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Geochemistry of the Sahelian Gambia River During the 1983 High-Water Stage

by

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With 8 Figures and 2 Tables

Contents

1. Introduction

Despite recent efforts to fill the gap (LENOIR, 1972 for the Bandama; GAC & PINTA, 1973 and GAC, 1979 for the Chari; EISMA & CADEÉ, 1982 and DERONDE & SYMOENS, 1980 for the Zaire; MARTINS, 1983 for the Niger), our knowledge on the chemistry of African rivers is far beyond those of any other continent. The scarcity of these academic studies is confirmed by the very poor regular water quality surveys made by African countries (see the GEMS Water Programme, MEYBECK, this volume). A remarked contribution has been given by LESACK et al. (1984, 1985) for the Gambia River in Senegambia, West Africa. They have studied, during a whole hydrological cycle (July 1980–June 1981), major elements, nutrients and organic carbon species, although on a restricted number of samples (12/year).

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