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Automatic Simulating and Monitoring System for Water Balance of Sandy Areas of Northern China: Shapotou Lysimeter Group

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Automatic Simulating and Monitoring System for Water Balance of Sandy Areas of Northern China: Shapotou Lysimeter Group

Abstract

Water balance has always been the key scientific issue facing in vegetation construction in sandy areas of northern China. Lysimeter is regarded as the most reliable tool in studying water balance. The existing problems such as the limited lysimeter sites, the system mismatch and accuracy inconsistency among lysimeters restrict the theoretical innovation of arid ecohydrology. Grouping large intelligent weighable lysimeters is an effective way to break through the aforementioned bottleneck, and conforms to the current interdisciplinary research trend. Funded by the "Key Scientific and Technological Infrastructure Construction Project for the Field Station Network of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)", Shapotou Desert Research and Experiment Station of CAS completed the platform construction of Automatic Simulating and Monitoring System for Water Balance of Sandy Areas of Northern China-Shapotou Lysimeter Group in 2019. Based on 36 large weighable lysimeters, this platform also assembles other systems such as precipitation and groundwater simulation system, root dynamics monitoring system, soil solution extraction system, and data management information system. Within lysimeters, soils transported from different bioclimatic sandy areas were repacked and the corresponding typical sand fixation shrubs were transplanted. Functions and features of this platform include simulating precipitation and groundwater, and continuously monitoring processes such as soil water dynamics, evapotranspiration, and plant growth with a high accuracy. Shapotou Lysimeter group is an important platform for understanding the ecohydrological interaction mechanisms within revegetation-soil system and for exploring models of plant sand fixation and theories of ecological restoration and rehabilitation of sandy areas. It will greatly enhance the ability for field stations to conduct scientific researches and to solve national key scientific and technical issues.

Keywords

sandy areas of northern China; water balance; Shapotou Lysimeter group; sand fixation shrubs; automatic simulating and monitoring; ecohydrological processes; ecological restoration

Authors

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中国北方沙区水量平衡自动模拟 监测系统（沙坡头蒸渗仪群）

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摘要 水量平衡始终是我国北方沙区植被建设所面临的核心科学问题，决定着植被-土壤系统的可持续性和稳定性。蒸发渗漏仪（以下简称“蒸渗仪”）是研究水量平衡的最可靠手段，但其目前存在研究站点单一、系统不匹配、精度不一致等问题，从而制约了沙区生态水文学研究的理论创新。在中国科学院野外站网络重点科技基础设施建设项目的支持下，中国科学院沙坡头沙漠研究试验站于2019年建成了目前规模最大的中国北方沙区水量平衡自动模拟监测系统——沙坡头蒸渗仪群。该平台以36台大型称重式蒸渗仪为主体，集成了降水和地下水模拟、根系动态测量和土壤溶液提取等系统，配置了不同生物气候带沙区的土壤和典型固沙灌木，开发了数据管理信息系统。该平台可模拟降水和地下水，连续精确监测土壤水动态、蒸散发、植物生长等过程，实现不同生物气候带沙区水量平衡的自动监测-模拟-量化-集成研究，是科学认知、客观解析沙区植被-土壤系统生态水文互馈机制，探索植物固沙模式及沙区生态恢复与重建理论的重要研究平台。该平台显著提升了我国野外站的科学研究能力和解决国家重大科技需求的能力。

关键词 北方沙区，水量平衡，沙坡头蒸渗仪群，固沙植物，自动模拟监测，生态-水文过程，生态恢复

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1 沙坡头站蒸渗仪群建设的目的和意义

中国北方沙区面积约170万平方公里，横跨极端

干旱、半干旱、半湿润气候带，年降水量介于50—500 mm，区域差异明显^[1]，且自然环境严酷，易受气候变化和人类活动影响，是我国生态环境最为

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脆弱的区域之一。自 20 世纪 70 年代开始，国家实施了“三北”防护林工程等一系列重大生态建设工程，并取得了显著的成效^[2]。然而，在一些地区还存在人工植被大面积退化甚至死亡、地下水资源消耗严重、水量失衡、风沙危害依然严重等问题^[3]。相关理论研究，尤其是对沙区人工植被-土壤系统水量平衡研究的滞后难以满足防沙治沙实践需求^[4,5]。因此，科学、全面认知沙区植被-土壤系统生态水文过程及互馈机制，提出合理的沙化土地治理模式是沙区生态恢复与重建的国家重大需求。

水分是沙区植被恢复和生长及生态重建中最重要的限制因子。沙区水量平衡是土壤-植物-大气连续体（SPAC）水文界面过程中降水入渗、土壤水动态、植物蒸腾、土壤蒸发等的水量转换关系^[6,7]，也是植被建设所面临的核心科学问题，决定着植被-土壤系统的可持续性和稳定性^[1]。科学的水资源管理必须准确地估算陆地生态系统蒸散发及其水量平衡^[8]。然而，沙区植物种类复杂且呈斑块状分布，存在大量裸露地表等问题。如何准确量化和测算陆地生态系统蒸散发情况是确保人工植被建设遵循沙地水循环规律、符合近自然恢复的关键所在^[1]。

