



# Spatio-Temporal Variability of Hydrological Drought and Trends: Implementation of Classical and Innovative Approaches

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Received: 24 January 2025 / Accepted: 25 April 2025  
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## Abstract

Drought is known as natural hazard having negative potential effects on water resources, economy, sustainability and energy. Hydrological drought is defined as deficiency of surface or subsurface water. Drought is insidious and potentially harmful to the environment and socio-economy, which motivates researchers to monitor and develop new strategies in order to manage possible negative effects. In this research, a detailed hydrological drought monitoring study considering spatio-temporal variability has been performed by employing Streamflow Drought Index (SDI) and mean monthly streamflow records of 36 stations for the standard time scales of 1-, 3-, 6-, 9- and 12-months in the Euphrates Basin which covers the ~16% of Turkey is one of the most important basins in the country in care of water resources availability and hosting many production sectors and cultural heritage. Spatial distribution of drought and wet categories have been analyzed by using Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW) approach. Trends in the time scales are observed by Mann-Kendall Test, Spearman's Rho Test, Wilcoxon Test, Innovative Trend Significance Test and Sen's Slope Estimator. Graphical Innovative Trend Analysis are employed to examine temporal trends in drought and wet periods. Results have indicated that the mild drought and wet periods are the most repetitive categories based on percentage of occurrences. Different parts of the basin seem to have experienced droughts on the different standard time scales. Decreasing trends are noted to be widespread across the basin. The findings of this research are expected to contribute a better understanding of hydrological drought dynamics in Euphrates Basin that plays critical role in water resources and the sustainability of life in the region.

**Keywords** Drought · Hydrological drought · Streamflow Drought Index · Trend · Euphrates · Turkey

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# 1 Introduction

The global interest to water or water related events such as floods, drought has been increasing since due to vital role of water as an irreplaceable resource for life (Wei et al. 2024; Frade et al. 2024). Besides, fresh water sources are limited and when excessive usage of water, increasing of population are added to water threaten factors, the phenomena which forces to governments and communities to take serious precautions becomes more critical. It is notable to emphasize that water presence and the factors affecting it are not only subject matter of personal consumption such as drinking, washing etc. but also are important for the sectors of energy, agriculture, industry, transportation and sustainable development.

Droughts have been considered as extreme natural phenomena that is characterized with a deficit in water availability and influences different areas globally (Sheffield and Wood 2012; Wei et al. 2024; Frade et al. 2024). It is emphasized (Yin et al. 2022; Singh et al. 2022; Liu et al. 2024) that in the Sixth Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change drought has been stated as being more frequent and severe throughout the world over the course of recent decades. Besides, Xu et al. (2024) have reported droughts as a phenomenon occurring globally and a prevalent environmental disaster due to its destructive effects and significant economic difficulties, among all natural disasters. In many research studies (Mishra and Singh 2010; En-Nagre et al. 2024; Feng et al. 2024; Christelis et al. 2024; Liu et al. 2024; Zhang et al. 2024) drought has been clustered into four categories which are meteorological, agricultural, hydrological and socio-economic. Meteorological drought has been defined by Mishra and Singh (2010) as a lack of precipitation in a region for a period of time. It has been stated by Li et al. (2021) and Zhang et al. (2024) that meteorological drought is commonly the primary factor of other drought types. Agricultural drought is decline in soil moisture content (Aon and Biswas 2024). Hydrological drought describes a water deficiency that occurs in surface or subsurface water (Gorugantula et al. 2024). It is reported (Brunner et al. 2023; Gu et al. 2023; Wu et al. 2024) that trends of global hydrological droughts which take substantial interest in the past few years show an upward trend behavior with climate change. Socio-economic drought is defined as unusual water deficit due to a mismatch between available water resources and demands of society and environment (Ma et al. 2025).

Wu et al. (2025) noted that drought indices are commonly utilized in order to detect the drought. Many indices have been suggested for different types of drought and some researchers (Niemeyer 2008; Svoboda and Fuchs 2016) have given a valuable efforts to give detailed information about employed indices. Among indices for analyzing the hydrological drought based on different time scales (1, 3, 6, 9, and 12 month), Nalbantis and Tsakiris (2009) have suggested Streamflow Drought Index (SDI). Recently, SDI has been performed to detect hydrological drought events in many studies (Birimbayeva et al. 2024; Kartal and Emiroglu 2024; Saini and Singh 2024; Leščičen et al. 2024; Niazkar et al. 2024; Jahangir et al. 2024).

