



Supplement of

Monitoring and modeling infiltration–recharge dynamics of managed aquifer recharge with desalinated seawater

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S1 Testing the numerical model with different pedotransfer functions (PTF)

The numerical model was also tested with two different USDA textural-classes PTF (Carsel and Parrish, 1988; Tóth et al., 2015). The neural-network PTF (ROSETTA, Schaap et al., 2001) that is presented in the paper (Table 1) is based on particle-size class (sand, silt and clay) and bulk density. This PTF resulted in 8 materials (sediments) each with a different hydraulic function that was used in the 10-layers model (Fig. 2c). However, the USDA textural-classes PTF reduces the number of materials to 3 (Carsel and Parrish, 1988) and 4 (Tóth et al., 2015) as presented in Tables S1 and S2, respectively. The results of the numerical simulations with the different PTF, including the calibrated and uncalibrated results of the PTF obtained with ROSETTA, are shown in Fig. S1. Among the uncalibrated PTF that were tested, the PTF of Tóth et al. (2015) was closest to the calibrated simulation results.

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Table S1. The van-Genuchten–Mualem hydraulic functions parameters obtained by the PTF of Carsel and Parrish (1988).

Model layers	Soil texture	θ_r	θ_s	$\alpha (m^{-1})$	n	$K_s (m d^{-1})$
1, 4, 5, 8, 10	Sand/Kurkar	0.045	0.43	14.5	2.68	7.13
2, 3, 6	Sandy clay loam	0.1	0.39	5.9	1.48	0.31
7, 9	Sandy loam	0.065	0.41	7.5	1.89	1.06

Table S2. The van-Genuchten–Mualem hydraulic functions parameters obtained by the PTF of Tóth et al. (2015).

Model layers	Soil texture	θ_r	θ_s	$\alpha (m^{-1})$	n	$K_s (m d^{-1})$
1	Sand	0.061	0.411	2.58	1.80	7.08
2, 3, 6	Sandy clay loam	0.037	0.384	7.17	1.12	0.32
4, 5, 8, 10	Sand/Kurkar	0.034	0.368	3.56	1.78	1.59
7, 9	Sandy loam	0.037	0.437	6.81	1.2	1.59

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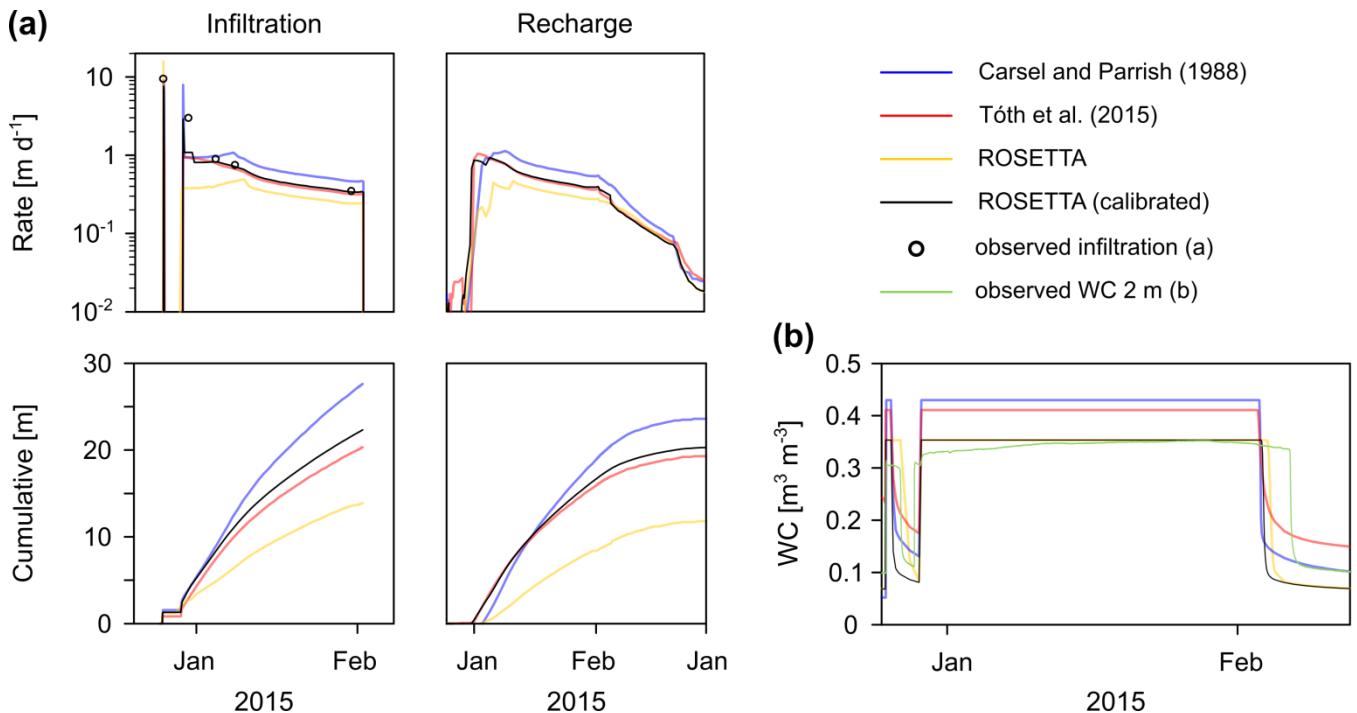


Figure S1. Numerical model simulations with different pedotransfer functions. (a) Infiltration and recharge rates (top); cumulative infiltration and recharge (bottom). (b) Volumetric water content (WC) at depth of 2 m.