蒸发渗漏仪（以下简称“蒸渗仪”，Lysimeter），特别是称重式蒸渗仪具有较高的准确性和时间分辨率，是测量实际蒸散发最为可靠的方法，被认为是研究水量平衡的“黄金标准”^[9,10]。自 20 世纪初开始，蒸渗仪开始在国外广泛应用于陆地水文学与水资源管理研究，包括对水循环中降水、蒸散发和深层渗漏等分量的监测和对渗漏水的化学分析^[11,12]。我国利用蒸渗仪进行水量平衡的研究始于 20 世纪 80 年代中期，部分中国科学院野外站（如禹城站、封丘站、沙坡头站等）及高校野外站先后安装了蒸渗仪，主要用于研究农作物和沙区灌木的水量平衡^[13-15]。目前，不同科研机构拥有的大型蒸渗仪因类型（如称重式和非称重式）、尺寸及其配套组件和传感器不一致，导致数据

不对称和精度不一致等问题，难以集成和同化。因此，如何把蒸渗仪观测从单一的研究点扩展到整个北方沙区是我们面临的一个重大难题。建立大型智能蒸渗仪组群是突破上述瓶颈的有效途径^[7,16]。此外，在全球变化背景下，蒸渗仪群已成为研究全球陆地生态系统多尺度生物地球化学循环过程的首选^[17]。我国北方沙区纬度带相近（35° N—50° N），而东西跨度大（75° E—125° E），这决定了我国北方沙区年均温变化幅度较小，年均降水差异大，且不同沙区或同一沙区不同区域地下水埋深变化明显。可将不同生物气候带沙区土壤和代表性固沙植物移至 1 个研究点，通过对降水和地下水的精准控制，精确量化不同水分梯度下植被-土壤系统水量平衡各要素，并在不同生物气候带沙区设置长期固定观测样地，从而开展对比研究。这样不仅实现了“把沙漠装进实验室”的目标，也为不同生物气候区沙地野外观测联网研究提供了平台。

在中国科学院野外站网络重点科技基础设施建设项目支持下，中国科学院沙坡头沙漠研究试验站（以下简称“沙坡头站”）建成了“中国北方沙区水量平衡自动模拟监测系统——沙坡头 Lysimeter 群”，这是目前我国规模最大的水量平衡自动模拟监测系统。沙坡头 Lysimeter 群以 36 台大型称重式蒸渗仪为主体，集成了降水模拟、土壤温-湿-盐监测、根系动态测量、地下水位控制、同位素添加和土壤溶液提取系统，配置了不同生物气候带沙区的土壤和优势固沙灌木，开发了数据管理信息系统。沙坡头 Lysimeter 群可模拟降水和地下水，连续精确监测降水入渗、地下水补给、土壤水动态、蒸散发、植物生长等过程，实现不同生物气候带沙区水量平衡的自动监测-模拟-量化-集成研究。

2019 年 6 月，在现场验收沙坡头 Lysimeter 群时刘昌明院士评价道：“作为首个完成的中国科学院野外站网络重点科技基础设施建设项目，沙坡头 Lysimeter 群的各系统可操作性强、设计理念先进、数据稳定可

靠、运行良好，是科学认知沙区植被-土壤系统生态水文机制，研究沙化治理与生态恢复的重要利器”。

2 观测数据质量的解决方案

数据是科学研究的生命线，如何确保观测数据质量一直是科研工作的重中之重。目前，我国建立的大多数蒸渗仪还不能全面模拟和监测沙区植被-土壤系统生态水文关键过程，如降水和地下水模拟、水分来源量化、根系动态观测等。为此，沙坡头站研究团队设计了全新的智能化 Lysimeter 群，集成了最新的高精度观测设备，开发了数据管理信息系统，实现对生态水文关键过程的监测和模拟控制及数据的集成和同化。同时，在沙坡头 Lysimeter 群建设和试运行期间，团队探索出了集成观测设备的标准并进行了精细标定，制定了数据标准化规范，确保了数据质量。另外，定期对观测设备进行标定和维护，确保数据数量的连续性

和质量的持久性。

为保证模拟降雨的精确度和均匀度，对 12 台降雨模拟器进行系统标定。不同梯度实际降雨量与设定降雨量高度一致，相关性均达到 0.999 以上，精确度和均匀度均在 1% 之内（图 1a—c）。此外，采用不同浓度的氯化钠溶液标定同位素添加装置，确定主路水量和旁通水量比例为 7.45 : 1，可根据试验需求按此比例添加同位素（图 1d）。

为了确保蒸渗仪监测数据的精确度和准确度，以 2 种增减砝码的方式——由小到大增加、由大到小移除砝码（图 2a），由大到小增加、由小到大移除砝码（图 2b）对蒸渗仪的称重传感器进行了标定；2 种方式下 36 台蒸渗仪的决定系数均达到 0.999 以上。通过调整地下水位标定补水系统，实际补水量与设定值一致，补水精度达到试验要求（图 2c）。采用称重法对渗漏计进行标定，然后利用补水系统调整地下水