Because drought is reported a major natural disturbance with profound effects by (Hanby et al. 2025) and is noted as critical hydro-meteorological catastrophe for recent times by Ionita et al. (2022) and Meilutytė-Lukauskienė et al. (2024), communities are forced to monitor drought comprehensively. An index can give an information about drought events as well as the drought category based on the index evaluation criteria in a time scale however this is not enough as drought event can be effective in a certain area for a specific time.

To do so, drought events can be tracked spatially by interpolation techniques such as Inverse Distance Weighting which has been used effectively in many drought studies (Minh and Dung 2023; Aktürk et al. 2024; Niyonsenga et al. 2024; Taylan 2024; Tegegn et al. 2024).

To investigate the possible droughts in care of temporal variability, many trend techniques such as Mann-Kendall Test (Kendall 1975), Spearman's Rho Test (Spearman 1904), Sen's Slope Estimator (Sen 1968), Innovative Trend Analysis (Şen 2012, 2017), Wilcoxon Test (Wilcoxon 1945) have been used. In recent times in many studies (Demirel et al. 2024; Ozocak et al. 2024; Oubadi et al. 2024; Zarei and Mahmoudi 2024; Kartal and Emiroglu 2024; Yaşa and Partal 2024; Aydin et al. 2024; Meskelu et al. 2024; Swain et al. 2024) at least one of these tests have been utilized for drought variability assessments for different parts of the world.

Turkey has 25 water basins, with the Euphrates Basin (part of the larger Euphrates-Tigris Basin) being the largest at 122,010 km<sup>2</sup>. This southeastern region encompasses numerous rivers, lakes, dams, forests, agricultural lands, wetlands, and diverse ecosystems. The basin supports major economic activities including farming, agriculture, industry, mining, and trade. Additionally, tourism flourishes in the area due to its rich cultural heritage (SYGM 2020). Due to sustainability of live life, socio-economic life and negative impacts of droughts counted, there must be strategies and policies for struggling with these hydrological extreme events.

In the literature, many researchers (Tareke and Awoke 2022; Ashraf et al. 2023; Gonçalves et al. 2023; Senatilleke et al. 2023; Al-Juboori 2023; Fowé et al. 2023; Birimbayeva et al. 2024; Meilutyté-Lukauskienė et al. 2024; Achite et al. 2024; Alimkulov et al. 2024; Habibi et al. 2024; Saha and Chandra Pal 2024; Sajeev and Kundapura 2024; Patidar et al. 2024; Zhang et al. 2024; Nguyen-Minh et al. 2024; Rahmi et al. 2025; Tareke 2025; Zhen et al. 2025; Wambura 2025) have studied for analyzing hydrological droughts for different parts of the world with different methodologies. In Turkey, the topic of hydrological drought monitoring has taken an important interest of researchers (Gumus and Algin 2017; Kumanlioglu 2020, 2023; Simsek 2021; Katipoğlu et al. 2022; Deger et al. 2023b; Yuce et al. 2023; Esit et al. 2023; Gulmez et al. 2023; Kartal and Nones 2024; Kartal and Emiroglu 2024; Tuğrul and Hınıs 2024). Particularly, when it comes to Euphrates Basin Turkey the number of research studies based on hydrological drought monitoring is very less. For example, Katipoğlu et al. (2021) have performed a drought monitoring analysis as spatiotemporal and have found that the most of the parts of Euphrates Basin has the risk of hydrological droughts during 12-month period because of severe and extreme droughts. Katipoğlu and Acar (2022) have used the standardized runoff index (SRI) as drought index and the tests of Mann-Kendall and Modified Mann-Kendall for trend detection. They have reported that there has been a decreasing drought trend dominance in Euphrates basin. In recent times, Demirel et al. (2024) have performed a study in order to assess trend stability for Euphrates Basin by benefiting from triple Wilcoxon test and Innovative trend analysis. In the study researchers have utilized standardized streamflow index (SSFI). They have found significantly decreasing trends in one station while other station has demonstrated unstable trends.

