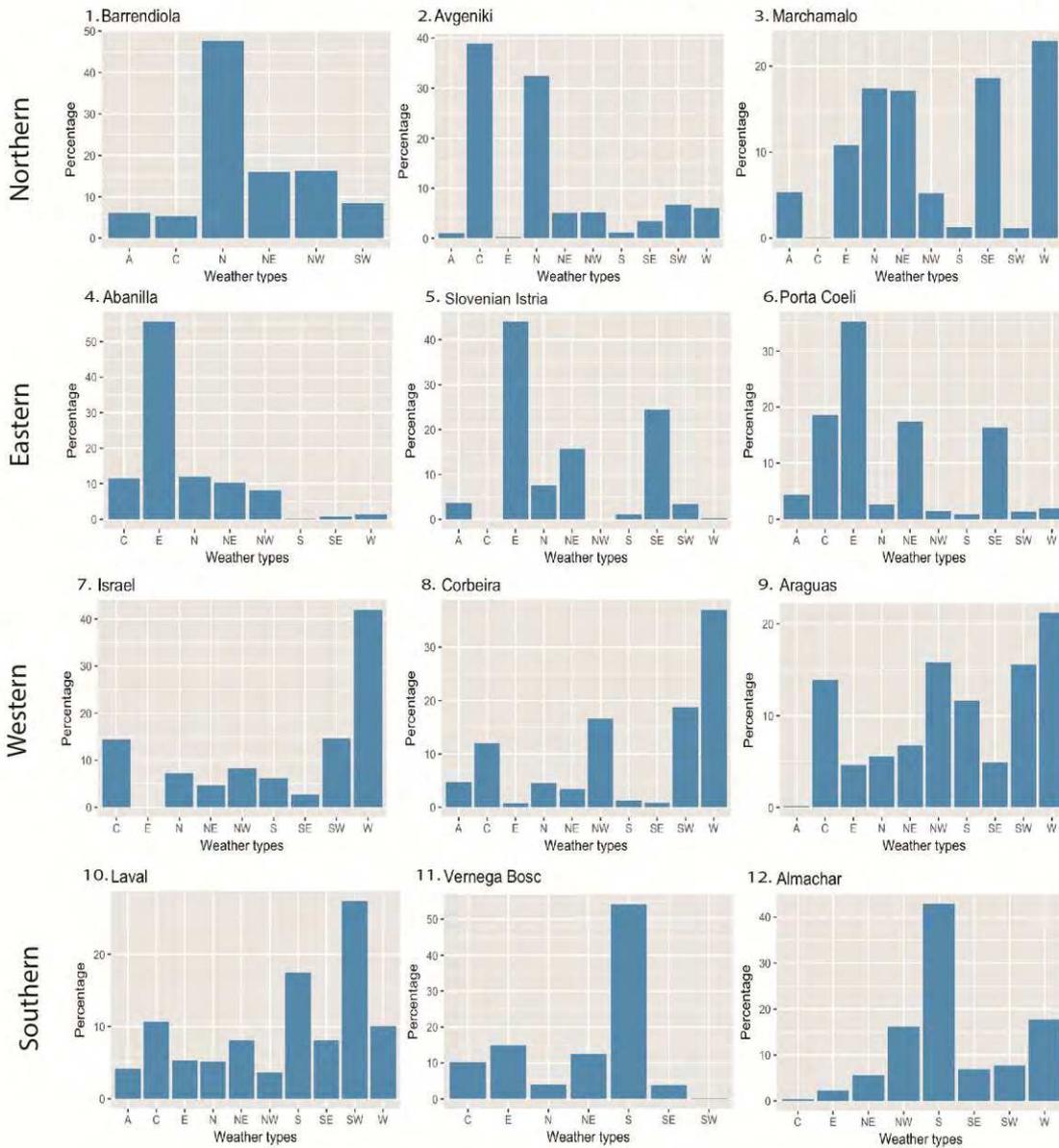
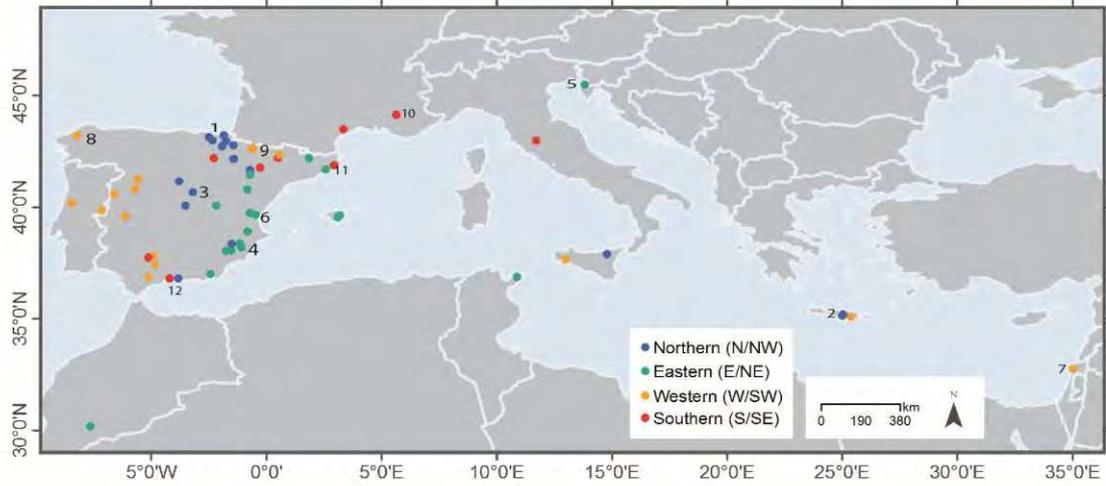
ACG