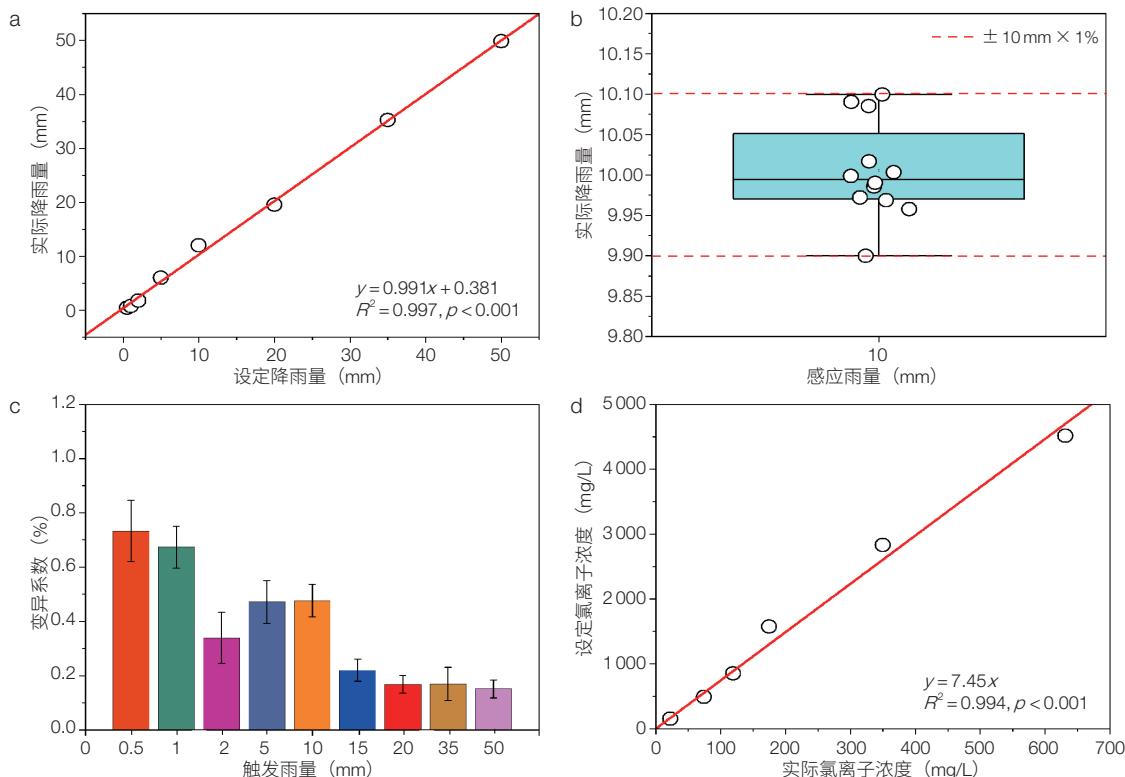


图 1 降雨模拟器精度 (a, b)、均匀度 (c) 及同位素添加 (d) 标定

Figure 1 Calibrations of rainfall simulators for accuracy (a, b), uniformity (c), and isotope addition (d)

位进一步验证，渗漏量和蒸渗仪重量差的决定系数高达0.999（图2d）。此外，为了确保沙坡头Lysimeter群各系统运行时的协调性和准确性，创新了补水、渗漏和称重系统同时工作的补水-渗漏-重量联动标定方法，结果显示重量差、补水量和渗漏量两两间均显著相关（图3）。

蒸渗仪筒体内的土壤温湿盐和根系监测系统经常规标定后运行正常，观测数据质量可靠。例如，有地下水补给筒体（W6，地下水位为-2500 mm）深层土壤含水量明显高于无地下水补给筒体（W1）（图