In this research, a comprehensive analysis for hydrological drought is conducted considering spatiotemporal variabilities. From this aim, the novelty of this paper is that hydrological drought events are investigated in more than one time scale considering spatio-temporal variabilities by spatial interpolation techniques and both classical and innovative trend

approaches for one of the most important basins, Euphrates Basin in Turkey. By benefiting from SDI algorithm and streamflow records of 36 stations in Euphrates Basin of Turkey, drought monitoring analysis are conducted for 1, 3, 6, 9, 12-month time scales. Spatial variability analysis for drought and wet classes in time scales are employed by IDW. Possible trends in selected time series of SDI are investigated by Mann-Kendall Test, Spearman's Rho Test, Sen's Slope Test, Wilcoxon Test, and Innovative trend significance Test. To examine the possible trends in drought and wet categories a developed form of graphical innovative trend analysis in which classical graph of innovative trend analysis by (Şen 2012) has been combined with drought and wet categories by (Yuce et al. 2023) has been utilized. The findings of this research are believed to be helpful for the policy and decision makers in drought action plans and effective water resources management.

## 2 Methodology

In the study, a framework of the methodology has been given in Fig. 1.

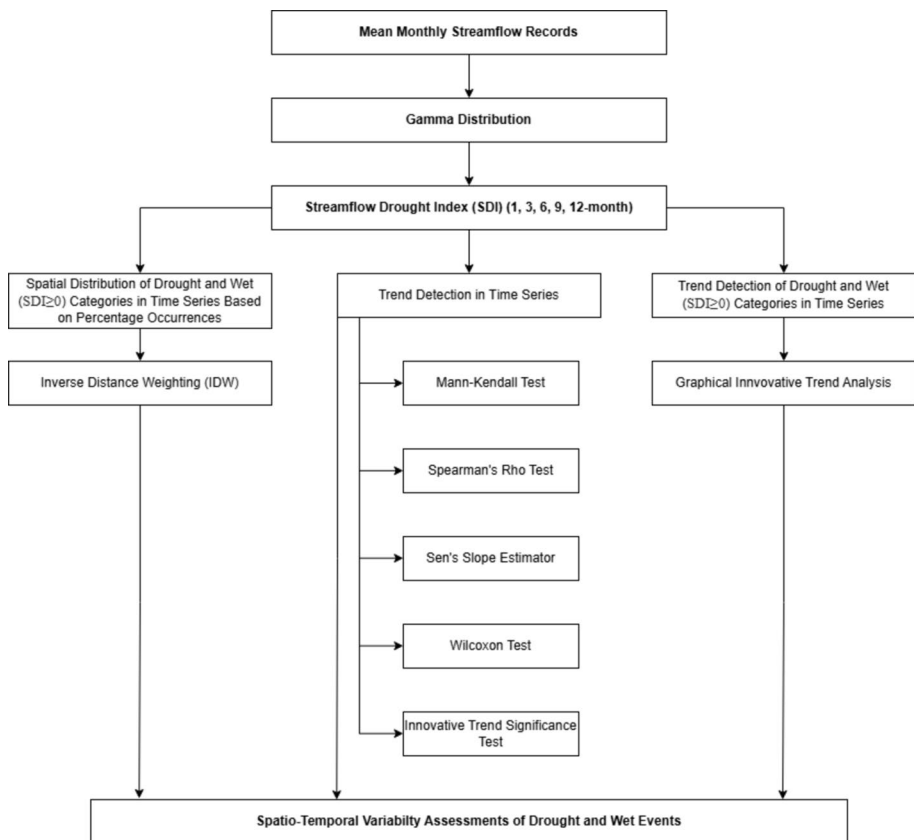


Fig. 1 Flow chart of the methodology

## 2.1 Streamflow Drought Index (SDI)

The determination of SDI that was introduced by Nalbantis and Tsakiris (2009) and is widely used for hydrological monitoring studies is similar to Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) that was introduced by McKee et al. (1993). Employing mean monthly streamflow data as input data, the total streamflow that is presented by  $X_{i,j}^k$  in a given month  $j$  and year  $i$  depending on the time scale  $k$  (1, 3, 6, 9, 12 months) is determined by Eqs. 1 and 2 (Paulo et al. 2003; Hong et al. 2015).

$$X_{i,j}^k = \sum_{l=13-k+j}^{12} V_{i-1,l} + \sum_{l=1}^j V_{i,l} \text{ if } j < k \tag{1}$$

$$X_{i,j}^k = \sum_{l=j-k+1}^j V_{i,l} \text{ if } j \geq k \tag{2}$$

where  $V_{i-1,l}$  and  $V_{i,l}$  describe volumes of streamflow in the years of  $i-1$  and  $i$ , respectively. Beside of the determination procedure explained above, Nalbantis and Tsakiris (2009) have recommended to apply a gamma distribution to streamflow data before application of SDI because the data records may contain skewness. For this purpose, a gamma distribution application with SDI has been explained in Yuce et al. (2023); Deger et al. (2023a) papers with details. After the determination each SDI values for all-time series each value is associated with a drought or wet categories in Table 1.

