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Investigation about Karst formation in Mazandaran province water resources, Iran

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Interaction between climate factors, carbonate formations and water resources as Karst hydrology issues have been increasingly implemented in recent years in several parts of the world. Approximately 11 percent of the territory of Iran is covered by carbonate rocks, so the knowledge of karst systems is important in water resources. The present study was conducted to determine the karstic features distribution in the Mazandaran province leading to compare runoff coefficient of karstic and nonkarstic watersheds with the same climate. The results indicated that the most karstic features are located in Sari-Neka region in the eastern part of Mazandran province. In the period, the runoff coefficient of Neka karstic watershed was 1.2 times higher than Behshahr nonkarstic watershed in the most eastern part of Mazandaran. Specific discharge for Neka karstic and Behshahr nonkarstic watersheds was 0.0024 m^3/s/ km2 and 0.0014 m^3/s/ km2 respectively.

Key words: Karst , Watershed , Discharge, Run off coefficient, Water resources