

# Vulnerability of groundwater resources to interaction with river water in a boreal catchment

A. Rautio<sup>1</sup>, A.-L. Kivimäki<sup>2</sup>, K. Korkka-Niemi<sup>1</sup>, M. Nygård<sup>3</sup>, V.-P. Salonen<sup>1</sup>, K. Lahti<sup>2</sup> and H. Vahtera<sup>2</sup>

[1]{Department of Geosciences and Geography, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland}}

[2]{Water Protection Association of the River Vantaa and Helsinki Region, Helsinki, Finland}

[3]{Pöyry Finland Oy, Vantaa Water & Environment P.O. Box 50, Vantaa, Finland}

Correspondence to: A. Rautio ([anne.rautio@helsinki.fi](mailto:anne.rautio@helsinki.fi))

## Abstract

A low altitude aerial infrared (AIR) survey was conducted to identify hydraulic connections between aquifers and rivers, and to map spatial surface temperature patterns along boreal rivers. In addition, the stable isotopic compositions ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$ ), dissolved silica (DSi) concentrations and electrical conductivity of water in combination with AIR data were used as tracers to verify the observed groundwater discharge into the river system in a boreal catchment. Based on low temperature anomalies in the AIR survey, around 370 groundwater discharge sites were located along the main river channel and its tributaries (203 km altogether). On the basis of AIR survey, the longitudinal temperature patterns of the studied rivers differed noticeably. The stable isotopes and DSi composition revealed major differences between the studied rivers. The interaction locations identified in the proximity of 12 municipal water intake plants during the low-flow seasons should be considered as potential risk areas for water intake plants during flood periods (groundwater quality deterioration due to bank infiltration), and should be taken under consideration in river basin management under changing climatic situations.

## 1 Introduction

Interactions between groundwater (GW) and surface water (SW) are complex, and the rates of exchange are spatio-temporally highly variable (Tóth, 1963; Winter et al., 1998), depending

1 on shoreline and river-bed sediments, aquifer characteristics, topography and meteorological  
2 conditions (Sebestyen and Schneider, 2001; Schneider et al., 2005; Rosenberry and LaBaugh,  
3 2008). River channel interactions can be classified as gaining, losing, parallel flow and flow-  
4 through (Winter, 1998; Woessner, 1998) and they can vary through time within a year  
5 (Winter, 1998). Evidently, GW has an important role in maintaining stream flow, thermal  
6 buffering, water quality and beneficial habitat for fish and freshwater aquatic life in rivers  
7 (Hansen, 1975; Stanford and Ward, 1993; Brunke and Gonser, 1997; Boulton et al., 1998;  
8 Woessner, 2000; Loheide and Gorelick, 2006).

9 A variety of temperature based methods has been used to identify the GW discharge into the  
10 SW bodies in previous studies in a different scales (catchment scale, local scale). Thermal  
11 infrared (TIR) has been used for identifying GW–RW interaction on the catchment scale  
12 (10th km-scale) (e.g. Torgersen et al., 2001, Cristea and Burges, 2009; Tonolla et al., 2012;  
13 Dugdale et al. 2015) and local scale (km-scale) (Loheide and Gorelick; 2006 Loheide and  
14 Deitchman, 2009; Tonolla et al., 2012; Röper et al., 2014) Furthermore, a low altitude survey  
15 (AIR) provides a method for collecting spatially continuous patterns of river temperatures in  
16 an entire river over a short period of time (Faux et al., 2001; Torgersen et al., 2001; Cristea  
17 and Burges, 2009; Dugdale et al. 2015) and modelling the stream water temperatures with *in-*  
18 *situ* RW temperature measurements (Cristea and Burges, 2009). Conventional temperature  
19 based methods like temperature data loggers, fiber optic cables and *in-situ* measurements  
20 have been used to accurately detect areas where GW discharges into the SW bodies on local  
21 scale (e.g. Conant, 2004; Schmidt et al., 2007; Selker, 2008; Krause et al., 2012).

22 In the River Vantaa drainage basin, in southern Finland, there is a need for more  
23 comprehensive understanding of GW–SW exchange processes with respect to the water  
24 supply, water quality and characteristics of the aquatic environment under changing climatic  
25 conditions. The GW–RW exchange zones may have a more significant impact on water  
26 quality and quantity in the River Vantaa and its tributaries than has thus far been  
27 acknowledged. Large fluctuations in the river flow rate, the low percentage cover of lakes, the  
28 high relative percentage of headwater lakes, the flat topography and generally poor infiltration  
29 capacity of the soils are related to the relatively high flooding sensitivity of the studied  
30 catchment in southern Finland (Mäntylä and Saarelainen, 2008) (Fig. 1). Furthermore, the  
31 continuous development and construction of new areas in the densely populated capital region  
32 has increased the flood risk during peak flow periods (Suhonen and Rantakokko, 2006) (Fig.

1 2a). This has been acknowledged in a number of recent surveys in which riparian areas  
2 vulnerable to floods in the studied river catchment have been identified (i.a. Mäntylä and  
3 Saarelainen, 2008). Climate change is predicted to result in increasing annual precipitation  
4 and elevated temperatures during the twenty-first century (Jylhä et al., 2004), as well as an  
5 expected intensification of extreme precipitation events (Beniston et al., 2007), which will  
6 significantly increase the flooding risk in some southern Finnish watersheds according to  
7 Veijalainen et al. (2010). Frequency of summer floods due to the extreme precipitation and  
8 winter floods due to mild winters are expected to increase in the tributaries of the River  
9 Vantaa (Veijalainen et al., 2009). A summer flood in 2004 resulted in water quality problems  
10 at two major GW intake plants (Suhonen and Rantakokko, 2006), as well as the  
11 contamination of several GW wells (Silander et al., 2006) in the studied river catchment.

12 The water quality of the River Vantaa and its tributaries has regularly been monitored since  
13 the 1970s in order to identify the incoming load of nutrients and contaminants. In the River  
14 Vantaa catchment, the river water (RW) has generally high nutrient concentrations and poor  
15 hygienic quality during heavy rains and the spring thaw (Vahtera et al., 2014). Flooding and  
16 heavy rain have the potential to induce contamination of municipal water intake wells via  
17 both overland flows entering the wells and by RW bank infiltration into the aquifer. There are  
18 twenty eight GW intake plants in the studied drainage basin, 12 of which are located in the  
19 proximity of main stream channels and are potentially vulnerable to RW contamination  
20 during high peak flow (Fig. 1a).

21 The assumption is that GW–RW exchange can possibly be an important factor affecting the  
22 quality of water in municipal water intake plants, where a hydraulic connection between the  
23 river and the aquifer exists. The main aims of this study were to identify the GW–RW  
24 interaction sites and to gain a better understanding of ubiquity of aquifer–river channel  
25 interaction and the potential vulnerability of municipal water intake plants in the studied  
26 catchment. This will also improve the general understanding of GW–RW interactions in  
27 boreal catchments under changing climatic conditions, potentially affecting quality of GW  
28 utilized by waterworks. AIR surveys were carried out to identify areas of thermal anomalies  
29 as potential GW discharge locations to river beds, based on the temperature contrast between  
30 RW and GW (e.g. Torgersen et al., 2001; Loheide and Gorelick, 2006; Davis, 2007; Conant  
31 and Mochnacz, 2009; Loheide and Deitchman, 2009) and to produce spatially continuous  
32 temperature profiles of the surveyed rivers.

1 The additional objective was to assess the applicability of the used thermal method in boreal  
2 catchment by verifying the identified GW discharge locations using site-specific thermal and  
3 hydrogeochemical methods. More detailed field studies were performed at study sites in the  
4 Rivers Vantaa and Palojoiki (Fig. 2b). The stable isotopic compositions ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$ ), as well as  
5 dissolved silica (DSi) concentrations of GW and RW were used as tracers to verify the  
6 observed GW discharge into the river system. In order to identify risk of transport of  
7 contaminants into drinking water production wells through RW infiltration, water quality  
8 ( $\text{NO}_3\text{-NO}_2\text{-N}$ , dissolved organic carbon (DOC), turbidity) was monitored at one hour intervals  
9 to investigate the potential RW infiltration into the production wells at four study sites at one  
10 hour intervals (Hyvinkäänkylä data is presented) during the springtime maximum river flow  
11 period in 2012. Many previous studies have used TIR to identify and classify thermal  
12 anomalies as well as to model the stream water temperatures but not with the  
13 hydrogeochemical variables in order to explore the connection between anomalous stream  
14 water temperatures and GW–SW interaction indicative geochemical variables to assess the  
15 potential vulnerability of intake plants in proximity of main stream channels.

16

## 17 **2 Study area**

18 The River Vantaa is one of the water reserves for Finland's capital region (ca. 1 million  
19 inhabitants). The total catchment area of the River Vantaa is 1 685 km<sup>2</sup> and the percentage  
20 cover of lakes is 2.25% (Fig. 1a), the largest lake having a total area of 6.0 km<sup>2</sup> (Seuna, 1971;  
21 Ekholm, 1993). The length of the River Vantaa is 99 km, while its tributaries range in length  
22 from 8 to 65 km (Tikkanen, 1989) (Table 1). The surveyed rivers were slow to moderate  
23 flowing streams in a gently undulating glacial landscape that ranged in elevation from 0 to  
24 160 meters above sea level (m a.s.l.). The surveyed rivers contained straight and meandering  
25 channel types.

26 River Vantaa catchment is characterized by strong snow-dominated seasonality, and major  
27 floods can be caused by either snowmelt or heavy rain events (Veijalainen et al., 2010). The  
28 highest flow rates typically occur during the spring and late autumn months due to snow melt  
29 (spring thaw) and heavy rains in autumns. The mean annual precipitation at the nearest  
30 weather stations, Vantaa (Helsinki-Vantaa airport) and Hyvinkää (Hyvinkäänkylä), is 682 and  
31 660 mm, respectively (Pirinen et al., 2012) (Fig. 2b). Approximately 10–20% of the  
32 precipitation falls as snow in southern Finland (Karlsson, 1986). The mean annual air

1 temperature varies from 4.1 °C to 5.0 °C in the study area (Finnish Meteorological Institute,  
2 1991).

3 In the northern part of the study area, the elevation ranges from +100 m to +160 m a.s.l. (Fig.  
4 1b), and the dominant geomorphological relief types are bedrock terrain and glacial deposits  
5 forming cover-moraine sheets (glacial till in Fig. 1a) and end-moraine ridges  
6 (glaciofluvial sand and gravel in Fig. 1a) (Tikkanen, 1989). The elevation decreases relatively  
7 smoothly towards the south, the majority of the central and southern parts of the catchment  
8 being lower than +80 m a.s.l. (Fig. 1b). In the lower areas, Quaternary deposits are dominated  
9 by marine and lacustrine silt and clay, which cover 39% of the entire catchment area  
10 (Helsinki-Uusimaa Region, 1997). Riverbeds only sporadically overlap glaciofluvial sand and  
11 gravel formations (Fig. 1a), as they generally pass along bedrock fracture zones covered by  
12 thick clay layers (Tikkanen, 1989). Major GW reserves are associated with glaciofluvial  
13 eskers mainly hosting unconfined aquifers (Fig. 2b), but some part of aquifers can be semi-  
14 confined or confined (Table 1). The 29 aquifers in close vicinity to river beds are classified as  
15 important ones that are used by municipal water companies in the River Vantaa catchment  
16 (Fig. 1a).