4a），土壤温度时间变化明显（图4b），灰钙土和风沙土电导率有明显差异（图4c）。另外，根系监测系统能清晰观测根系周转（图4d）。

基于沙坡头Lysimeter群设计、设备集成和标定，研究团队已申请到授权国家实用新型专利1项^①，受理发明专利3项^②。

3 沙坡头Lysimeter群的组成、功能与特点

3.1 配套基建工程和控制室

配套基建工程主要包括地下室（23 m×20 m×3.5

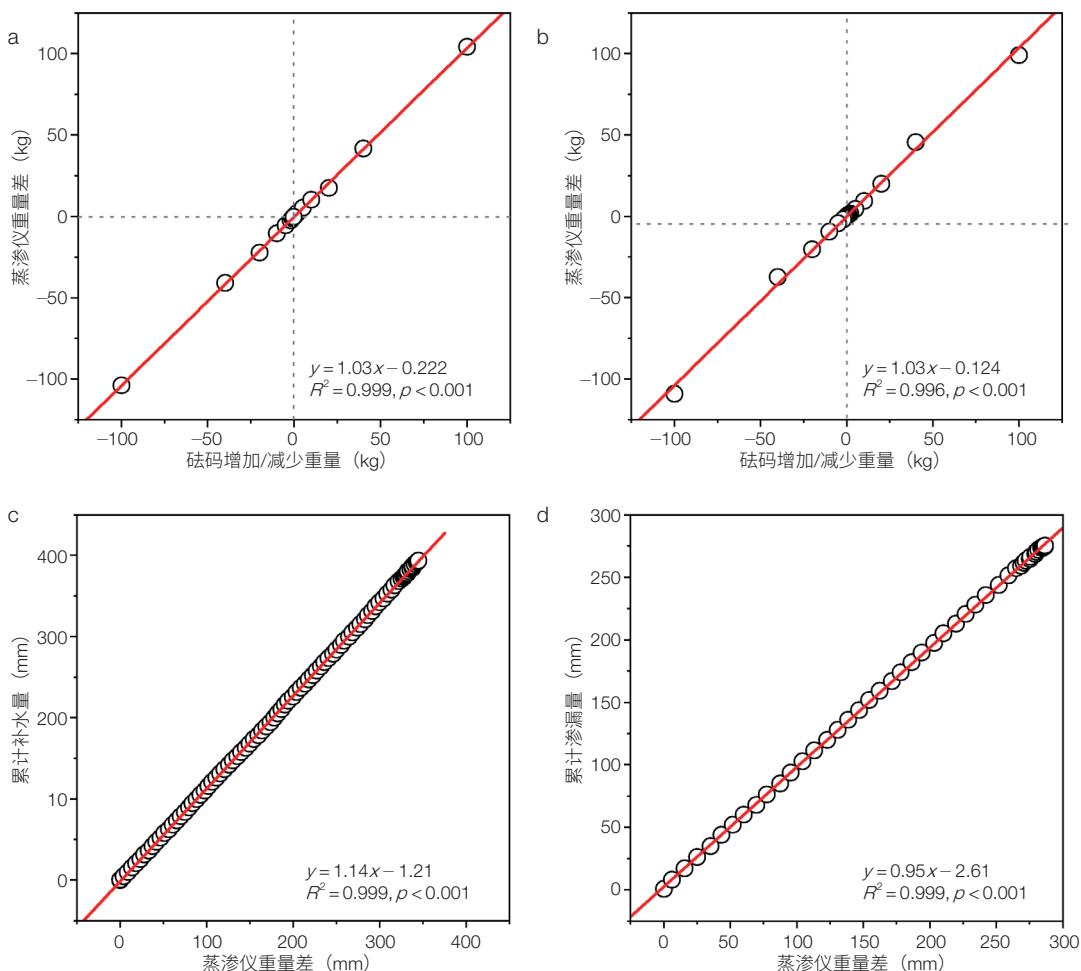


图2 蒸渗仪重量(a, b)、补水量(c)、渗漏量(d)的标定
 Figure 2 Calibrations of lysimeters for weight (a, b), water supplement (c), and leakage (d)

① 一种监测装置（授权号：CN 212785414 U）。

② 蒸渗仪检测管理方法、装置及检测管理设备（申请号：202010912469.8）；一种监测装置及连接方法（申请号：202010728658.X）；智能增减雨模拟系统及其标定方法（申请号：202110352999.6）。

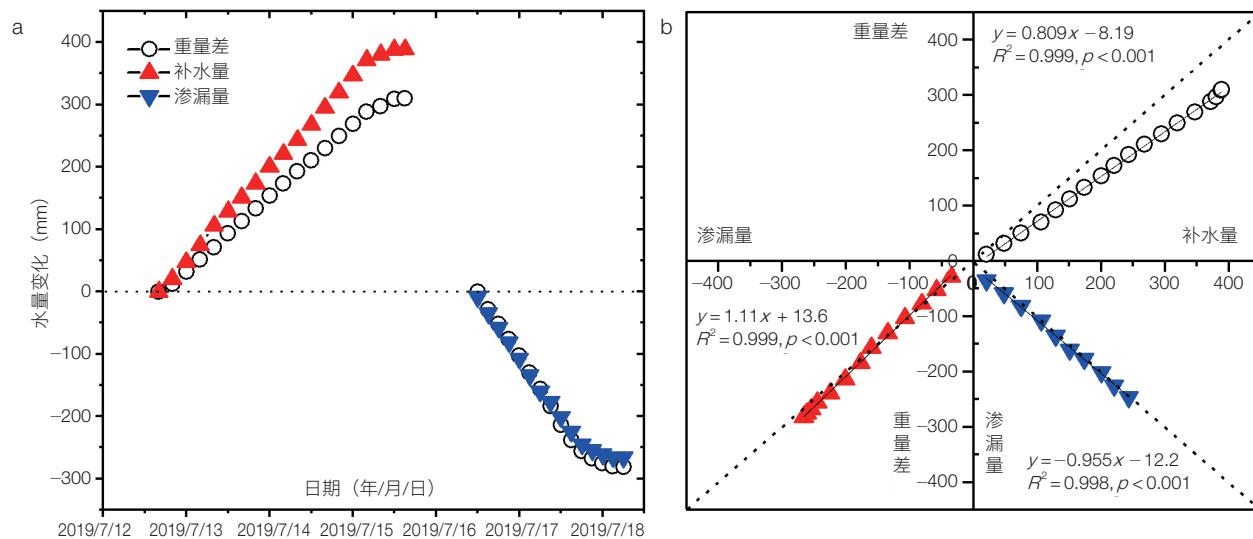


图3 蒸渗仪重量-补水-渗漏联动标定过程(a)和两两间的关系(b)
Figure 3 Mutual calibrations of lysimeters for weight–plenishment–leakage (a) and the pairwise relationships (b)