## 2.2 Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW)

IDW, as an interpolation method, is widely utilized in spatial data interpolation (Liu et al. 2021). The method states that every identified point produces an impact on predicted point and the weight is directly related to the  $p$ -th power of the distance (Hao and Chang 2013; Katipoğlu and Acar 2022). In this research, IDW is employed for the spatial distribution investigation of drought and wet categories that are given in Table 1 for all time scales.

**Table 1** Drought and wet classifications (Hong et al. 2015)

SDI Value	Category
$SDI \geq 2.00$	Extremely Wet
$1.50 \leq SDI < 2.00$	Severely Wet
$1.00 \leq SDI < 1.50$	Moderately Wet
$0 \leq SDI < 1.00$	Mildly Wet
$-1 \leq SDI < 0.00$	Mild Drought
$-1.50 \leq SDI < -1.00$	Moderate Drought
$-2.00 \leq SDI < -1.50$	Severe Drought
$SDI \leq -2.00$	Extreme Drought

## 2.3 Trend Detection Techniques

### 2.3.1 Mann-Kendall (MK) Test

The test which has been reported as a rank-based test (Esit et al. 2024; Robleh et al. 2024; Aydin et al. 2024; Meskelu et al. 2024) and proposed by Mann (1945) and Kendall (1975) has been utilized for investigating the trends in time series. In this test the test statistics ( $Z$ ), slope of the trend and sign equation can be determined by Eqs. 3 and 4 respectively (Ozocak et al. 2024).

$$S = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=k+1}^n \text{sgn}(x_j - x_k) \quad (3)$$

Where  $n$  shows the length of the data,  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  denote the data points in the years of  $j$  and  $k$  ( $j > k$ ) and sign equation is defined as follows.

$$\text{sgn}(x_j - x_k) = \begin{cases} 1 & (x_j - x_k) > 0 \\ 0 & (x_j - x_k) = 0 \\ -1 & (x_j - x_k) < 0 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

In case of having ties, the variance of  $S$  is can be computed from Eq. 5 and in given equation  $n$  represents number of data points,  $t_i$  is number of ties for  $i$  value and  $m$  shows the number of tied values (Berhail et al. 2022).

$$\text{Var}(S) = \frac{n(n-1)(2n+5) - \sum_i^r t_i(t_i-1)(2t_i+5)}{18} \quad (5)$$

Then  $Z$  is determined from Eq. 6 (Ngwenya et al. 2024; Keskiner and Simsek 2024).

$$Z = \begin{cases} \frac{S-1}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(S)}} & S > 0 \\ 0 & S = 0 \\ \frac{S+1}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(S)}} & S < 0 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

When interpreting the results based on  $Z$  score,  $Z > 0$  indicates a presence of increasing trend while  $Z < 0$  indicates a decreasing trend. Besides of this, trends are associated with a significance cases. In this study, trends have been investigated by considering the significance level of  $\alpha = 0.01$  which corresponds to  $Z = \pm 2.576$ .

### 2.3.2 Sperman's Rho (SR) Test

This test has been reported as the fastest in care giving the results and one of the most widely utilized methods in literature by Tuğrul and Hınıs (2024). SR test value which is denoted by  $r_s$  can be calculated from Eq. 7 (Esit et al. 2024).

$$r_s = 1 - \frac{\left[6 \sum_{i=1}^n (Rx_i - i)^2\right]}{n(n^2 - 1)} \tag{7}$$

Where  $R_{x_i}$  shows the rank of  $i$ th observation,  $n$  represents the length of time series data. If the number of data is bigger than 30 then normal distribution tables can be used and the test statistics can be determined via Eq. 8 (Aydin et al. 2024). Interpretation of the results of  $z$  similar to MK test. In the evaluation of the results of this test, the significance level of  $\alpha = 0.01$  which corresponds to  $Z = \pm 2.576$  has been selected for SDI series.