17 Land use is divided between forestry 51%, agriculture 26% and urban (artificial surfaces) land  
18 use 20% (Fig. 2a). Land use varies between the River Vantaa and its tributaries, as the  
19 headwater areas are dominated by forestry and southern areas by urban land use (Fig. 2a).

20 Detailed field measurements and water sampling was performed at selected field study sites  
21 within the River Vantaa catchment. At the field study sites in both River Vantaa and River  
22 Palojoki, the river bed perpendicularly cuts glaciofluvial sandy esker ridge (Figs. 2b and 3).  
23 However, the bed of River Vantaa is steep sloped and bottom sediments mainly consist of  
24 loam with low permeability, whereas the bed of the shallow River Palojoki is gently sloped  
25 and bottom sediments consist of sand and gravel, enhancing GW discharge to the river  
26 through the river bottom. The thickness of glaciofluvial material varies between 10 and 35 m  
27 under the Hyvinkäänkylä study site beside the River Vantaa, and GW in the aquifer flows  
28 towards the River Vantaa from both the north and south (Breilin et al., 2004) (Fig. 3a). The  
29 Hyvinkäänkylä water intake plant is located in close proximity to the north bank of the River  
30 Vantaa, and the three production wells are located 30–60 m from the River Vantaa channel  
31 (Fig. 3a).

1 At the study site in the River Palojoiki, the river bed is significantly shallower and narrower  
2 than that of the River Vantaa (Table 1) and the sediments are composed of coarse-grained  
3 sand and gravel. The Tuusula artificial GW plant is located on the NW side of the River  
4 Palojoiki channel, on the NW–SE discontinuous Tuusula esker chain (Fig. 3b), and supplies  
5 both natural and artificially recharged GW. The recharge of natural GW in the shallow and  
6 unconfined Jäniksenlinna aquifer is approximately  $4000 \text{ m}^3 \text{ d}^{-1}$  (Hatva, 1989) (classified  
7 aquifer in Fig. 3b). Water from Lake Päijänne ( $9370 \text{ m}^3 \text{ d}^{-1}$ ) is conducted to the infiltration site  
8 through a water supply tunnel and is artificially recharged into the aquifer by pond infiltration  
9 through the permeable esker deposits. This artificial GW is accounting for 70 % of water  
10 intake from the Jäniksenlinna aquifer (Kortelainen and Karhu, 2006). GW flows towards the  
11 River Palojoiki from the NW (mostly artificial GW) and SE (mostly natural GW) (Helmisaari  
12 et al., 2003) (Fig. 3b).

13

## 14 **3 Methods**

### 15 **3.1 AIR surveys and field measurements**

16 AIR has proved to be a feasible method for identifying GW discharge locations in previous  
17 hydrological studies (e.g. Torgersen et al., 2001; Conant and Mochnacz, 2009). Furthermore,  
18 AIR provides a method for collecting spatially continuous patterns of river temperatures in an  
19 entire river over a short period of time (Faux et al., 2001; Torgersen et al., 2001; Cristea and  
20 Burges, 2009). AIR was used to identify areas of discrete and diffuse discharge of GW to  
21 stream water based on temperature contrast between SW and GW (Torgersen et al., 2001;  
22 Anderson, 2005). In Finland, the conditions are most favourable for AIR studies from July to  
23 August, when the annual maximum contrast exists between GW ( $4\text{--}8 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) and RW ( $20\text{--}24 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ )  
24 temperatures.

25 An AIR survey was conducted over the River Vantaa and its tributaries, Herajoki, Palojoiki,  
26 Keravanjoki and Tuusulanjoki in July 2010 during the low-flow period (Fig. 2b). A FLIR  
27 Thermo Vision A40 sensor was mounted in a pod of a side of a Raven R44 II helicopter  
28 together with Nikon D1X digital camera. An AIR survey were acquired from 100 to 250  
29 meters above ground surface (m a.g.s.) and the ground speed varied between  $50 \text{ km h}^{-1}$  and  
30  $90 \text{ km h}^{-1}$  following the river courses. July 2010 was warm and had low precipitation (15  
31 mm, Finnish Meteorological Institute), apart from few thunderstorms.

1 In July 2011, an AIR survey was conducted over the Rivers Vantaa, Keravanjoki and  
2 Lepsämäenjoki (Fig. 2b). Altogether, the AIR surveys covered 203 km of rivers as well as the  
3 riparian areas alongside the channels in 2010 and 2011 (Fig. 2b). Due to the preceding warm  
4 weather conditions, which prevailed for several weeks, the conditions were ideal for detecting  
5 GW discharge locations in summer 2011. A FLIR ThermaCAM P60 together with an HDR-  
6 CX700 digital video camera was used, with the cameras held in a near vertical position on the  
7 side of the helicopter. Fine-scale adjustments of the flight path and altitude were made  
8 visually by the pilot in cooperation with the FLIR operator and attempted to capture both the  
9 rivers and a significant proportion of the riparian areas on side of the channels. The flight  
10 altitude of 100–300 m a.g.s. produced a ground resolution from 0.15 m to 0.5 m. Thermal  
11 images were collected digitally and recorded from the sensor to the on-board computer at a  
12 rate of 5 frames/s, which guaranteed full overlap between the image frames. Digital image  
13 files were tagged with the acquisition time and with the position from a built-in GPS. The  
14 thermal and digital video cameras synchronized data collection to the nearest second and  
15 provided a means of correlating thermal and visible band imagery during postflight image  
16 processing.

17 Both thermal cameras used in AIR surveys had a pixel resolution of  $320 \times 240$ , a spectral  
18 range of 7.5–13  $\mu\text{m}$  and a field of view of  $24 \times 18$  degrees. The FLIR system was capable of  
19 detecting temperature differences of  $\pm 0.08$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$  with an accuracy of  $\pm 2.0$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $\pm 2.0$  % of the  
20 reading, as reported by the manufacturer. The ground speed varied between 50  $\text{km h}^{-1}$  and 90  
21  $\text{km h}^{-1}$  during the AIR surveys in 2010 and 2011, depending on the stream width and intensity  
22 of meandering. Ground speed was maintained at 50  $\text{km h}^{-1}$  over narrow, meandering streams  
23 and increased to 90  $\text{km h}^{-1}$  over wide, straight rivers sections. The canopy cover from riparian  
24 vegetation ranged from nearly completely closed to wide open and varied within and between  
25 the rivers surveyed.

26 Aerial surveys were mainly conducted in an upstream direction during the early afternoon  
27 hours in calm and cloudless weather conditions. The upstream direction was used due to the  
28 facility to follow main stream in upstream direction, the exceptions were mainly due to the  
29 logistical and economic reasons to save flight time. Meteorological data on air temperature  
30 and relative humidity during the aerial surveys were obtained from the two nearest weather  
31 stations (Fig. 2b).

1 Reference measurements were collected simultaneously with AIR survey to compare the  
2 kinetic water temperature ( $T_k$ ) measured 5 cm below the water surface with a thermometer to  
3 the radiant water temperature ( $T_r$ ) measured remotely with a thermal sensor from skin layer of  
4 RW in 2010 and 2011. The  $T_k$  were compared to  $T_r$  to define the average absolute temperature  
5 difference between the reference measurements and remotely measured with TIR sensor. The  
6 reference measurements were collected by discrete manual measurements with a YSI 600  
7 XLM-V2-M multiparameter probe (accuracy  $\pm 0.15$  °C) at River Keravanjoki study site in  
8 2010 and the River Lepsämäenjoki in 2011.

9 The  $T_r$  values were adjusted for the emissivity of natural water (0.96) and with inputs of air  
10 temperature, relative humidity and path length in post-processing. In producing the spatially  
11 continuous profiles of minimum radiant water temperature ( $T_{minr}$ ), thermal images were  
12 individually analysed and  $T_{minr}$  was manually sampled from each thermal image of the main  
13 stream channel, and the lowest value for  $T_{minr}$  was selected for each second.  $T_{minr}$  was selected  
14 for this study instead of the extraction methods based on image sampling or weighted  
15 averages used in previous studies (Torgersen et al., 2001 Cristea and Burges, 2009) to more  
16 efficiently localize the anomalously cold temperatures in the main stream channel indicating  
17 GW contributions into the river flow. The image sampling and weighted averages methods  
18 are both based on the median values of selected points or the histogram of contiguous water  
19 pixel temperatures (Cristea and Burges, 2009) and therefore missing or averaging the  $T_{minr}$   
20 values. The thermal anomalies in the proximity of the main stream channel were examined  
21 and compared with the base map and visible band imagery to exclude artificial cold anomalies  
22 such as roads or electrical power lines.

23 Detailed field studies were performed at Hyvinkäänkylä and River Palojoki study sites in  
24 2010 (Figs. 2b, 3 and Table 1). 19 cross-sections of the RW temperature and electrical  
25 conductivity (EC) near the sediment–water interface and sediment temperature at intervals of  
26 1 to 2 m were measured at study sites representing different hydrogeological and hydrological  
27 settings. In addition, two longitudinal profiles of RW temperature near the sediment–water  
28 interface were collected (Figs. 6a, 7a). All RW temperature and EC measurements were  
29 collected with a YSI 600 XLM-V2-M multiparameter probe and the sediment temperature  
30 measurements with a stainless steel sediment temperature probe (Therma Plus, Electronic  
31 Temperature instruments Ltd, Worthing, West Sussex, UK, accuracy  $\pm 0.10$  °C). Moreover, at  
32 the River Vantaa study site, RW temperature and EC were measured at one-hour intervals 0.3

1 m below the water surface and 0.3 m above the river bottom, the total depth of the water being 1.6 m. At the shallow River Palojoki study site, similar continuous measurements were performed 0.2 m above the river bottom, the total depth of the RW in the low-flow season being at most measuring points only 0.7–1.0 m.

Water quality ( $\text{NO}_3\text{-NO}_2\text{-N}$ , DOC, turbidity) of drinking water production wells was monitored at one hour intervals with S::can sensors (UV-VIS spectrometers) at Hyvinkäänkylä study site during the springtime maximum river flow period in 2012 (Fig. 8).

### 8 **3.2 Stable isotopes and DSi**

9 Stable isotopic compositions of water have widely been applied as tracers in hydrological  
10 research (Gibson et al., 2005). Precipitation and GW are the main components of water in  
11 most rivers, and the relative proportions of these sources differ in each watershed, depending  
12 on the physical settings and climatic variables, as well as human activities in the watershed  
13 (Kendall and Coplen, 2001). As the basin size increases, the isotopic compositions of rivers  
14 are increasingly affected by subsequent alterations of the different runoff components and  
15 precipitation, mixing with GW, and by evaporation (Kendall and Coplen, 2001). When GW  
16 and SW have different chemical signatures, spatial variation in the tracer concentration of SW  
17 can be used to verify GW inflow into the SW body (Gat and Gonfiantini, 1981; Kendall et al.,  
18 1995).

19 Precipitation contains little or no DSi (dissolved silica) (Asano, 2003), whereas the arithmetic  
20 mean concentration of DSi in GW for Finnish dug wells is 6.5 ppm (Lahermo et al., 2002).  
21 The DSi concentrations are dependent on the GW residence time and the grain size of aquifer  
22 media (Sandborg, 1993, Soveri et al., 2001). Streams show systematic variation in the DSi  
23 concentration as a function of flow, with higher concentrations under baseflow conditions and  
24 the lowest concentrations under high flow (Neal et al., 2005). Therefore, DSi could serve as a  
25 potential tracer to estimate the contribution of GW to river flow, as earlier observed by Hinton  
26 et al. (1994).