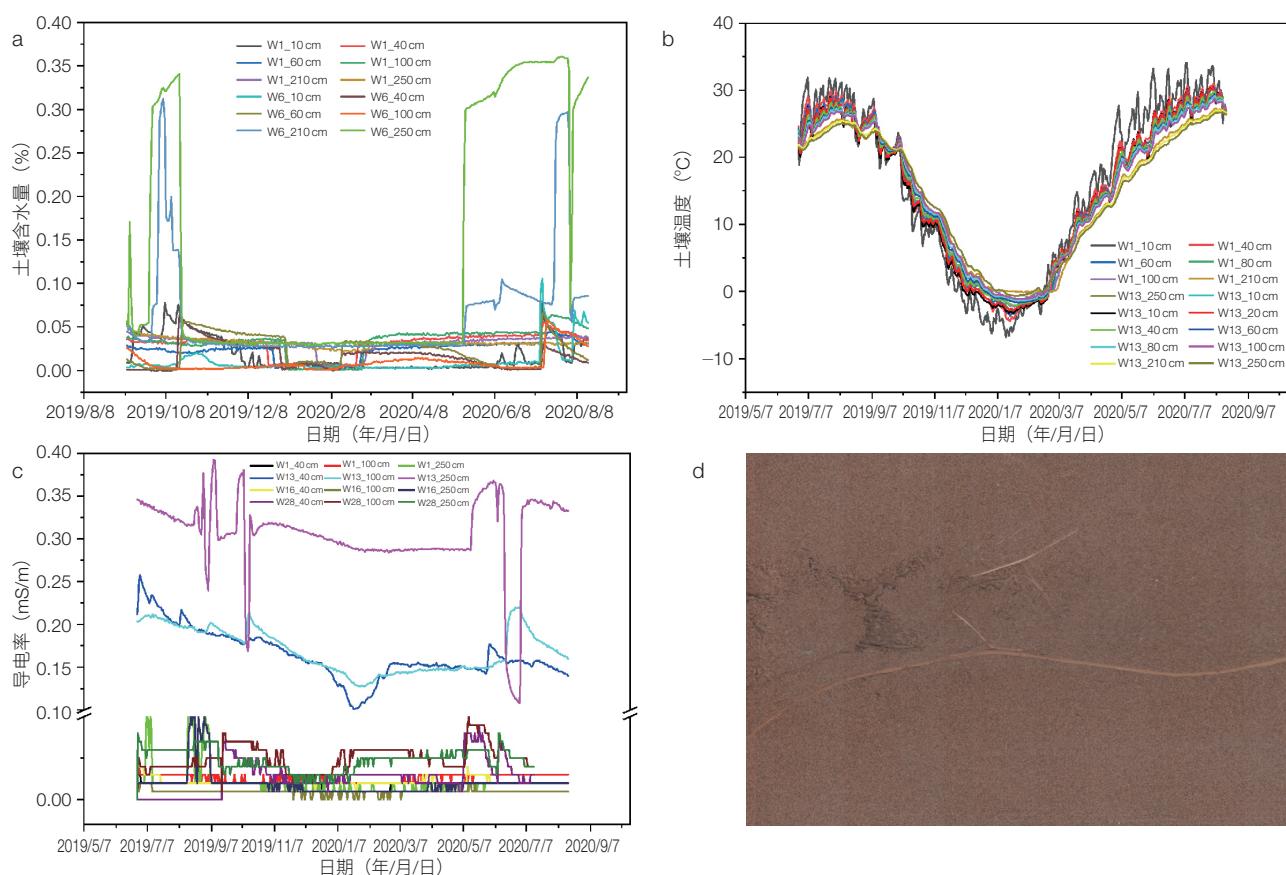


图4 蒸渗仪运行过程中自动监测的土壤含水量(a)、温度(b)和电导率(c)，以及微根管中拍摄的根系图片(d)
Figure 4 Dynamics of soil water content (a), temperature (b), electrical conductivity (c), and roots scanned through minirhizotron (d)

m)、控制室、实验室、L型地下室通道和移动大棚运行轨道。地下室用于安装蒸渗仪，控制室内集成所有设备的数据管理信息系统、主控电脑和实时数据显示系统等，独特设计的L型地下通道减少气压干扰，双轨道设计保证移动大棚在恶劣风沙环境中的安全运行。

3.2 蒸渗仪

蒸渗仪筒体为直径2.25 m、表面积4 m²、内部深度3.35 m的钢筒。筒体底部预留排水孔和地下水控制口，筒壁预留2列7层操作孔，用于土壤探头的埋设。筒体底部安装补水管网和渗漏管网，分层回填不同粒径砾石为反滤层(0.3 m厚)，然后分层回填土壤3.0 m。筒体内埋设12层土壤三参数探头、8层土壤溶液采样器、2根3.6 m长60°交叉微根管。每台蒸渗仪配置3个高精度重量传感器，筒底预留孔连接至称重式渗漏计和地下水自控系统，地下水控制系统配置同位素添加装置，筒体内的土壤溶液采样器连接至采样装置。上述构成了大型称重式蒸渗仪测控系统

(图5)，汇入到蒸渗仪控制柜中，实现重量、渗漏量及地下水位的精确控制，控制柜用信号线连接至服务器。服务器中安装了专门开发的数据管理系统，具有设备管理、数据分析、异常/重要事件推送等功能。采用SDI-12(Serial Digital Interface-12)总线技术将每台蒸渗仪的土壤三参数探头连接至1个控制模块，最终连接至控制电脑。此外，各系统配置了不间断电源，确保数据正常采集。

3.3 降水模拟系统

降水模拟系统由移动大棚和降水模拟器组成。移动大棚采用独特的弧形网架轻钢结构设计(高度7 m、长度23 m、跨距20 m)，结构稳固，具有较强的抗载荷能力。顶部覆盖高透光率双层阳光板，两侧安装具孔有机玻璃板增强抗风能力，底部两侧安装双电机驱动装置。12套独立的人工降水模拟器安装在大棚拱形支架下的滑轨上，距地面4 m，有效降水量为7 m²/套。降水模拟器可以模拟微雨、小雨、中雨和大雨；专门研发了控制系统，可设定降水时间、区