$$z = r_s \sqrt{n - 1} \tag{8}$$

### 2.3.3 Sen’s Slope Estimator

One another trend detection technique used in the study is Sen’s slope estimator that has been introduced by Sen (1968) as a non-parametric test. In this technique, the procedure of determination of the trend slope includes ranking the slope pairs from smallest to highest. The next step of the procedure is checking the number of slopes in care of odd or even. When the slope number ( $n$ ) is odd, the median slope is the slope but when  $n$  is even then the average of two median slopes becomes the slope (Esit 2022). The slope ( $S$ ) of  $n$  pair data can be found by approximation of Sen’s estimator with Eqs. 9 and 10 (Esit et al. 2024).

$$S = \frac{Q_2 - Q_1}{T_2 - T_1} \tag{9}$$

$$S = \begin{cases} S_{\frac{n+1}{2}} & n = \text{even} \\ S_{\frac{n}{2}} & n = \text{odd} \end{cases} \tag{10}$$

Where  $Q$  shows the data,  $T$  denotes the time and  $n$  is the length of the data.

### 2.3.4 Wilcoxon Test

Wilcoxon Test (WT) which aims to determine the scattering of two variables in terms of the being same based on the differences in two-half data has the following determination procedure (Saplıoğlu and Güçlü 2022): At first the difference between halves must be determined by Eq. 11 based on absolute criteria (Eq. 12).

$$D_i = X_i - Y_i \tag{11}$$

$$|D_i| = |X_i - Y_i| \tag{12}$$

where  $D_i$  shows the difference between first half which is  $X_i$  and second half that is  $Y_i$ . Secondly the absolute values are sorted from smallest to greatest by giving sequence numbers. Here the summation of marked rows which presents the summation of plus (minus) is considered as  $T^+(T^-)$  and can be computed from following Eq.

$$T = T^+ - T^- \quad (13)$$

For identification of the trends in terms significance, the test statistic  $Z_w$  can be computed from Eq. 14. In the equation  $\mu_T$  is arithmetic mean,  $\sigma_T$  is standard deviation of the distribution. Again, similar to Mann-Kendall, Spearman Rho tests the significance level of  $\alpha = 0.01$  which corresponds to  $Z = \pm 2.576$  has been selected for SDI series.

$$Z_w = \frac{T - \mu_T}{\sigma_T} = \frac{T}{\sigma_T} \quad (14)$$

$$Z_w = \sqrt{\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}} \quad (15)$$

### 2.3.5 Innovative Trend Analysis (ITA)

**Innovative Trend Significance Test** The test is proposed by Şen (2017) for observation of possible trends of time series. Some researchers have benefited from the test recently (Şan et al. 2024; Nath et al. 2024; Hallouz et al. 2024) that test is widely chosen by researchers as the method does not have any assumptions. The application procedure of the test has been given (Şen 2017) paper in detail. In the test, trend slope ( $s$ ), slope standard deviation ( $\sigma_s$ ) and confidence limit can be determined from Eqs. 16, 17 and 18 respectively (Şen 2017).

$$s = \frac{2 \left( \bar{y}_2 - \bar{y}_1 \right)}{n} \quad (16)$$

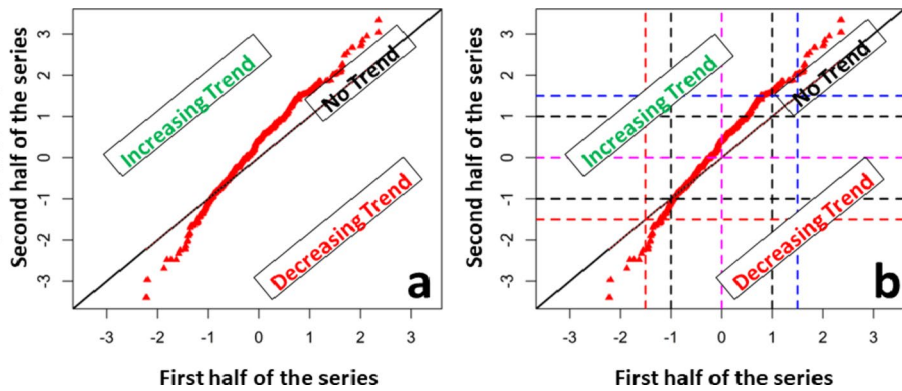
$$\sigma_s = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{n\sqrt{n}} \sigma \sqrt{1 - \rho_{\bar{y}_2 - \bar{y}_1}} \quad (17)$$

where  $\bar{y}_1$  and  $\bar{y}_2$  indicates the arithmetic averages of first and second halves,  $n$  is the number of data points and  $\rho_{\bar{y}_2 - \bar{y}_1}$  denotes cross-correlation coefficient between first and second halves. For a designated significance level of  $\alpha$ , the upper and lower confidence limit of trend slope are calculated from Eq. 18.

$$CL_{(1-\alpha)} = 0 \pm s_{cri} \sigma_s \quad (18)$$

Where  $s_{cri}$  is confidence limits of standard normal probability distribution function having zero mean and standard deviation. In the study the test has been employed for SDI series considering 99% upper and lower confidence limits.