27 Water sampling of RW and GW under low-flow conditions was performed at six study sites  
28 in order to examine the impacts of GW discharge on RW chemistry at the GW discharge  
29 locations identified with AIR in 2010 (Nygård, 2011; Korkka-Niemi et al., 2011) and 2011  
30 (Fig. 1a). Samples for  $\delta\text{D}$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and DSi analysis were collected from RW (n = 36) (R.  
31 Herajoki, n = 4; R. Lepsämäenjoki, n = 7; R. Vantaa, n = 6; R. Palojoki, n = 6; R.

1 Tuusulanjoki, n = 5; R. Kerava, n = 8) and GW (n = 26) (R. Herajoki, n = 8; R. Lepsämänjoki,  
2 n = 2; R. Vantaa, n = 8; R. Palojoki, n = 2; R. Tuusulanjoki, n = 4; R. Kerava, n = 2) in June,  
3 July and August 2011.

4 The sample locations at each study sites were selected in order to detect changes in RW  
5 chemistry: 1) upstream sample sites above potential GW discharge to the river, 2) GW  
6 discharge sites based on geological location (riverbeds overlaps glacial sediments) and 3)  
7 sample sites downstream of GW discharge.

8 The RW samples were collected from the river channel using a Limnos sampler or bottle  
9 sampler, depending the channel width and depth at the sampling location. The spring water  
10 samples were collected from discharging and flowing GW directly into sampling bottles  
11 representing the natural GW. GW samples from observation wells were taken with a GW  
12 pump (Tempest/Twister) after purging the water volume three times. The GW samples from  
13 water intake wells were taken from the well tap after approximately 5 minutes of running.  
14 Samples for isotopic and DSi analysis were collected into HDPE bottles and analysed with a  
15 Picarro analyser and ICP-MS, respectively, at the Department of Geosciences and Geography,  
16 University of Helsinki. The isotope results are reported as  $\delta$  values, representing the deviation  
17 in per mill (‰) from the isotopic composition of Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water  
18 (VSMOW), such that  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  or  $\delta\text{D} = [(R_{\text{sample}}/R_{\text{standard}})-1] \times 1000$ , where  $R$  refers to the  $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$   
19 or D/H ratios in both the sample and standard. The accuracy for a single analysis was  $\leq \pm 0.5$   
20 ‰ for  $\delta\text{D}$  and  $\leq \pm 0.1$  ‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ . Samples for DSi concentration measurements were  
21 preserved in a refrigerator until analysis, prefiltered (0.45  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and analysed according to the  
22 ISO 17294-2 standard. The analytical error was approximately  $\pm 2$  % for DSi.

23 The deuterium excess (*d*-excess) was calculated as an index of the evaporation effect for each  
24 sample using the following equation (Dansgaard, 1964)

$$25 \quad d\text{-excess} = \delta_{\text{D}} - 8\delta_{18}. \quad (1)$$

26 where  $\delta_{\text{D}}$  is the  $\delta\text{D}$  and  $\delta_{18}$  is the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ .

### 27 **3.3 Statistics**

28 To test if the GW input could also be seen in RW quality inside the classified aquifers, the  
29 non-parametric Mann-Whitney U-test for two unrelated or independent populations (Rock,  
30 1988; Ranta et al., 1991) were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 22 on RW samples (n =

1 36) in order to assess the GW component in RW. RW sampling points were grouped  
2 according to their relationship with the aquifers. If a sampling point was inside the mapped  
3 GW area (classified aquifer), the sampling point was classified into the group “GW effect” (n  
4 = 17). Otherwise, the sampling point was classed as “no GW effect” (n = 19).

5

## 6 **4 Results**

### 7 **4.1 AIR**

8 Almost 10 000 thermal images were acquired during the AIR survey in 2010 (Korkka-Niemi  
9 et al., 2012). Based on the AIR surveys and site-specific field measurements, thermal  
10 anomalies were classified as discrete or multiple springs, cold creeks discharging into a river,  
11 diffuse sources by the shoreline, and diffuse and wide seepage areas (Korkka-Niemi et al.,  
12 2012).

13 Approximately 30 000 thermal images were acquired during the AIR survey in 2011, and the  
14 anomalies were classified into three categories. Two discrete categories (springs and cold  
15 creeks) were the same as in 2010, and a thermal anomaly was defined as a difference of at  
16 least 0.5 °C between the  $T_{\text{minr}}$  in the main channel and the observed anomaly. In this paper,  
17 the two previously presented diffuse categories were merged to form one diffuse category  
18 (wetlands), because both contribute to the diffuse discharge of GW in the riparian zone.  
19 Category three, diffuse anomalies, was located in riparian areas and had a variable areal  
20 coverage ranging from separate small diffuse anomalies to wetlands with a large areal  
21 coverage. Altogether, 374 thermal anomalies were identified along the 203-km course of the  
22 studied rivers in 2010 and 2011 using AIR (Fig. 4a and Table 2). The observed anomalies in  
23 category one were mostly connected to Quaternary deposits, whereas anomalies in categories  
24 two and three were not directly connected to them (Fig. 4).

25 There was significant variation in the longitudinal profiles of  $T_{\text{minr}}$  between the studied rivers  
26 (Figs. 4b and 5). The revealed patterns of spatial variability in  $T_{\text{minr}}$  provided a means to  
27 characterize the thermal signatures of the individual rivers like the patterns of warming and  
28 cooling in relation to distance from the stream mouth or series peaks and troughs as earlier  
29 described by Torgersen et al. (2001). The most notable tributary confluences, rapids, springs,  
30 wetlands, dams and geomorphological features of the channel are marked on the profiles in  
31 Figure 5.

1 The Rivers Herajoki and Vantaa showed a downstream warming trend and the headwater  
2 springs could be observed as  $T_{\text{minr}}$  lows in thermal longitudinal profiles (Fig. 5a, b). The River  
3 Vantaa showed large variability in  $T_{\text{minr}}$  of values (16 °C) over a 64-km length from the  
4 headwaters (Fig. 5a). The narrow river channel and the riparian vegetation hampered the  
5 reliable acquisition of thermal imaginary over the headwater area of the River Herajoki.

6 The Rivers Keravanjoki and Tuusulanjoki originate at the outflow of a lake, which could be  
7 observed as a high  $T_{\text{minr}}$  in the headwaters (Fig. 5c, d). In the River Keravanjoki, a series of  
8 peaks and troughs were recorded in  $T_{\text{minr}}$  in the downstream direction, and the downstream  
9 temperatures were close the headwater temperatures (Figs. 4b and 5c). The  $T_{\text{minr}}$  varied by  
10 approximately 3 °C in the River Tuusulanjoki, and lower temperatures in the upstream part of  
11 the river were connected to a dam and small springs in the esker area (Fig. 5d).

12 The  $T_{\text{minr}}$  of the River Lepsämäjoki increased approximately 8 °C along the first 11 km from  
13 the headwaters, reached the maximum values at around 11 km, and after this the  $T_{\text{minr}}$   
14 remained between 19–21 °C (Figs. 4b and 5e). In the River Lepsämäjoki, the narrowness of  
15 the channel and riparian vegetation limited thermal imagining of the headwater stream. Large  
16 springs were identified in the more distal headwater area.

17 The River Palojoki displayed a general downstream cooling pattern and rather constant  $T_{\text{minr}}$   
18 values before crossing the esker aquifer area close to the artificial GW plant, where the  
19 temperatures dropped in a distinct way as the artificial and natural GW discharged into the  
20 river (Fig. 5f). The  $T_{\text{minr}}$  temperatures slowly increased after a major drop until the river  
21 entered a second esker aquifer area and temperatures started to decrease due to the influence  
22 of GW discharge (Fig. 5f).

23 The observed smaller peaks and troughs in longitudinal temperature profiles, with 1–2 °C  
24 fluctuations in  $T_{\text{minr}}$ , were connected to the inputs from tributaries, dams, rapids, narrowing of  
25 the channel and meandering bends (Fig. 5).

26 The profiles were not corrected with respect to the increased RW temperatures during the  
27 flights. During mid-afternoon surveys in July, the RW temperature changed at rates of 0.2–0.7  
28 °C h<sup>-1</sup> according to the continuous water temperature monitoring in the River Vantaa. The  
29 flight times over the Rivers Palojoki, Herajoki and Tuusulanjoki were around or less than 15  
30 minutes, and downstream warming therefore had only a minor effect.

1 The values of  $T_r$  were within  $\pm 0.6$  °C of the reference measurements of  $T_k$  ( $n = 29$ ) in  
2 subsequent years. The average absolute temperature difference between  $T_r$  and  $T_k$  was 0.22  
3 °C. In this study, the focus was more on the relative temperature differences than the absolute  
4 temperature values.

## 5 **4.2 Field measurements**

6 Variable temperature anomalies in the lower RW layer, not detectable with AIR, could be  
7 characterized (Figs 6 and 7). It is a well-known limitation of the thermal infrared (TIR)  
8 technique to detect the surficial temperatures (“skin” layer  $< 0.1$  mm), and only substantial  
9 subsurface GW contributions to SW bodies that reach the surface can therefore be detected  
10 (Torgersen et al. 2001). At the River Vantaa study site, where a series of springs was  
11 observed near the eastern shoreline prior to the major GW discharge location (Korkka-Niemi  
12 et al., 2012), the longitudinal profile (A–AA’) of RW temperatures near the sediment–water  
13 interface revealed the lower cold water regime in the river (Fig. 6a).

14 The bottom RW temperatures were mainly relatively equal and constant during the  
15 continuous water temperature monitoring period (Fig. 6b). However, a significant difference  
16 was observed at the end of the monitoring period, when the temperature and EC values of RW  
17 at the bottom simultaneously dropped several times (Fig. 6b). The RW level declined by 0.1  
18 m during the monitoring period due to the low precipitation in July, resulting GW discharge  
19 from the springs near the eastern shoreline to the river bottom. The lower EC values had a  
20 statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ) and very strong positive correlation ( $r_{\text{Pearson}} = 0.92$ ,  $n = 261$ )  
21 with the lower temperatures on the river bottom (Fig. 6b). EC values of western GW and RW  
22 were similar, respectively  $22 \text{ mS m}^{-1}$  and  $21 \text{ mS m}^{-1}$ , whereas the mean EC value of spring  
23 water on the more pristine eastern river bank was  $17 \text{ mS m}^{-1}$ . The lower EC values of RW  
24 had a statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ) and strong positive correlation ( $r_{\text{Pearson}} = 0.85$ ,  $n =$   
25  $145$ ) with the lower temperatures of RW (Fig. 6c).

26 The temperature of RW was  $22\text{--}25$  °C in the cross-sections B–BB’, C–CC’ and J–JJ (Fig.  
27 6c). From cross-sections D–DD’ and E–EE’ (Fig. 6c), the temperature and EC values  
28 decreased more and the thermal stratification appeared more pronounced in the cross-section  
29 from F–FF’ to I–II’ (Figs. 6c, d). Further downstream, where the river bed perpendicularly  
30 cuts an unconfined glaciofluvial esker, the temperature in both sediment and RW near the

1 sediment–water interface in the middle of river bed was 7–13 °C (cross-sections from G–GG’  
2 to I–II’) (Fig. 6c).

3 At the study site in the River Palojoki, where river bed is significantly shallower and narrower  
4 than the River Vantaa (Table 1) and the sediments are composed of coarse-grained sand and  
5 gravel, similar temperature and EC value patterns were recorded in the RW and river bed  
6 sediment (Fig. 7). The longitudinal profile (M–MM’) of temperature and EC values of RW  
7 near the sediment–water interface showed first the decline in values and later the increase to a  
8 constant level in a downstream direction (Fig. 7a).

