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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POTENTIAL EVAPOTRANSPIRATION BY DIFFERENT METHODS

Potential evapotranspiration is calculated by Penman (1963), Papadakis (1961), Thornthwaite (1948) and Hamon (1961) methods for a number of stations falling under the climatic categories according to Thornthwaite, Subrahmanyam, (1956) into per humid, humid, moist sub-humid, dry sub-humid, semi-arid and arid. Table 1 shows the monthly potential evapotranspiration of ten stations.

Considering potential evapotranspiration by Penman as absolute it may be pointed out that none of the formulae are suitable over the entire climatic spectrum. While at the humid end Hamon fails, but at the arid end it works very well. Neither Thornthwaite nor Papadakis can be used for all types of climates at all times of the year.

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3 April 1970

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