**Graphical ITA** Şen (2012) is introduced ITA approximation in which trends are investigated visually. The methodology's implementation process is thoroughly documented in the existing literature (Şen 2012; Vinod and Mahesha 2024; Meskelu et al. 2024; Akhundzadah 2024; Singh et al. 2024). A typical example of graphical ITA has been given with Fig. 2a. Beside of the increasing, decreasing, no-trend behaviors, a trend of any time series may exhibit a monotonic or non-monotonic cases. Since it is not easy to evaluate trends in care of monotony as well as the trend behaviors in drought categories from Fig. 2a, ITA are devel-



**Fig. 2** Graphical description of **a** ITA method by (Şen 2012) and **b** Developed ITA (Yuce et al. 2023)

oped by Yuce et al. (2023) with 5 vertical lines and 5 horizontal lines added in order to be able to assess trends of time series in detail as it is shown by Fig. 2b. Therefore in this study, unlike the other trend techniques explained above, via Yuce et al. (2023)'s technique trends are evaluated based on drought categories which is compatible with Table 1.

## 2.4 Software Utilized in Calculations

In all calculations of the research, a free version of R studio has been by Team (2022) has been utilized. A licensed version of ArcGIS desktop software was utilized to create detailed maps and implement the IDW technique.

## 3 Data and Study Area

Euphrates Basin which has  $40^{\circ} 20' 26''$ ,  $36^{\circ} 39' 17''$  North latitudes and  $36^{\circ} 46' 36''$ ,  $43^{\circ} 48' 10''$  East longitudes has total area of  $122.010 \text{ km}^2$  ( $\sim 16\%$  of Turkey) and a part of the Euphrates-Tigris Basin. Sub-basins of the basin are Karasu Stream ( $37.515 \text{ km}^2$ ), Murat Stream ( $25.959 \text{ km}^2$ ), Middle Euphrates ( $16.558 \text{ km}^2$ ) and Lower Euphrates ( $41.976 \text{ km}^2$ ). The basin has neighbor basins of Yeşilırmak, Kızılırmak, Asi, Tigris, Çoruh and Van. The most important river of the basin is Euphrates River which is the most productive basin of the Turkey (SYGM, 2020). As the basin has a wide area around the Euphrates River, the climate conditions vary from region to region. In the parts of basin in Southeastern Anatolia Region, summers are hot and dry while winters are cold due to continental climate conditions. In the eastern part of region, winters are cold while summers are cool (SYGM, 2020). Besides mean annual precipitation and mean annual temperature have been reported as in Karasu Stream Subbasin  $585,2 \text{ mm}$  and  $10.2^{\circ} \text{C}$ , in Murat Stream Subbasin  $566,4 \text{ mm}$  and  $8.2^{\circ} \text{C}$ , in Middle Euphrates Subbasin  $428,7 \text{ mm}$  and  $11.4^{\circ} \text{C}$ , in Lower Euphrates  $547,8 \text{ mm}$  and  $16.6^{\circ} \text{C}$  respectively by (SYGM, 2020). The basin area mainly consists mainly by agricultural areas ( $43.11\%$ ) and forests ( $53.18\%$ ). In the study, mean monthly streamflow data of 36 stations which have taken from General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI) of Turkey have been used and locations as well as the map of the basin have been given in Fig. 3. Numerical information of used stations has been given in Table 2.