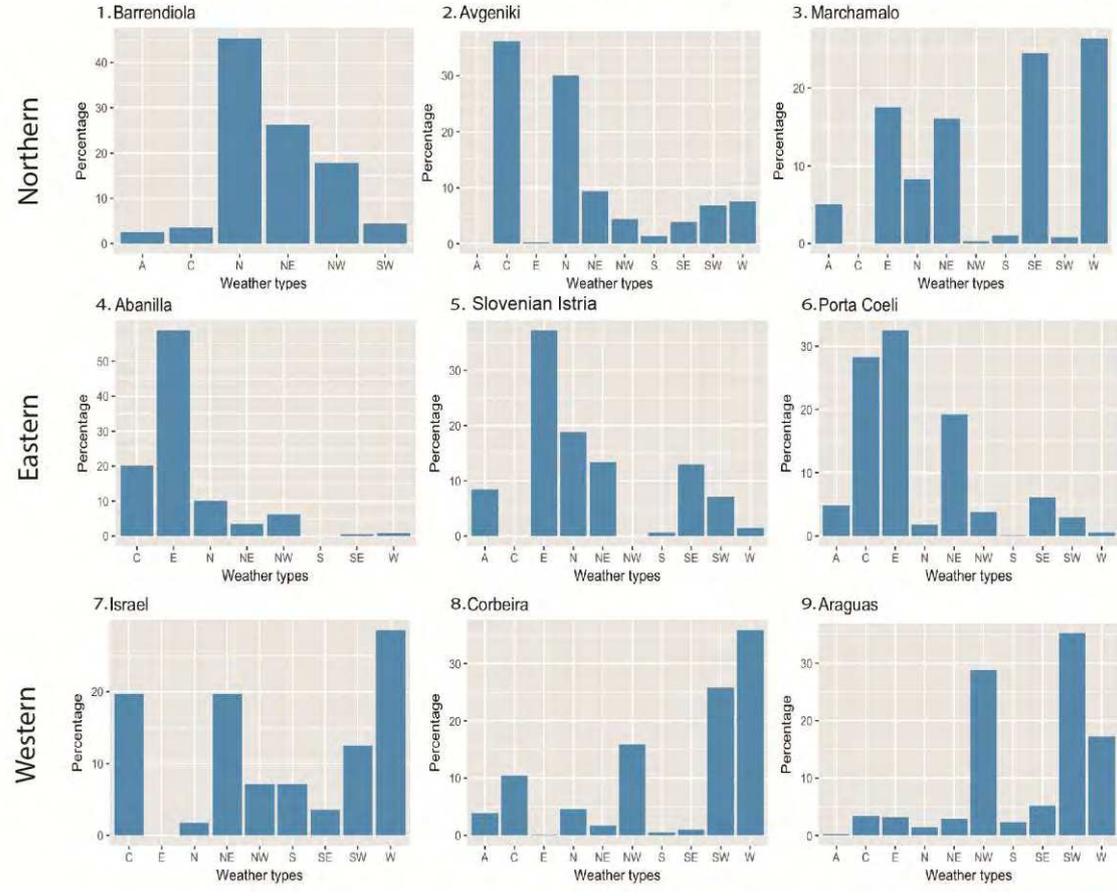
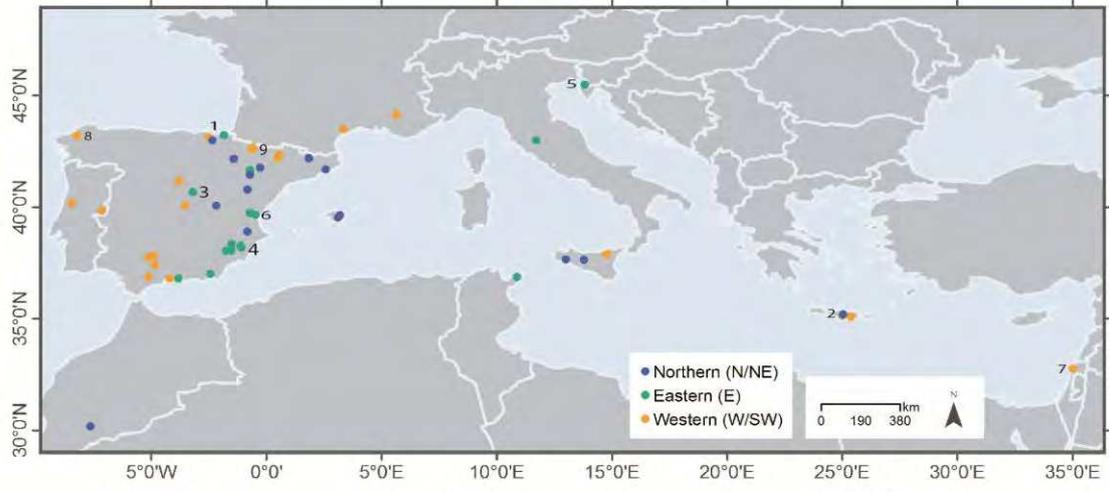


ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT



A





A