9 The EC values measured from upstream RW (0.22 mS m<sup>-1</sup>) (cross-section W–WW’) and  
10 natural GW (0.22 mS m<sup>-1</sup>) (observation well, not shown in Fig. 7) were close to each other,  
11 whereas infiltration water (EC = 0.072 mS m<sup>-1</sup>) used for artificial GW recharge deviated from  
12 these values. The lower EC values, which were similar to the infiltration water, were observed  
13 concurrently with cold RW temperatures ( $r_{\text{Pearson}} = 0.86$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ,  $n = 133$ ) (Fig. 7c, from  
14 P–PP’ to S–SS’, U–UU’, V–VV’). The lower RW temperatures occurred simultaneously with  
15 the lower EC values near the bottom during the continuous water temperature-monitoring  
16 period (Fig. 7b), and had a statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ) and strong positive correlation  
17 ( $r_{\text{Pearson}} = 0.78$ ,  $n = 261$ ).

18 In the upstream cross-sections, the RW temperature was 7.2 °C at the lowest near the  
19 sediment–water interface and the low temperatures were observed in the river bed where the  
20 water depth was at the maximum (V–VV’, whereas the RW temperature at most measurement  
21 points was 5–6 °C in cross-sections from Q–QQ’ to T–TT’ (Fig. 7c). Further downstream, the  
22 water depth in the river was 0.4–0.8 m with a temperature range from 6 to 18 °C near the  
23 sediment–water interface in cross sections from N–NN’ to P–PP’ (Fig. 7c). The water  
24 temperature throughout the entire river bed at the River Palojoki study site was generally  
25 lower than in the River Vantaa study site (Figs 6 and 7).

26 There were two peaks in the River Vantaa water level during water quality monitoring period  
27 in 2012 when RW rise of 1 meter was observed within 7 days (Fig. 8). Slight increase in DOC  
28 levels from 1.5 to 1.8 ppm and second increase from 1.7 to 2.4 ppm was detected in a  
29 production well within 2–5 days after RW level rise above the GW level (Fig. 8). GW nitrate  
30 concentration was diluted by RW and turbidity remained under 0.6 NTU throughout the  
31 monitoring period.

### 1 **4.3 Stable isotopes and DSi**

2 The measured mean  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$ , DSi and *d*-excess values of water samples are presented in  
3 Tables 3 and 4. There were significant differences in stable isotope composition between the  
4 studied rivers (Table 3). The ranked order of the mean  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  values of rivers from the  
5 most enriched to the least enriched were River Keravanjoki, River Palojoki, River  
6 Tuusulanjoki, River Lepsämäenjoki, River Vantaa and River Herajoki (Table 3).

7 Significant variation in DSi concentrations was observed between the studied rivers (Table 4).  
8 Comparing the six rivers, the mean DSi concentrations were highest in the Rivers  
9 Lepsämäenjoki and Herajoki (Table 4). The ranked order of the mean DSi concentrations of  
10 rivers from the lowest to the highest were River Keravanjoki, River Tuusulanjoki, River  
11 Vantaa, River Palojoki, River Lepsämäenjoki and River Herajoki (Table 4).

12

## 13 **5 Discussion**

### 14 **5.1 AIR**

15 There were some variations in the observed anomalies between consecutive years, possibly  
16 related to annual differences in the hydraulic head. Some minor springs identified in the AIR  
17 survey in July 2010 were not detectable in July 2011, because the hydraulic heads of the  
18 aquifers in study area were generally at a higher level in July 2010 than in July 2011 (Finnish  
19 Environmental Administration, 2015). This illustrates the temporal as well as the spatial  
20 variation in GW–RW interaction in the studied rivers. The differences observed between  
21 years are partially related to the different method of image acquisition (mounted versus hand-  
22 held) and missing some short sections of the strongly meandering study rivers.

23 The differences in thermal anomalies among the studied streams can partly be explained by  
24 the shape of the river beds and composition of the river bed sediments. For instance, most  
25 parts of the River Herajoki have a fine-grained stream bed, and because no preferential flow  
26 paths are available for GW, the number of observed anomalies was lower. Conversely, in the  
27 River Palojoki, several sections have an influx of GW through the bottom and shoreline  
28 slopes of the coarse-grained gravelly and sandy stream bed.

29 The lower temperatures in the rapid zones were generally due to the increase in the stream  
30 velocity, mixing of the water layers and disappearance of stratification. Moreover, the rapids

1 appear in areas of coarse-grained sediments and possibly enhanced GW discharging into the  
2 river. The meander bends and narrowing of the stream channel had a similar effect on the  
3 mixing of the RW. According to Torgersen et al. (2001), large-scale patterns such as gradual  
4 warming trends covering 5–10 km are related physical geomorphic and hydrological  
5 processes at the watershed scale. These types of patterns were seen, for example, in the River  
6 Keravanjoki, where gradual decreasing and increasing trends were connected to the wetland  
7 and notable widening of the main channel, respectively (Fig. 5c).

8 The longitudinal thermal profiles of the Rivers Keravanjoki and Vantaa in consecutive  
9 summers revealed similar overall thermal patterns and amplitudes, although the absolute  
10 temperatures differed, being lower in 2011 (Figs. 5a, c). In 2010, July was exceptionally  
11 warm and the SW temperatures were close to the record level (Korhonen and Haavalammi,  
12 2012), which possibly explains the observed higher  $T_{\min}$ . Correspondingly, the differences in  
13 headwater conditions, precipitation, and main channel and tributary flow rates influenced the  
14 magnitude of the longitudinal thermal profile as described by Cristea and Burges (2009). The  
15 longitudinal thermal patterns indicated that the cool and warm water sources mainly had  
16 spatially fixed locations (Figs. 5a, c), as also earlier demonstrated by Faux et al. (2001).  
17 Longitudinal thermal patterns are a result of the combination of natural environmental and  
18 anthropogenic factors (Faux et al., 2001). The stream temperature is an important parameter  
19 in aquatic management (Poole and Berman, 2001), and thermal profiles can provide valuable  
20 insights into the causative factors behind the observed stream temperatures. AIR was found to  
21 be an applicable method to identify thermal anomalies and possible areas of GW discharge  
22 across the river basin and to collect spatially continuous patterns of RW temperatures in entire  
23 river sections over a short period of time. Furthermore, AIR can also direct water sampling  
24 and further investigations to the relevant GW–RW interaction locations.

## 25 **5.2 Field measurements**

26 The GW discharge locations identified using AIR were confirmed with RW and sediment  
27 temperature measurements in 2010, as reported in Nygård (2011). EC values have in earlier  
28 studies on GW–lake water interactions proved to be a good indicator of the GW influence on  
29 surface waters, the average EC value in GW normally being significantly higher than in lake  
30 water (Lee, 1985; Vanek and Lee, 1991; Harvey et al., 1997; Korkka-Niemi et al., 2009;  
31 Korkka-Niemi et al., 2011). However, in the river systems EC values range widely both  
32 temporally and spatially due to variable load from sewage treatment plants and urban areas,

1 including residues of purified waste water and deicing chemicals (Vahtera et al., 2014). Hence  
2 the use of EC as an indicator of the GW influence is not as straightforward as in GW-lake  
3 water studies.

4 The GW discharging into the River Vantaa appeared as lower temperature and EC values in  
5 cross-sections from D-DD' to I-II' (Fig. 6c). The sediment temperatures were also low (6–12  
6 °C) along the river banks due to the continuous discharge of GW through the sandy shoreline  
7 deposits. The river flow rate measurements by Brander (2013) with a RiverSurveyor M9  
8 Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (SonTek) demonstrated that in the low-flow period, the  
9 river flow within this major GW discharge location increased by approximately  $0.1 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , i.e.  
10  $8\,640 \text{ m}^3 \text{ d}^{-1}$ . The cross-sections B-BB', C-CC' and J-JJ represent conditions before and  
11 after GW discharge into the river (Fig. 6c).

12 At the River Palojoki study site, the AIR survey revealed a lowering of several degrees in  
13 surface temperatures of RW downstream from the esker formation (Fig. 5f), indicating that a  
14 significant proportion of the water in the River Palojoki originates from the semi-confined  
15 glaciofluvial aquifer. The river flow measurements reported by Brander (2013) also indicated  
16 an increase of  $0.044 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$  ( $3800 \text{ m}^3 \text{ d}^{-1}$ ) in river flow from a water intake plant to a location  
17 downstream. The fluctuations of RW temperature and EC values during the continuous water  
18 temperature-monitoring period (Fig. 7) can be an outcome of the river level fluctuations and  
19 pumping from the production wells, resulting in surges of artificial GW. The observed  
20 differences in thermal surveys between the Rivers Vantaa and Palojoki are related to the  
21 geomorphological properties and flow conditions of the river channels.

22 The invisibility of GW discharge in thermal images of the River Vantaa study site is related to  
23 the thermal stratification of RW. The highest volumes of GW were observed to discharge to  
24 the river at the point where the river bed perpendicularly cuts the esker ridge. At this point,  
25 the temperature differences between the surface and bottom RW temperatures were as great as  
26  $17 \text{ °C}$ . Thermal stratification is an outcome of both the influx of cold water and retention of  
27 cold and dense water at the bottom of the river channel pools, as reported by Nielsen et al.  
28 (1994). The cold and dense water originates from both GW sinking down by the river bank  
29 and possibly through subsurface preferential GW flow paths into the lower part of the river  
30 channel (Fig. 6d). This cold and less turbulent lower water regime can be isolated from  
31 mixing with the warm and more turbulent upper water regime as long as the inflow of cold  
32 water is sufficient or the river flow rate is slow enough, according to Nielsen et al. (1994).

1 Matthews et al. (1994) suggested that thermal stratification is possible if cold water enters the  
2 river at locations with a very low flow rate.

3 Considerable thermal stratification was also observed at the Palojoki study site, as the  
4 maximum difference between surface and bottom RW was 13.4 °C. The thermal stratification  
5 was strongest at the pool and decreased (with decreasing water depth) in a downstream  
6 direction (Fig. 7c). As Torgersen et al. (2001) pointed out, thermal remote sensing can be  
7 biased by thermal stratification in channels with subsurface cold water inputs during low river  
8 flow rates. In the AIR survey results, the potential existence of these ‘hidden’ GW–RW  
9 interaction sites should especially be noted during periods with low river flow rates.

10 Water quality measurements revealed the light increase in DOC concentration indicating  
11 impact of RW was detected during the maximum river flow period in the production wells  
12 located in highly permeable deposits close to the river bank (Fig. 8). DOC concentrations  
13 stayed at elevated level for a couple of days at the maximum, and soon after RW level fell  
14 below GW level water quality in the production wells recovered (Fig. 8). Changes of water  
15 quality in production wells may be so rapid that they cannot be detected with conventional  
16 discrete sampling.

17

### 18 **5.3 Stable isotopes and DSI**

19 The isotopic composition of shallow GW does not differ significantly from the mean  
20 weighted annual composition of precipitation in temperate climates (Clark and Fritz, 1997).  
21 According to Kortelainen and Karhu (2004), the isotope composition of shallow GW follows  
22 the local meteoric water line (LMWL) in Finland. The measured mean  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  of  
23 springs, GW and well water are mainly in close agreement with the previous studies of  
24 Kortelainen and Karhu (2004) (Table 3).