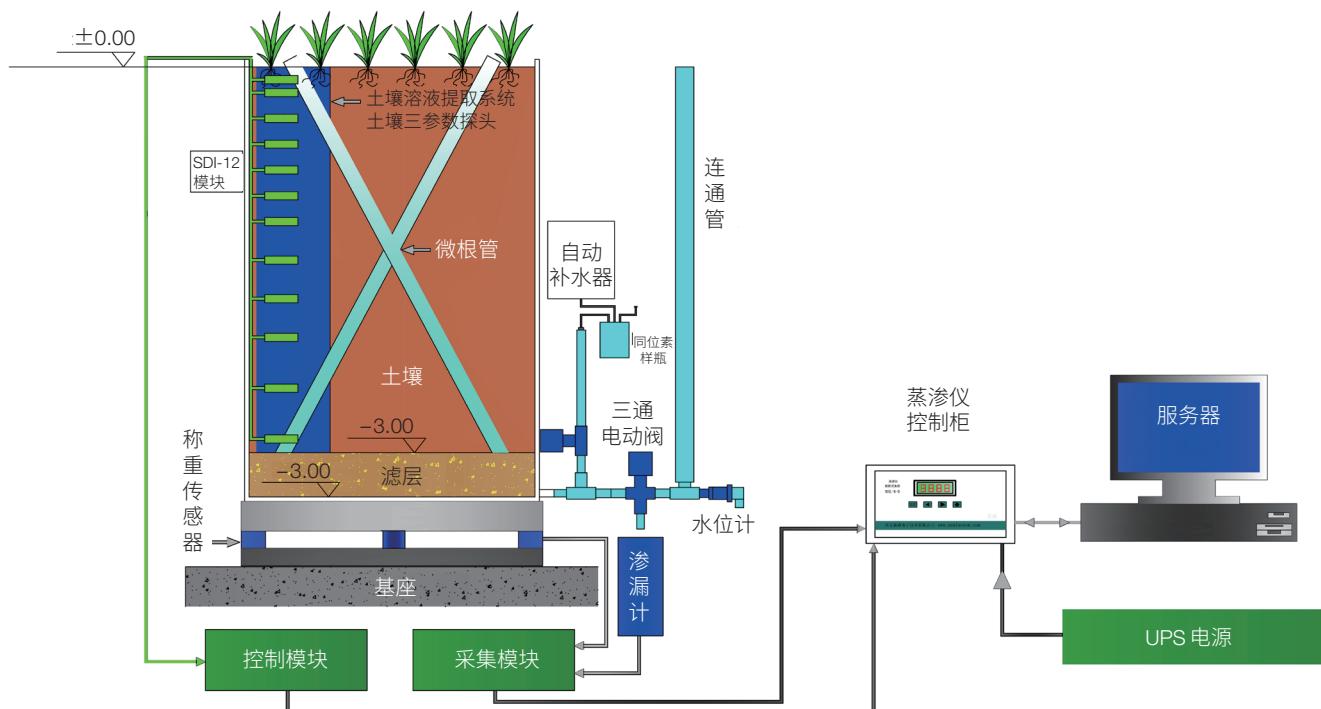


图5 大型称重式蒸渗仪测控系统示意图
Figure 5 Diagram of measuring and controlling system of large weighable lysimeter

域、强度；通过旁通管路添加同位素，满足多样化的试验需求（图 6）。

3.4 沙坡头 Lysimeter 群空间布局

为了实现不同生物气候带沙区水量平衡的自动监测-模拟-量化-集成研究，蒸渗仪筒体内回填不同沙区土壤，栽植各沙区典型固沙灌木。蒸渗仪的空间布局依据降水模拟系统的自动感应降雨模式来设计。未降水时蒸渗仪处于全开状态。当降水传感器感应到自然降水后（0.2 mm），移动大棚自动移至相应区域遮雨。同时，降水传感器感应自然降水的雨强，选择相应的喷头，延迟0.5 h 开始对相应的区域进行模拟降水。在模拟降水期间，根据当时的风速和风向，降水模拟器适当微调位置，从而确保蒸渗仪能接受相应的降水量。如果风速超过6级（10.8 m/s），降水模拟器延迟降水，直至风速降至6级以下触发降水（图7）。

3.5 沙坡头 Lysimeter 群特点

建成的沙坡头 Lysimeter 群具有 8 个特点：① 集

成性。Lysimeter 群以大型称重式蒸渗仪为主体，集成了智能降水和地下水控制系统，配置了中国北方不同沙区土壤和典型灌木。② 唯一性。该平台是我国沙区唯一的36台大型称重式蒸渗仪组群，唯一实现降水-地下水同步控制、模拟和量化的系统，拥有国内唯一20 m 跨度的大型轻钢结构移动大棚。③ 抗干扰性。蒸渗仪称重装置自研安装了震动干扰处理系统，有效消除外界突发事件引起的震动干扰；各采集器间互联互通，在提高测量精度的同时滤除干扰；地下通道采用L型设计，安装3道门，减少气压波动干扰。④ 自主研制了蠕动泵补水系统。自研的蠕动泵补水系统比传统的马氏瓶补水速度快、精度高、控制自由度高，蒸渗仪筒体底部安装的补水和渗漏管网减少了补水及渗水时长。⑤ 采用 SDI-12 总线控制技术。采用 SDI-12 单线总线技术布置线路连接土壤探头，减少了信号线布设长度，增加了接入传感器数量。⑥ 精细化降水模拟。降水模拟系统感应自然降水和风速，通过联