S2 Preliminary falling-head unsaturated column experiment

5 Column experiment with desalinated seawater was conducted to identify the main soil-water processes at the top sand layer of the infiltration pond, focusing on changes in infiltration rates to physical clogging and chemical dissolution/precipitation (assuming negligible effect of biological processes). A Plexiglas column (100 x 10 cm, length x diameter) was packed with sand (silt + clay < 1%) from the Menashe site. The lower part of the column (0 to 40 cm) was dry-packed with four layers of sand (each 10 cm layer represent the layers identified in the field), and covered with aluminum foil to prevent biofilm 10 growth. The upper part of the column was used as a water tank (Fig. S2a).

Water levels were monitored continuously by a pressure transducer (Freescale MPX2010DP), showing decreasing infiltration rates after each successive run, implying sediment clogging (Fig. S2b). At the end of the experiment (~45 pore 15 volume) an infiltration rate decrease by a factor of ~1.5 was observed. No evidence of suspended solids was found in the output filtered water (0.45 μm), which implies negligible transport of micro-particles. This is expected as 98% of the sediment particles have a diameter larger than 106 μm . However, it is noted that transport and rearrangements of particles within the column could lead to physical clogging.

Chemical analysis (cations: ICP, Spectro Arcos; anions: IC, Dionex ICS 3000) showed that ion exchange of calcium replacing sodium was the main geochemical process taking place ($\text{Na}_2\text{X} + \text{Ca}^{2+} \rightarrow \text{CaX} + 2\text{Na}^+$; where X is the exchange

site), while no evident for carbonate dissolution was found (measured as $[\text{HCO}_3^-]$ by titration; Fig. S2c). This, together with observations of a continuous decrease in infiltration rate after the sediments reached chemical equilibrium with the inlet desalinated seawater (~ 15 pore volume), suggests that physical clogging due to compaction or grain rearrangement is the main clogging process. Nevertheless, the effect of this clogging is minor, and the final infiltration rates are still very high 5 ($\sim 15 \text{ m d}^{-1}$) in comparison to the final field-infiltration-rates measured in full-scale operative MAR events described in the text (0.4 m d^{-1}).

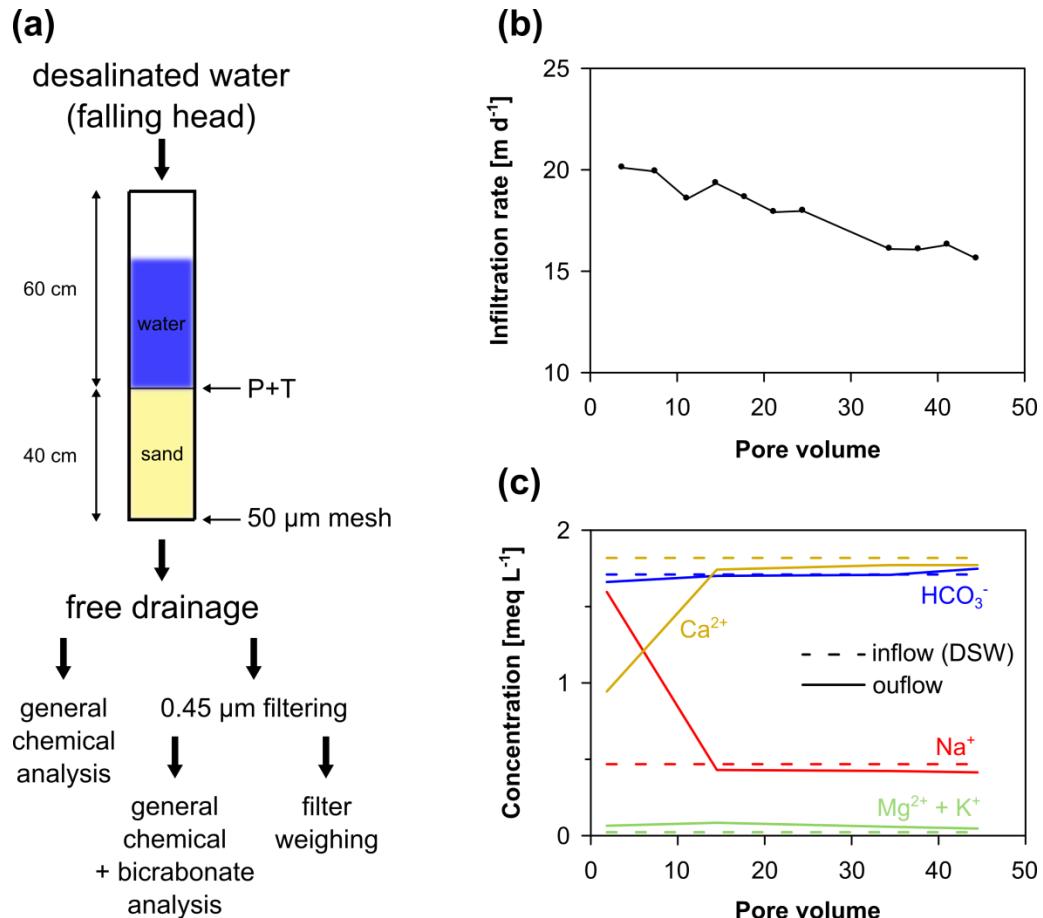


Figure S2. Preliminary column experiments with desalinated seawater. (a) Column experiment setup. (b) Average infiltration 10 rates. (c) Major cations and bicarbonate concentration.