25 The stable isotope composition of the majority of the world’s main rivers falls along the  
26 global meteoric water line (GMWL) (Rozanski et al., 2001). The GMWL has a *d*-excess value  
27 of 10 ‰ (Merlivat and Jouzel, 1979), and *d*-excess values significantly below the global  
28 average of 10 ‰ indicate evaporation, since falling as precipitation (Kendall and Coplen,  
29 2001). Among the studied rivers, the River Herajoki had *d*-excess values indicating the  
30 smallest evaporation effects. The Rivers Vantaa and Lepsämäjoki were slightly dislocated  
31 from the LMWL and the *d*-excess values indicated some evaporation effects (Fig. 9b).

1 The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  values of the observation well close to the Tuusula water intake plant had  
2 slightly evaporated  $d$ -excess values (7.1 ‰ and 8.0 ‰), which could be related to evaporation  
3 effects (Fig. 9a). These more evaporated  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  values from the observation well can be  
4 related RW recharging the aquifer. Brander (2013) demonstrated with river flow rate  
5 measurements that the river flow decreased by approximately 8 % ( $0.07 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , i.e.  $6\,300 \text{ m}^3$   
6  $\text{d}^{-1}$ ) due to RW recharging the aquifer in the low-flow period.

7 The stable isotope composition of River Herajoki plotted along the LMWL, with a stable  
8 isotope composition close to the GW composition, indicating GW as a source component  
9 (Fig. 9b). Brander (2013) observed from river flow measurements that the RW recharged the  
10 underlying aquifer in the proximity of a water intake plant. However, in this study, RW  
11 infiltration into the wells could not be observed due to the similarity of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  values  
12 in GW and RW.

13 The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  values of Rivers Keravanjoki and Tuusulanjoki were significantly displaced  
14 to the right of the LMWL, which was related to evaporation effects in open water bodies  
15 (Table 3, Fig. 9b). The RW sample taken from River Tuusulanjoki (esker aquifer area) in  
16 August 2011 deviated from other RW samples in having a stable isotope composition close to  
17 that of the GW (Fig. 9b). The more evaporated  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$  and  $d$ -excess values of Rivers  
18 Keravanjoki and Tuusulanjoki could be due to the existence of headwater lakes and the dams  
19 along the river path. Additionally, supplementary water (Lake Päijänne water) is released into  
20 River Keravanjoki via the headwater Lake Ridasjärvi to sustain a sufficient river flow and  
21 water quality in river channel during the summer months (Vahtera et al., 2012) (Fig. 1a).  
22 Altogether,  $3.9 \cdot 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  of Lake Päijänne water was released, with an average discharge of  $0.50$   
23  $\text{m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$  from 25 May 2011 to 22 August 2011 (Vahtera et al., 2012). Supplementary water  
24 (Lake Päijänne water) was also released into the upstream lake of the River Tuusulanjoki to  
25 improve the water quality. Lake Päijänne water has significantly evaporated  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$  and  $d$ -  
26 excess values of  $-8.96 \text{ ‰}$ ,  $-71.5 \text{ ‰}$  and  $-0.1 \text{ ‰}$ , respectively, and a low DSi concentration  
27 ( $1.2 \text{ ppm}$ ). This can have a considerable effect on the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$ ,  $d$ -excess and DSi values of  
28 the River Keravanjoki and some effect on the respective values of the River Tuusulanjoki.  
29 The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  values of the River Palojoki were a spatiotemporally varying complex  
30 mixture of precipitation, runoff, and natural and artificial GW. More detailed sampling is  
31 needed in order to specify the different contributions to the river flow.

1 The measured mean DSi values of springs, GW and well water were slightly higher than in  
2 Finnish dug wells in general (Lahermo et al., 2002) (Table 3). In Rivers Lepsämäenjoki and  
3 Herajoki, the observed DSi concentrations were somewhat higher than in Finnish streams  
4 generally (Lahermo et al., 1996; range from 0.80 to 6.86 ppm, mean 3.62 ppm, n = 1162),  
5 suggesting a greater GW component than typically. The mean DSi concentrations of the  
6 Rivers Vantaa and Palojoki were close to the DSi in Finnish streams generally. The low DSi  
7 concentrations of the Rivers Keravanjoki and Tuusulanjoki can be related to the  
8 supplementary addition of Lake Päijänne water.

9 The DSi concentrations of RW are an outcome of the relative proportions of different water  
10 types (GW, soil water, runoff, direct channel precipitation), the residence times of water in the  
11 soil matrix, land use, geology, weathering intensity, climatic variation and diatom production  
12 (Scanlon et al., 2001, Conley, 1997). Consequently, these multifarious and overlapping  
13 factors can complicate the use of DSi as a GW tracer in the riverine environment. However, in  
14 this study, the results for stable isotope compositions were mainly consistent with the DSi  
15 concentrations, as higher DSi concentrations appeared coincident with the stable isotope  
16 composition typical to the GW. The usability of DSi as a GW tracer was limited by the  
17 variability in the GW end member concentrations, and use of the DSi as a GW tracer would  
18 benefit from the spatiotemporally denser sampling of GW end members.

19 Mean  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$ ,  $d$ -excess and DSi values for RW impacted by aquifers were  $-10.05$  ‰,  $-75.5$   
20 ‰,  $4.9$  ‰ and  $4.6$  ppm, respectively, while the respective values for RW not so clearly related  
21 to aquifers were  $-9.49$  ‰,  $-73.1$  ‰,  $2.9$  ‰ and  $2.9$  ppm. According to the non-parametric  
22 Man-Whitney U-test, there was a statistically significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) between the  
23 “GW effect” sites and “no GW effect” sites in the measured DSi and  $d$ -excess values. This  
24 indicates that the GW input could also be seen in RW quality at the observed interaction sites.  
25 Therefore, these interaction sites could be more important for water quality and quantity than  
26 has thus far been acknowledged. GW discharge can have a positive effect on a river by  
27 increasing the river flow and improving water quality in the low-flow season. Alternatively,  
28 river channels hydraulically connected to aquifers can have a negative effect on water intake  
29 plants in the high-flow season. Nutrients (nitrate and phosphate) and faecal contamination  
30 (human sewage or animal sources) are the main causes of lowered water quality of the River  
31 Vantaa and its tributaries. These sources induce risks to GW in the high-flow season. In the  
32 studied river sections, there are 12 municipal water intake plants in close proximity to the

1 river channel and located close to the GW–RW interaction sites identified in this study (Fig.  
2 4a). These water intake plants can pose a potential risk of water quality deterioration due to  
3 RW infiltration into the aquifer during floods. The identification and localization of GW–RW  
4 interaction sites (as potential risks sites) would enable water management activities (e.g.  
5 reducing the water volume pumped from production wells nearest the river channel in the  
6 most critical period when the RW level is high) to prevent a deterioration in GW quality at  
7 pumping wells.

8

## 9 **6 Conclusions**

10 In the River Vantaa and its tributaries, around 370 GW discharge sites could be located with  
11 AIR along the studied rivers. GW discharge was notable and influenced the main stream  
12 temperatures in some river sections. AIR revealed some temporal variation in GW discharge  
13 in the Rivers Keravanjoki and Vantaa. The longitudinal  $T_{\text{minr}}$  profiles displayed considerable  
14 spatial variability both within and among the rivers.

15 The GW discharge locations identified with AIR were confirmed with RW and sediment  
16 temperature measurements. The observed thermal stratification can bias the AIR results,  
17 leading to an underestimation of the extent and magnitude of the GW discharge, as only  
18 surficial temperature anomalies can be detected, and should be taken account in AIR surveys  
19 during low-flow conditions in the summer.

20 In addition to temperature, stable isotopic compositions, EC and DS<sub>i</sub> concentrations of RW  
21 were applied as tracers in the River Vantaa and its tributaries in order to verify the observed  
22 GW discharge into the river system or RW recharge into the aquifer. The cold RW  
23 temperatures observed with AIR, stable isotopes and DS<sub>i</sub> revealed that in smaller tributaries,  
24 the water flowing in the streams is predominantly GW originating from the headwater  
25 aquifers in the low-flow period. The results of this study support the use of several methods  
26 simultaneously to survey and confirm the GW–RW interaction.

27 Results of water quality monitoring revealed that in the GR–RW interaction areas transport of  
28 pathogens or recalcitrant contaminants from river beds to aquifers pose a risk to safe drinking  
29 water production during the maximum river flow periods. During the maximum river flow  
30 periods, the RW can recharge the adjacent aquifer, and risk management activities targeted at  
31 controlling bank infiltration are needed at several sites utilized by water works. The

1 interaction locations identified during the low-flow season in July 2010 and 2011 should be  
2 considered as potential risk areas for the 12 water intake plants during floods, and should be  
3 taken under consideration in RW basin management under changing climatic situations.  
4 Climate change is predicted to result in increasing floods, which could increase the  
5 vulnerability to contamination of water intake plants located in proximity to main stream  
6 channels due to the RW. Moreover, to quantify the volumes of GW discharge into the river  
7 beds as well as the bank infiltration from streams to the aquifers, river flow rate  
8 measurements are recommended.

9 This research provided new insights for water management, and the results could be used in  
10 evaluating the possible effects of GW and RW exchange on water quality in the identified  
11 exchange zones. Based on the results of this research potential GW quality deterioration  
12 during peak-flow periods has been acknowledged at several waterworks. Infiltration of RW  
13 through permeable strata was observed to affect GW quality in some water intake wells  
14 installed into sand and gravel deposits in the vicinity of river bed. In order to avoid disruption  
15 in the drinking water supply new locations of GW intake wells and intensified monitoring of  
16 hydraulic heads as well as quality of GW between river bed and wells have been considered at  
17 these water intake areas.

18

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28

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24

1 Table 1. Field measurement study sites and their characteristics. Data on river flow rates,  
 2 mean flow discharge (NQ) and mean high discharge (HQ) based on 2002–2012 data from the  
 3 HERTTA database, except for the Rivers Palojoki and Herajoki, which are based on flow  
 4 measurements in 2011–2012\*.

River	Aquifer Type	River width (m) <sup>a</sup>	River depth (m)	NQ-HQ m <sup>3</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
Vantaa	Glaciofluvial esker, unconfined	14–17	1.5–2.5	0.64–51.00
Keravanjoki	Littoral sand, semi-confined	15–25	1.0–2.7	0.07–48.00
Tuusulanjoki	Glaciofluvial esker + delta, unconfined	4–8	0.2–0.7	0.02–7.83
Palojoki	Glaciofluvial esker, semi-confined	3–9	0.1–1.1	0.02–2.44*
Lepsämäenjoki	Glaciofluvial esker, confined	3–5	0.5–1.4	0.08–19.80
Herajoki	Glaciofluvial esker, confined	2–3	0.3–0.5	0.02–0.95*

5 <sup>a</sup> River width from side to side

6 <sup>b</sup> River water depth range from minimum to maximum stage

7

8

1 Table 2. Discrete and diffuse groundwater discharge areas identified in the AIR surveys  
 2 conducted in 2010 and 2011 classified into three categories.

River	Category 1 Spring /Discrete	Category 2 Creek/ Discrete	Category 3 Diffuse	Total
Herajoki	1	1	2	4
Lepsämäenjoki	25	11	19	55
Keravanjoki	40	32	53	125
Palojoki	17	6	21	44
Tuusulanjoki	6	4	14	24
Vantaa	41	23	58	122
Total	130	77	167	374

3

1 Table 3. The mean, range and standard deviation of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$  and  $d$ -excess values of water  
 2 samples in summer 2011.