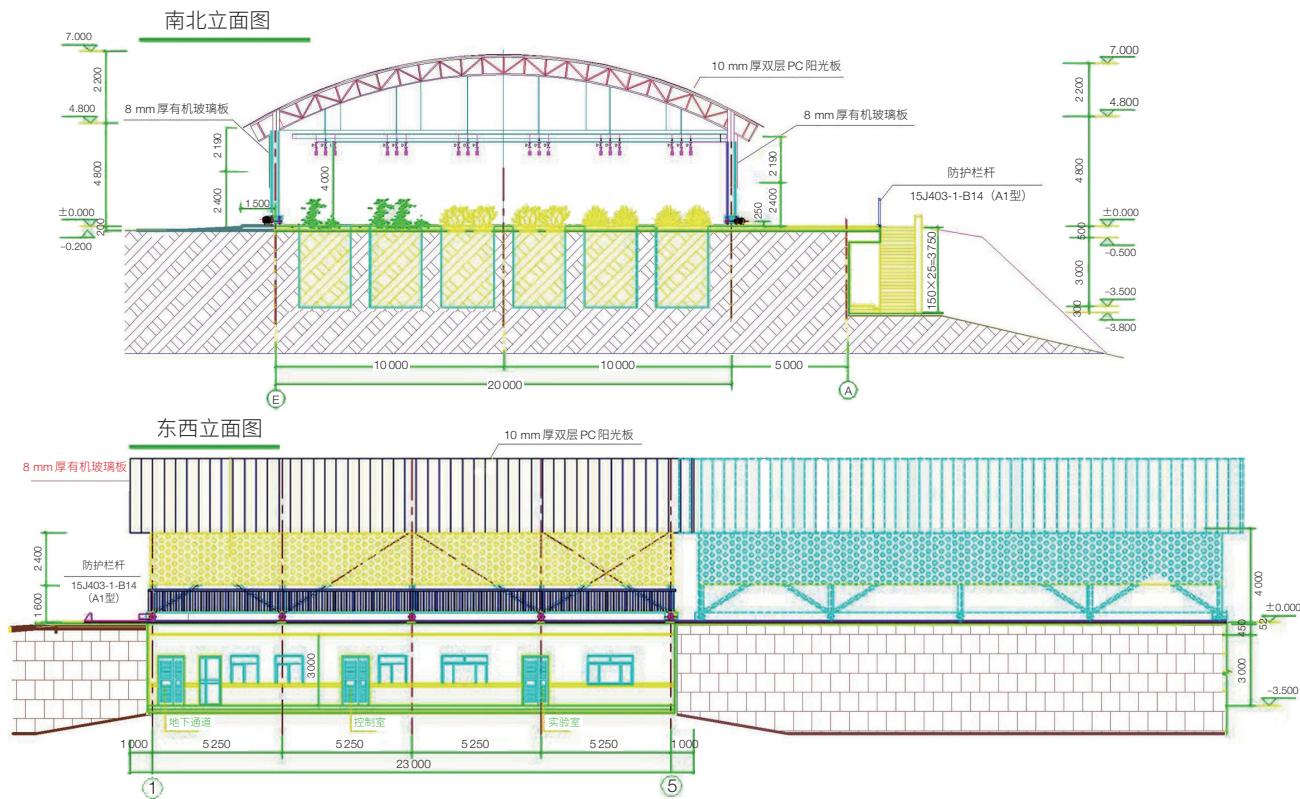


图 6 沙坡头 Lysimeter 群立面图
Figure 6 Elevation view of Shapotou Lysimeter group

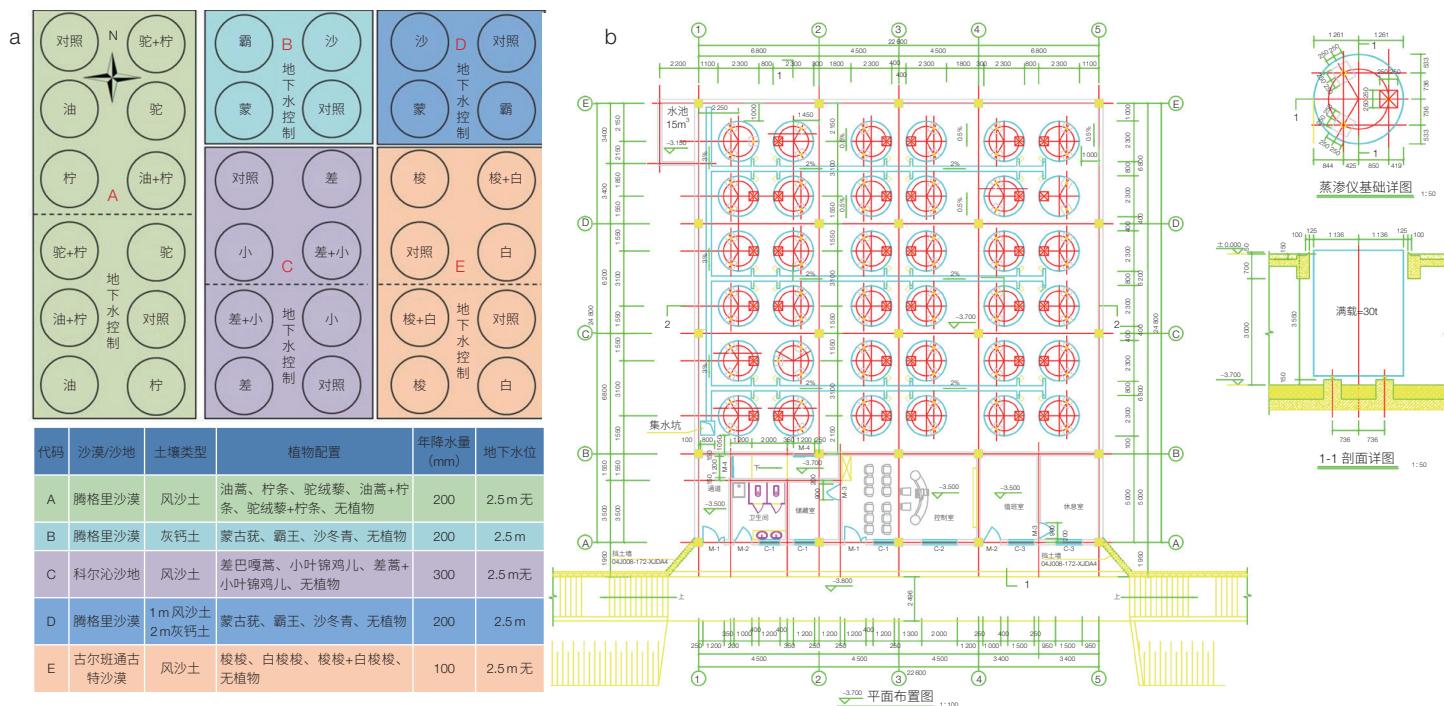


图 7 沙坡头 Lysimeter 群植物配置 (a) 与平面布局图 (b)

