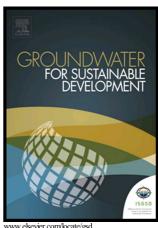
### Author's Accepted Manuscript

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#### **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

# Identification of the hydrogeochemical processes and assessment of groundwater in a semi-arid region using major ion chemistry: a case study of Ardestan basin in Central Iran

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#### **Abstract**

The present study investigates the physical, chemical, and hydrogeochemistry of groundwater samples in Ardestan basin in the central Iran. The 48 samples were collected from June 2014 to July 2014. All samples were analyzed for conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, total dissolved solids (TDS), major cations, major anions and trace metals. The most prevalent water type is Na–Cl followed by water types Ca–Mg–Cl, Ca–Mg–SO<sub>4</sub>, Na–HCO<sub>3</sub>–Cl, Na-HCO<sub>3</sub> and Ca-Mg–HCO<sub>3</sub>. The equiline diagrams and ionic ratios suggesting silicate minerals weathering, ion exchange, and evaporation are the dominant factors controlling the water chemistry in the area. The domination of cations and anions was in the order of Na<sup>+</sup> > Ca<sup>2+</sup> > Mg<sup>2+</sup> > K<sup>+</sup> for cations and Cl<sup>-</sup> > SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> > HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> > CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> in anions. Sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) and % Na<sup>+</sup> in relation to total salt concentration indicate that groundwater mostly falls under unsuitable for irrigation purpose.

#### **Keywords:**

Hydrogeochemistry, Groundwater, Irrigation, Ardestan

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