Water type	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ‰, VSMOW				$\delta\text{D}$ ‰, VSMOW			$d$ -excess		
	n <sup>a</sup>	Mean <sup>b</sup>	Range	SD <sup>c</sup>	Mean <sup>b</sup>	Range	SD <sup>c</sup>	Mean <sup>b</sup>	Range	SD <sup>c</sup>
Spring	6	-11.70	0.70	0.23	-83.8	2.8	0.95	9.8	3.3	1.06
GW	6	-11.57	1.49	0.63	-83.1	9.2	3.84	9.3	3.6	1.29
Well	14	-12.10	0.55	0.14	-86.9	2.8	0.80	9.9	1.9	0.53
R. Herajoki	4	-11.18	1.33	0.54	-80.8	10.2	3.89	8.6	1.6	0.66
R. Vantaa	6	-10.12	0.98	0.38	-75.6	7.7	3.35	5.4	1.8	0.62
R. Lepsämäenjoki	7	-10.08	0.85	0.28	-75.5	4.0	1.32	5.2	3.0	1.05
R. Tuusulanjoki	6	-9.70	3.19	1.06	-75.9	13.7	4.62	1.7	11.8	3.90
R. Palojoki	6	-9.63	2.52	0.96	-71.1	22.2	8.87	5.9	3.4	1.28
R. Keravanjoki	8	-8.84	2.59	1.15	-70.9	14.4	6.59	-0.2	6.4	2.65

3 <sup>a</sup> Number of analyses

4 <sup>b</sup> Arithmetic mean

5 <sup>c</sup> Standard deviation ( $1\sigma$ )

6

1 Table 4. The mean, range and standard deviation of DSi values of water samples in summer  
 2 2011.

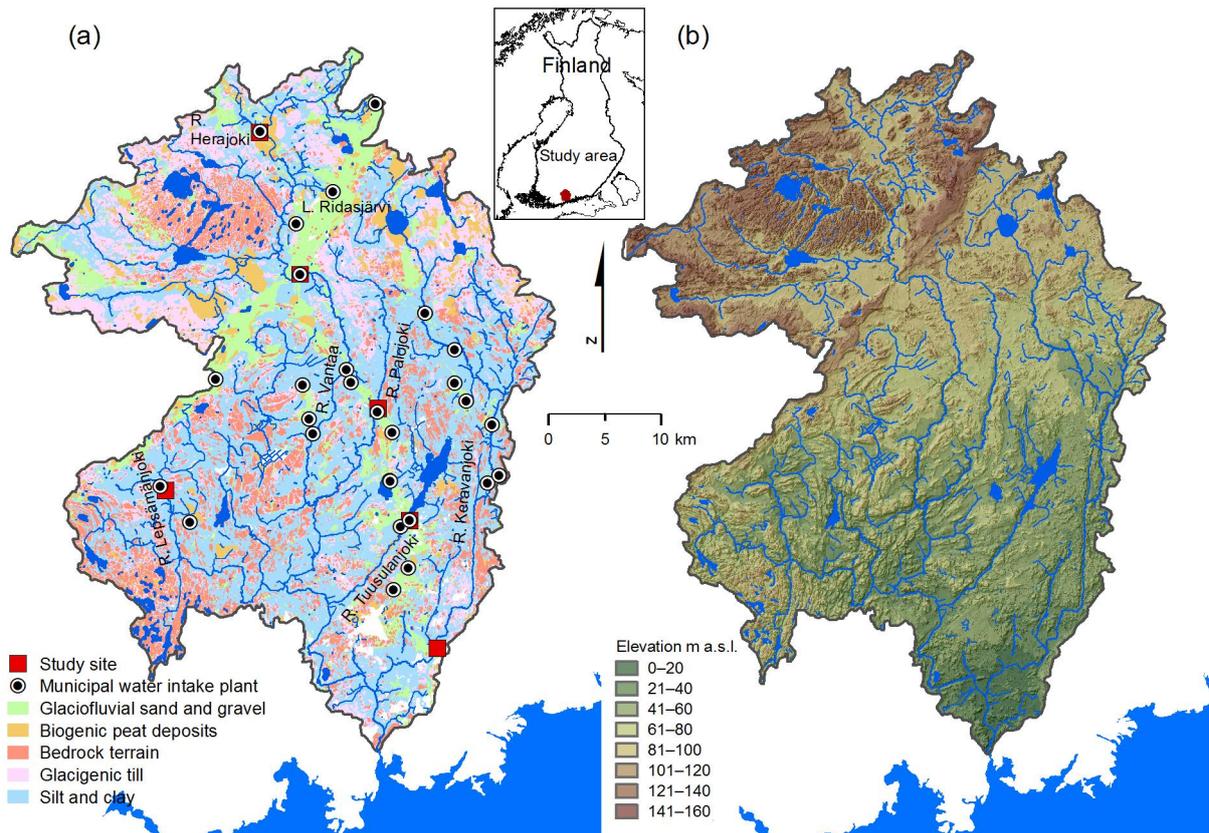
Water type	DSi, ppm			
	n <sup>a</sup>	Mean <sup>b</sup>	Range	SD <sup>c</sup>
Spring	6	9.8	3.3	1.14
GW	6	8.9	4.3	1.38
Well	14	8.9	4.9	1.52
R. Herajoki	4	6.9	2.8	1.14
R. Lepsämäenjoki	7	6.2	2.1	0.72
R. Palojoki	6	3.4	0.5	0.16
R. Vantaa	6	3.0	2.3	1.00
R. Tuusulanjoki	6	2.1	6.6	2.32
R. Keravanjoki	8	2.1	0.7	0.23

3 <sup>a</sup> Number of analyses

4 <sup>b</sup> Arithmetic mean

5 <sup>c</sup> Standard deviation ( $1\sigma$ )

6



1

2 Figure 1. (a) Quaternary deposits and study sites in the River Vantaa catchment. End-moraine  
 3 ridges are included into glaciofluvial sand and gravel, and cover-moraine sheets into  
 4 glacigenic till, respectively. (b) Elevation model of the River Vantaa catchment. (Basemap  
 5 Database © National Land Survey of Finland 2010; Quaternary Deposit Database ©  
 6 Geological Survey of Finland 2008; Watershed Database © SYKE 2010; Topographic  
 7 Database © National Land Survey of Finland 2010).

8

9

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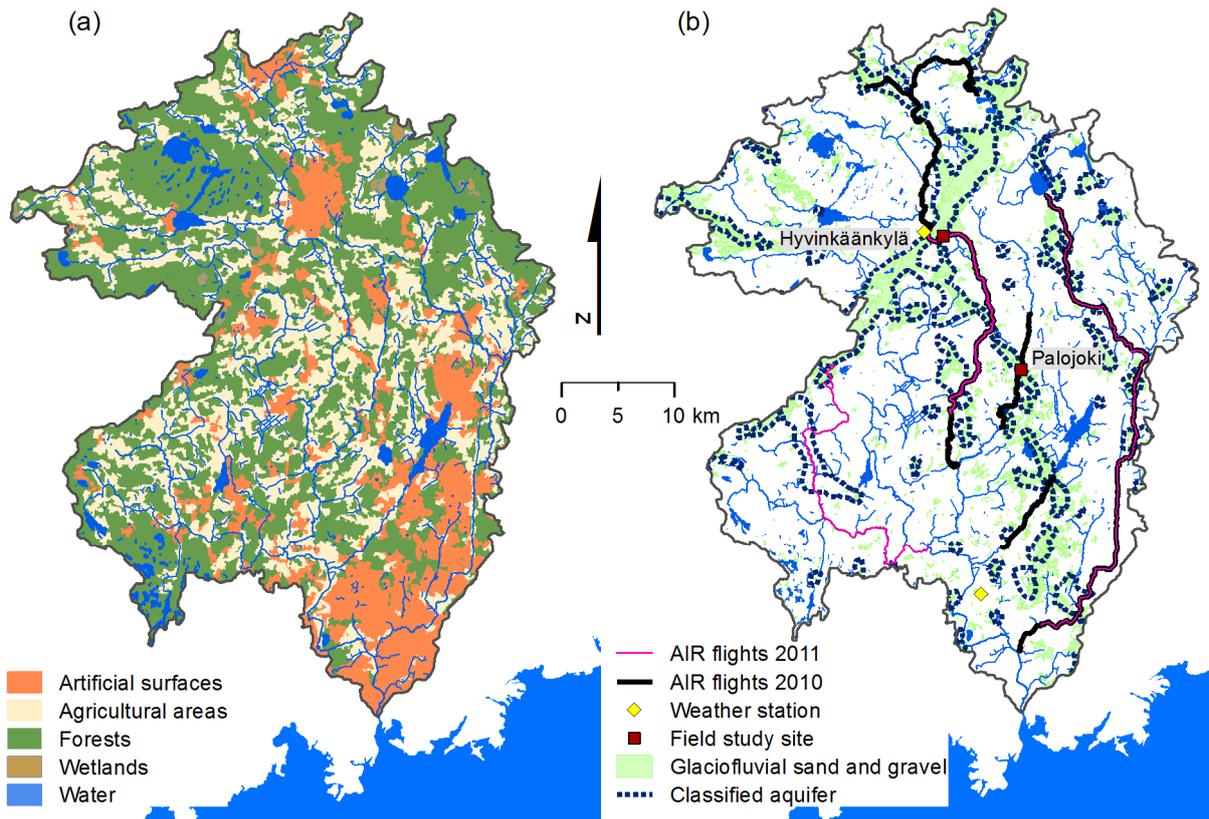
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1

2 Figure 2. (a) Land use in the River Vantaa catchment. (b) Location of the classified aquifers  
 3 of River Vantaa catchment and AIR flights over the Rivers Vantaa, Herajoki, Palojoki,  
 4 Keravanjoki, Tuusulanjoki and Lepsämänjoki in 2010 and 2011. In Finland, mapped aquifers  
 5 are classified into three classes according to their priority. (Corine land cover © National  
 6 Land Survey of Finland 2010; Basemap Database © National Land Survey of Finland 2010;  
 7 Quaternary Deposit Database © Geological Survey of Finland 2008; Groundwater Database  
 8 © SYKE 2010; Watershed Database © SYKE 2010).