Figure 7 Arrangement of plants and spatial distribution pattern of Shapotou Lysimeter group

(a) 土壤植物配置与布局; 其中不同字母表示回填土壤类型和降雨分区; A、B、C、D、E 分别接受 1、1、1.5、1、0.5 倍的自然降水; 每台蒸渗仪栽植 2 株灌木、4 株半灌木或 1 株灌木 +2 株半灌木; (b) Lysimeter 群平面布局
(a) Different letters indicate different repacking soil types and precipitation simulation sections. Sections A, B, C, D, and E receive 1, 1, 1.5, 1, and 0.5 times amount of natural precipitation, respectively. Two shrubs, or four semi-shrubs, or one shrub plus two semi-shrubs were transplanted in each lysimeters; (b) Layout drawing of Shapotou Lysimeter group

动控制实现对特定蒸渗仪的遮雨或降雨，4 种喷头和智能控制系统实现对雨滴大小及雨强的精细化控制。

⑦ 配备同位素添加装置。降水和地下水控制系统管路配备同位素或示踪元素添加装置，可根据试验需求添加并控制其比例和流速。⑧ 拓展性。蒸渗仪筒壁预留的安装孔便于后期传感器的拓展和迭代升级，蒸渗仪、降水模拟器和 SDI-12 控制系统预留的多路采集与控制接口，供后期升级和拓展。

4 科学研究成效及未来研究计划

4.1 科学研究成效

沙坡头 Lysimeter 群运行以来，获得有效数据 72 GB，开展了沙区水循环关键过程及植物调控机理等方面的研究，回答了不同生物气候带沙区固沙

植物种选择和配置、土壤水分的植被承载力、建植规模、人工植被稳定性维持的生态水文阈值等核心科学问题，提出了退化植被修复和固沙植被重建的最优调控措施。研究成果发表在 *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology*^[18] 等期刊，支撑了国家自然科学基金创新研究群体项目“干旱区生态水文学”（41621001）和科学技术部创新人才推进计划重点领域创新团队“沙区生态恢复与重建创新团队”项目的研究工作。

沙坡头 Lysimeter 群可精确控制降水和地下水及示踪，为揭示植物-水分关系提供了新的技术方法，为典型固沙灌木形态调整的水力传导机理研究提供了新思路。研究团队预期在植物地上部分和根系响应土壤水分变化，固沙植物发生形态调整的水力调控机理，以及植物应对全球变化型干旱的适应机制及生存策略等

方面取得新的进展。

4.2 未来研究计划

- (1) 不同气候带典型固沙植被生态需水与水量平衡;
- (2) 沙区生态与水文过程、机理与调控;
- (3) 丝路经济带沿线国家沙区生态重建的生态水文学机理;
- (4) 全球旱地生态系统水量平衡、恢复力对气候变化的响应;

5 运行与管理办法

(1) 平台管理制度。制定了沙坡头 Lysimeter 群平台管理制度，规范管理人员、值班人员、试验人员和来访人员的行为；建立了科研人员值班制度和专职技术人员管理制度，保障平台的平稳运行。

(2) 数据管理制度。定期对 Lysimeter 群进行检查、标定和升级，保证数据的可靠和完整；定期观测、整理和汇交数据，实现数据高效的存储、管理与分发。

(3) 合作共享方式。沙坡头 Lysimeter 群按照有关规定，面向国内外学者共享平台和研究数据。目前，该平台已正式加入国际蒸渗仪研究联盟（Lysimeter Research Group）。

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(相关图片见封三)

Automatic Simulating and Monitoring System for Water Balance of Sandy Areas of Northern China: Shapotou Lysimeter Group

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Abstract Water balance has always been the key scientific issue facing in vegetation construction in sandy areas of northern China. Lysimeter is regarded as the most reliable tool in studying water balance. The existing problems such as the limited lysimeter sites, the system mismatch and accuracy inconsistency among lysimeters restrict the theoretical innovation of arid ecohydrology. Grouping large intelligent weighable lysimeters is an effective way to break through the aforementioned bottleneck, and conforms to the current interdisciplinary research trend. Funded by the “Key Scientific and Technological Infrastructure Construction Project for the Field Station Network of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)”, Shapotou Desert Research and Experiment Station of CAS completed the platform construction of *Automatic Simulating and Monitoring System for Water Balance of Sandy Areas of Northern China—Shapotou Lysimeter Group* in 2019. Based on 36 large weighable lysimeters, this platform also assembles other systems such as precipitation and groundwater simulation system, root dynamics monitoring system, soil solution extraction system, and data management information system. Within lysimeters, soils transported from different bioclimatic sandy areas were repacked and the corresponding typical sand fixation shrubs were transplanted. Functions and features of this platform include simulating precipitation and groundwater, and continuously monitoring processes such as soil water dynamics, evapotranspiration, and plant growth with a high accuracy. Shapotou Lysimeter group is an important platform for understanding the ecohydrological interaction mechanisms within revegetation-soil system and for exploring models of plant sand fixation and theories of ecological restoration and rehabilitation of sandy areas. It will greatly enhance the ability for field stations to conduct scientific researches and to solve national key scientific and technical issues.

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Keywords sandy areas of northern China, water balance, Shapotou Lysimeter group, sand fixation shrubs, automatic simulating and monitoring, ecohydrological processes, ecological restoration



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