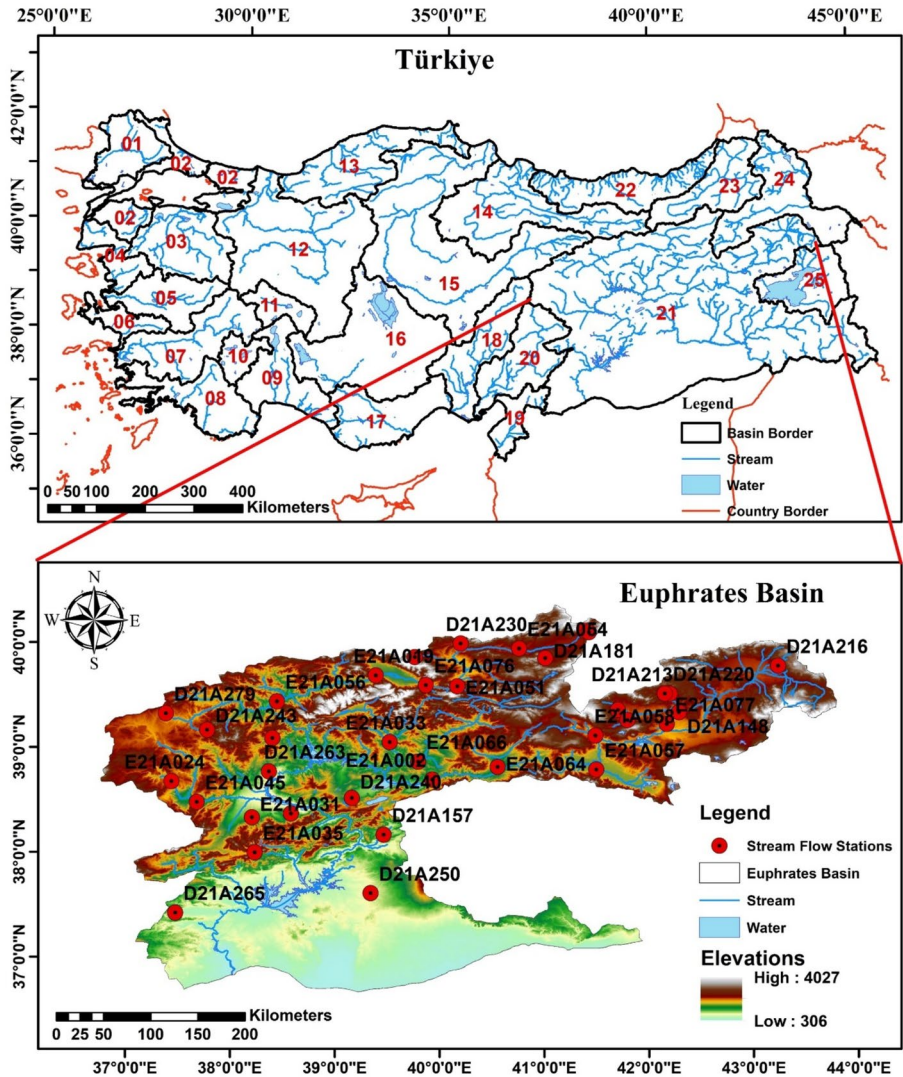


Fig. 3 The location of selected streamflow station in Euphrates Basin

## 4 Results and Discussion

### 4.1 Assessment of Hydrological Drought in the Euphrates Basin

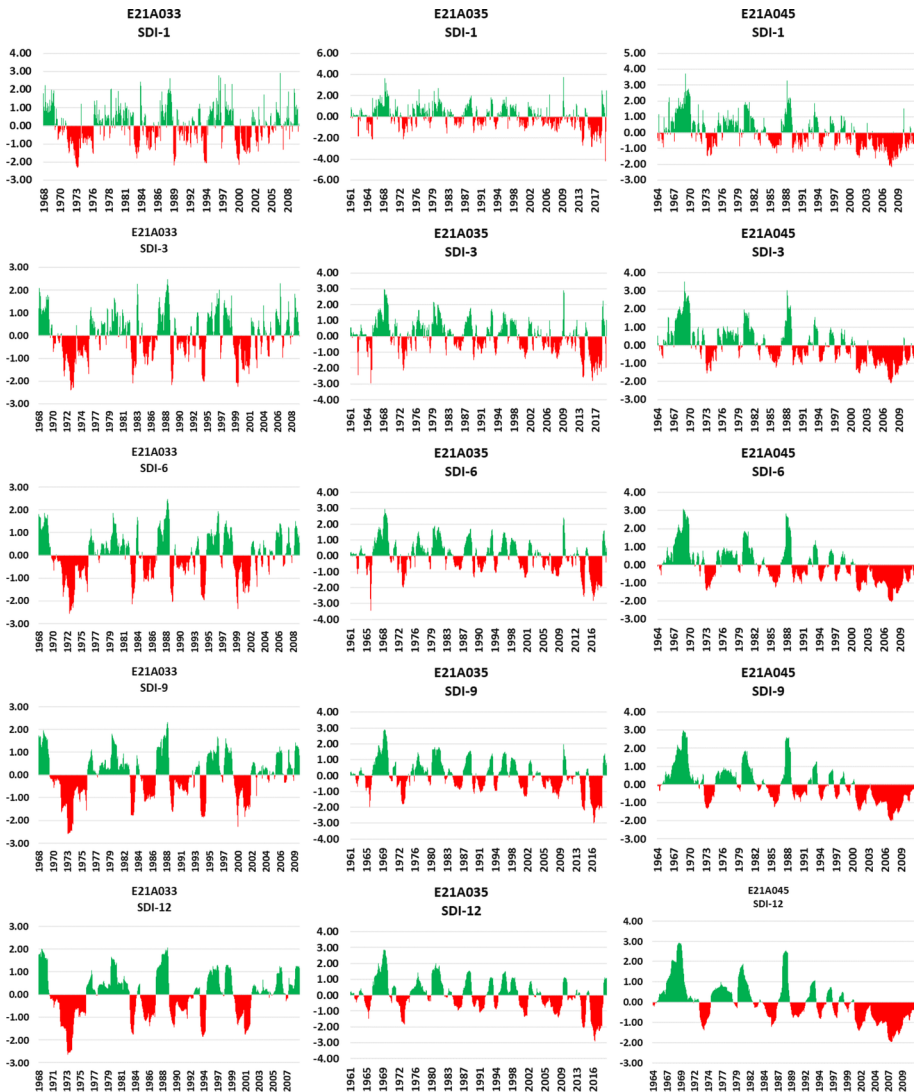
To comprehensively assess potential hydrological droughts within the basin, SDI were calculated for time scales of 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12 months. To facilitate a visual analysis of SDI values across stations and time scales, diagnostic charts were developed, employing a color scheme with red indicating dry periods and green signifying wet periods. A part of them has been given as examples with Fig. 4 while all of the charts belonging all time scales of all stations have been given in Supplementary. For example, in E21 A045 station (1964–2011),

**Table 2** Information of used stations in Euphrates basin

Station	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Elevation	Data Interval	Min. Flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Max. Flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Mean Flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Std. Deviation	Coefficient of Variance	Kurtosis	Coef- ficient of Skewness