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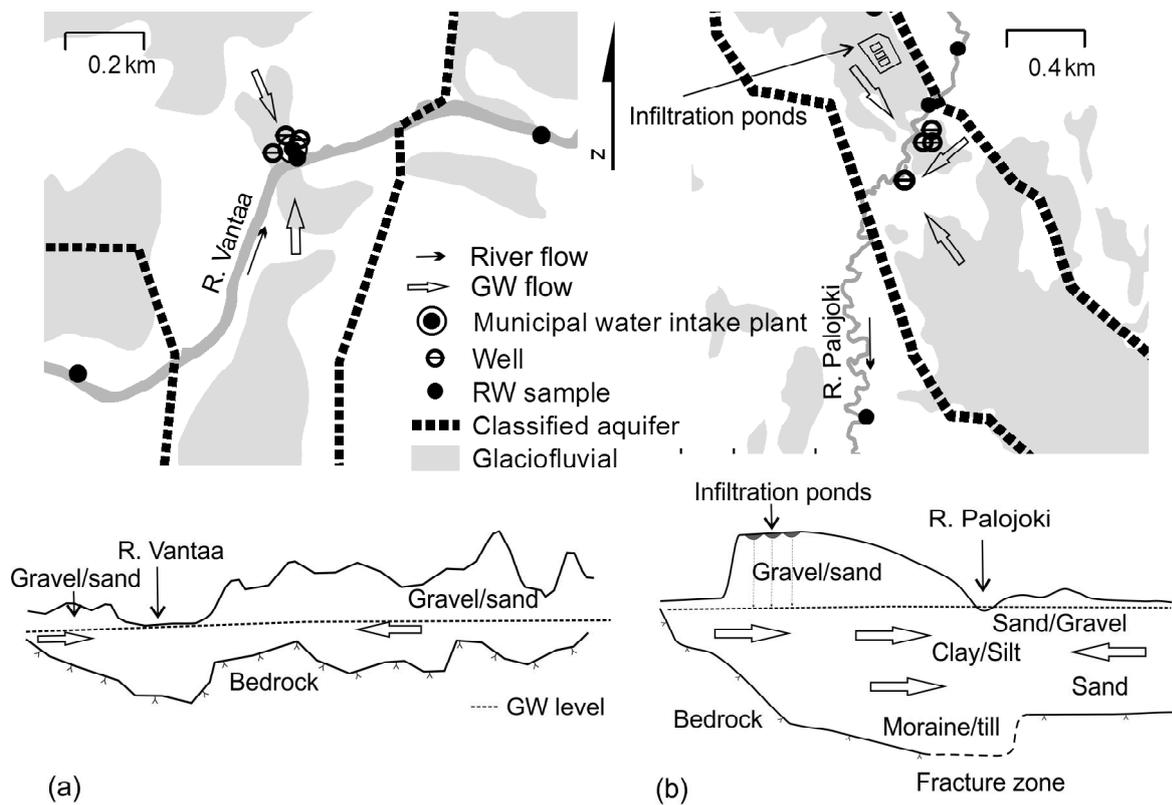
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1

2 Figure 3. Schematic diagrams of the field study sites: (a) Hyvinkäänkylä field study site  
 3 (bedrock elevation data from Breilin et al., 2004); and (b) River Palojoki field study sites  
 4 (modified from Kortelainen and Karhu, 2006). (Basemap Database © National Land Survey  
 5 of Finland 2010; Quaternary Deposit Database © Geological Survey of Finland 2008;  
 6 Groundwater Database © SYKE 2010; Watershed Database © SYKE 2010).

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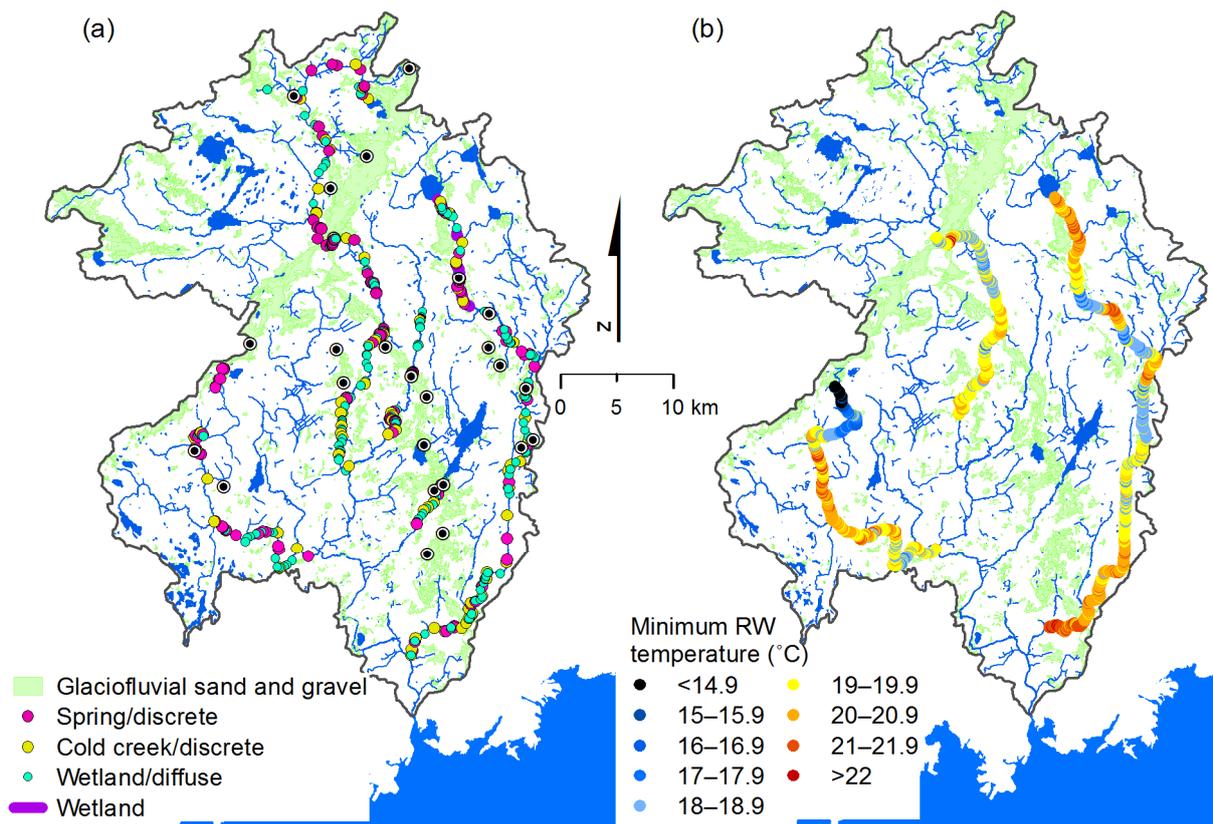
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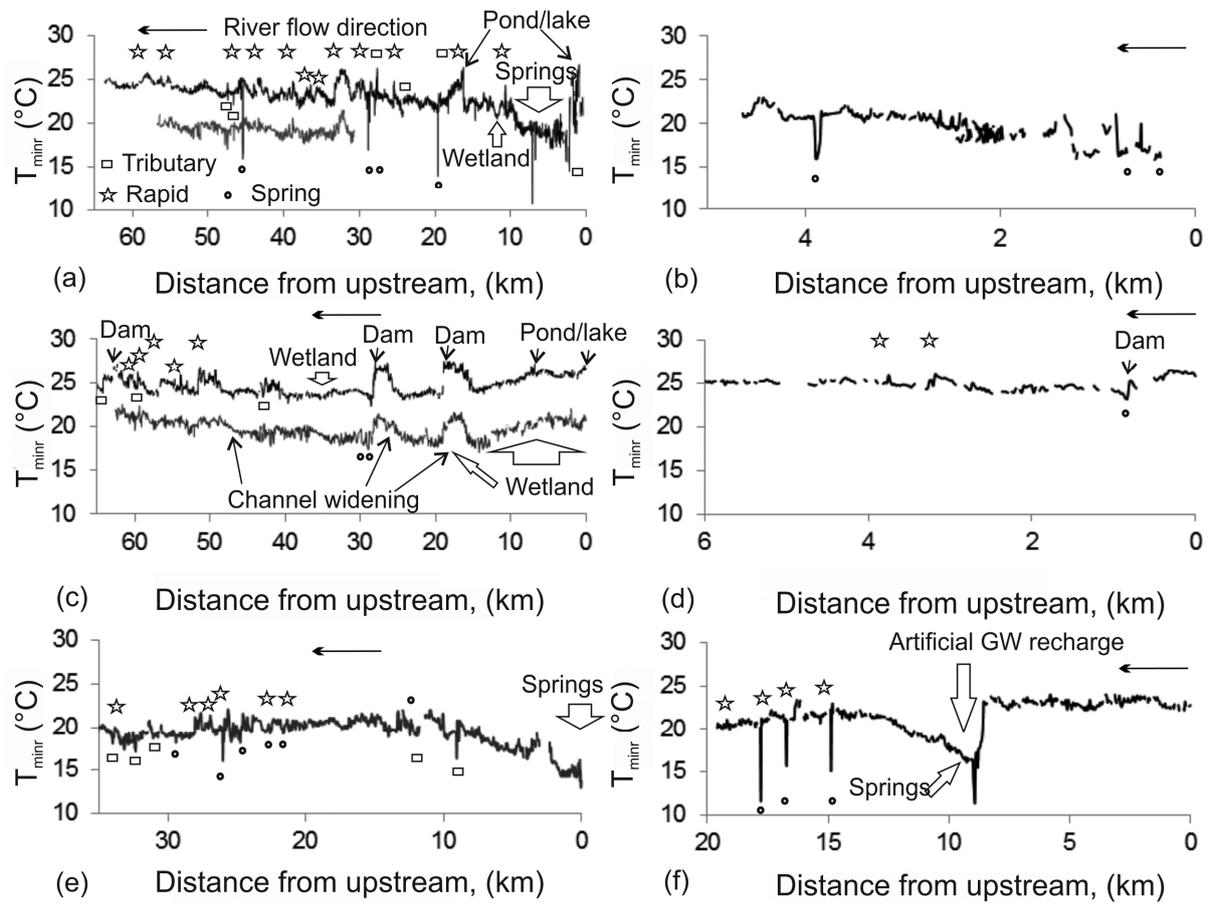
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2 Figure 4. (a) Thermal anomalies identified in the AIR surveys in 2010 and 2011. (b) The  
3 longitudinal profiles of  $T_{\min r}$  of the Rivers Vantaa, Keravanjoki and Lepsämäenjoki in 2011  
4 (Basemap Database © National Land Survey of Finland 2010; Quaternary Deposit Database  
5 © Geological Survey of Finland 2008; Groundwater Database © SYKE 2010; Watershed  
6 Database © SYKE 2010).

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2 Figure 5. Longitudinal profiles of  $T_{\min r}$  of the Rivers Vantaa (a), Herajoki (b), Keravanjoki  
 3 (c), Tuusulanjoki (d), Lepsämäenjoki (e) and Palojoki (f) in 2010 (grey line) and 2011 (black  
 4 line). Notable tributary confluences, GW–SW exchange, dams, rapids and channel  
 5 morphology changes are marked in profiles.

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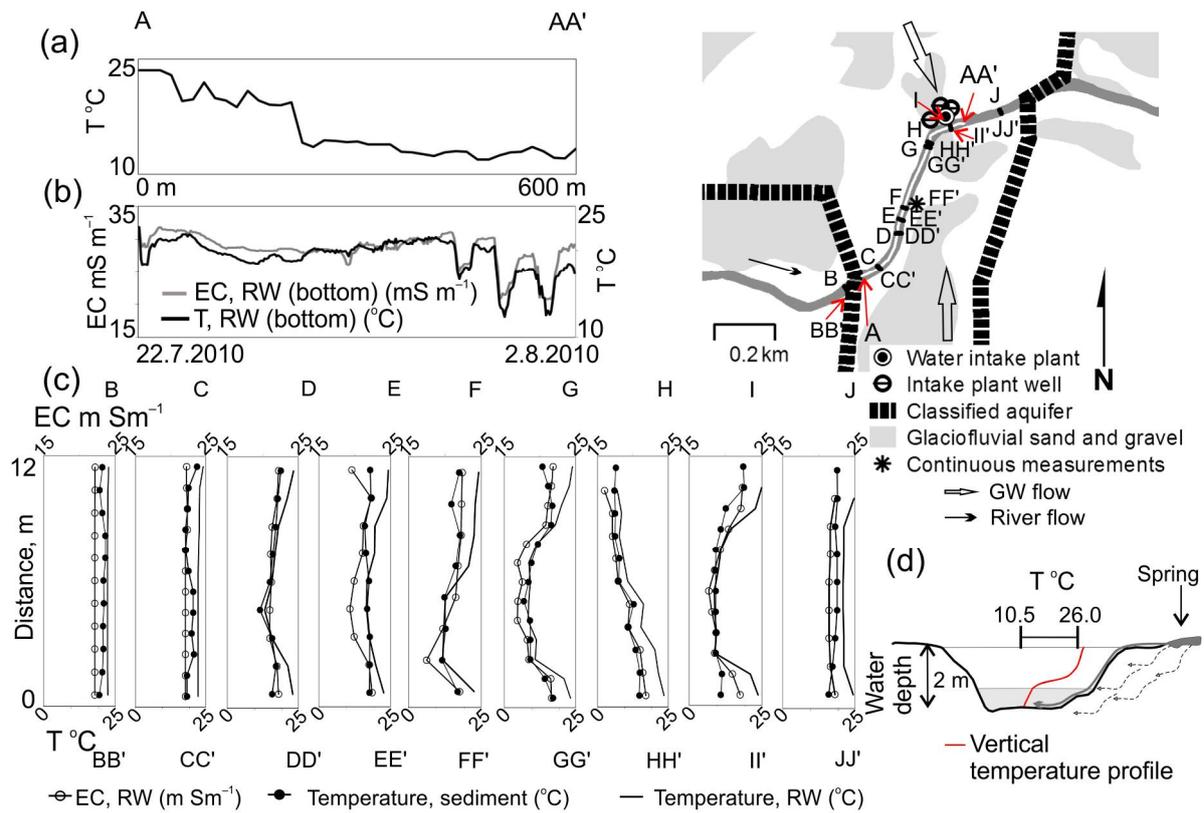
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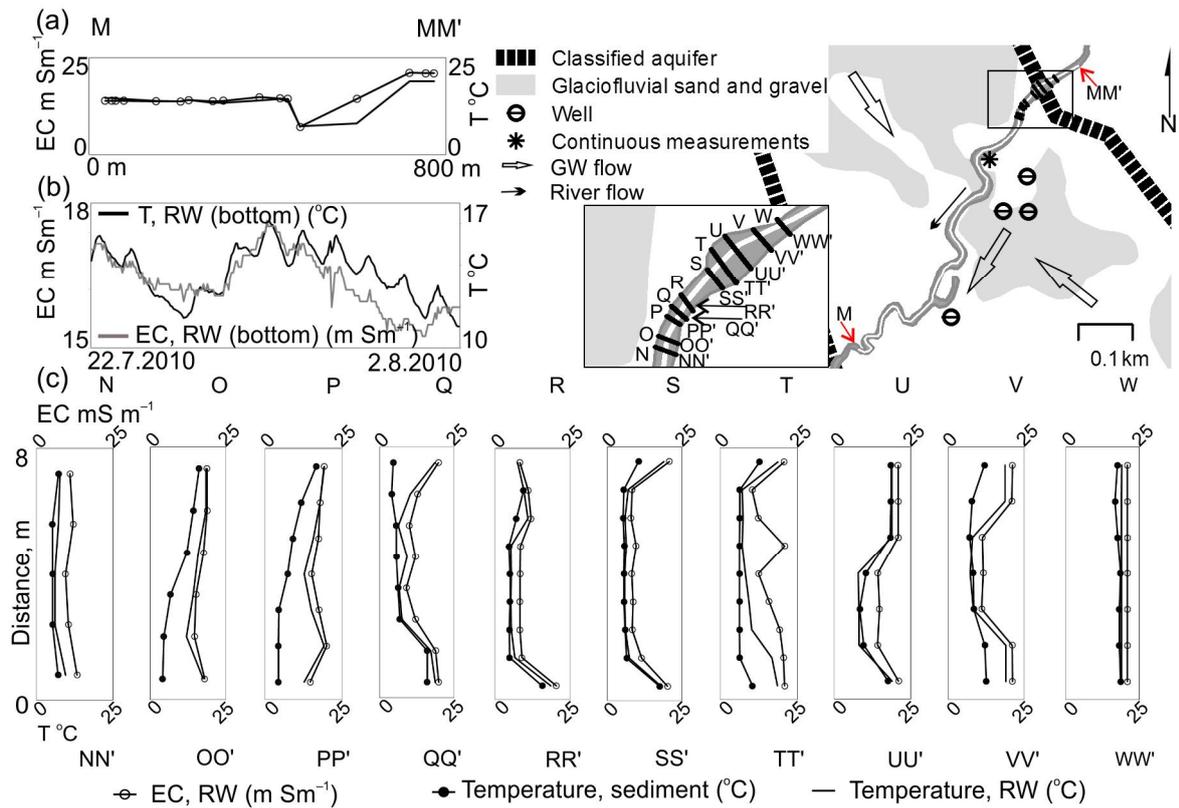
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 2 Figure 6. Field studies at the Hyvinkää study site in the low-flow period in July 2010:  
 3 (a) longitudinal profile of RW temperatures (A–AA') near the sediment–water interface; (b)  
 4 continuous measurements of temperature and EC in RW 0.3 m above the river bottom  
 5 (monitoring period from 22 July to 2 August 2010); (c) cross-sectional profiles (from B–BB'  
 6 to J–JJ') of temperature and EC in RW near the sediment water interface and temperature in  
 7 the sediment (water depth ranging from 0.10 to 2.0 m) and (d) schematic figure of  
 8 stratification and the vertical RW temperature profile in the middle of the River Vantaa at  
 9 cross-section F–FF'. The grey array present the GW sinking down by the river bank and the  
 10 dashed lines present the subsurface preferential GW flow paths.

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2 Figure 7. Field studies at the River Palojoki study site during the low-flow period in July  
 3 2010: (a) longitudinal profile of RW temperatures (M–MM') near the sediment–water  
 4 interface; (b) continuous measurements of temperature and EC in RW 0.2 m above the river  
 5 bottom (monitoring period from 22 July to 2 August 2010) and (c) cross -sectional profiles  
 6 (from N–NN' to W–WW') of temperature and EC in RW near the sediment–water interface  
 7 and temperature in the sediment (water depth ranging from 0.10 to 1.62 m).

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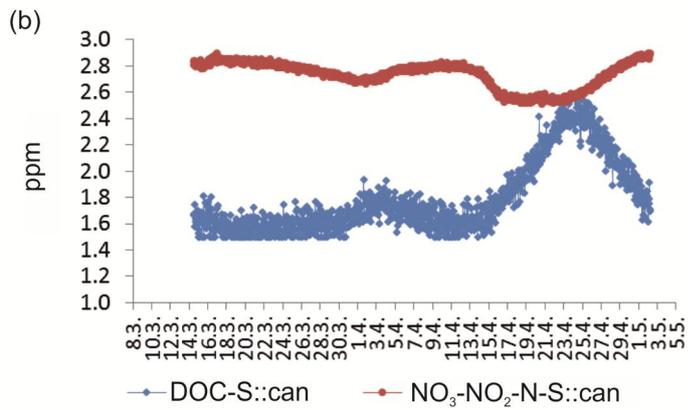
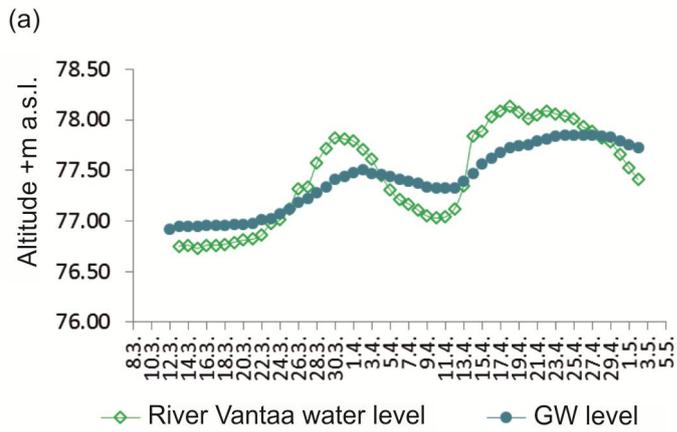
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2 Figure 8. (a) The GW and RW level values; and (b) the DOC and NO<sub>3</sub>-NO<sub>2</sub>-N concentrations  
 3 during the water quality monitoring in Hyvinkäänkylä study site from 12 March to 2 May  
 4 2012.

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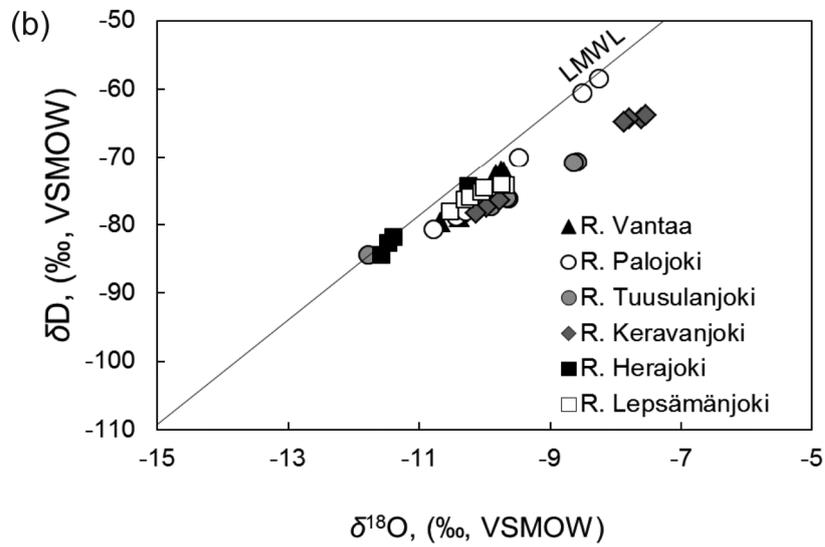
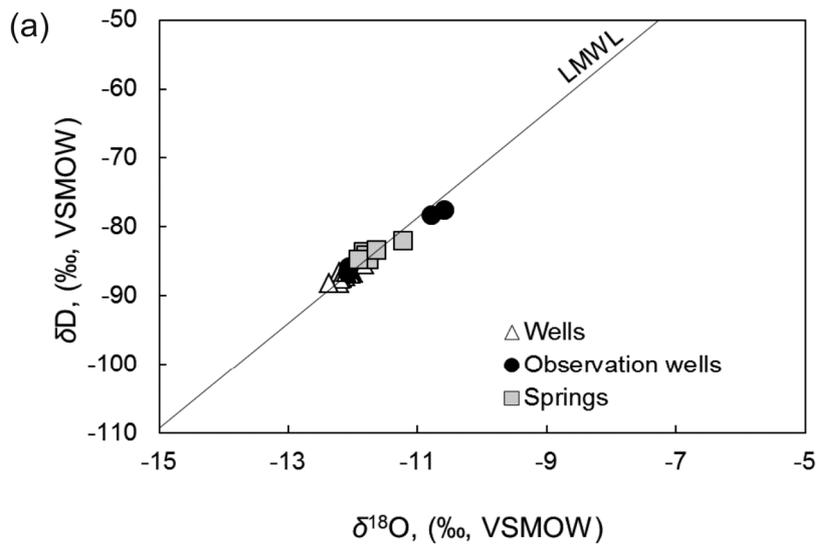
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2 Figure 9. The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta D$  values in the studied rivers: (a) the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta D$  values of GW  
 3 samples and (b) the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta D$  values of RW samples. The data are shown against the local  
 4 meteoric water line (LMWL) ( $\delta D = 7.67 \delta^{18}\text{O} + 5.79\text{‰}$ ) defined by Kortelainen (2007).