D21 A001	40°6'29"	41°23'8"	1830	1962–2019	0.14	19.06	2.65	2.82	1.07	5.24	2.24
D21 A121	38°21'57"	38°34'58"	752	1986–2019	0.00	9.95	1.27	1.65	1.30	4.26	1.95
D21 A148	39°19'52"	42°16'59"	1465	1997–2016	0.76	80.26	15.72	15.63	0.99	2.80	1.87
D21 A152	40°5'41"	41°25'32"	1950	1977–2019	0.03	5.39	0.89	0.90	1.02	4.62	2.11
D21 A157	38°9'48"	39°28'1"	657	1987–2017	0.05	54.35	6.01	7.83	1.30	5.61	2.07
D21 A166	39°21'11"	41°42'6"	1700	1987–2011	0.51	15.87	3.21	2.96	0.92	4.46	2.08
D21 A169	39°15'24"	41°47'37"	1600	1979–2019	0.20	27.92	3.34	4.81	1.44	6.86	2.55
D21 A181	39°50'49"	41°0'30"	1942	1983–2019	0.00	2.78	0.27	0.35	1.30	9.71	2.84
D21 A193	39°5'7"	38°24'25"	1000	1985–2019	0.04	63.93	6.19	7.96	1.29	11.32	2.87
D21 A213	39°30'27"	42°11'52"	1810	1986–2019	0.00	8.86	0.68	1.15	1.69	11.62	3.06
D21 A216	39°46'32"	43°13'45"	1805	1986–2019	0.00	9.20	1.09	1.47	1.35	6.48	2.51
D21 A220	39°30'35"	42°8'55"	1749	1986–2019	0.00	15.25	2.03	2.67	1.32	6.60	2.55
D21 A230	39°59'10"	40°12'10"	1951	1987–2019	0.01	6.38	0.68	0.94	1.39	9.12	2.73
D21 A240	38°30'46"	39°9'52"	975	1991–2018	0.00	17.67	0.82	1.82	2.22	41.42	5.64
D21 A243	39°9'49"	37°47'2"	1610	1988–2019	0.00	20.45	0.91	1.81	1.99	47.57	5.62
D21 A250	37°36'19"	39°20'37"	735	1990–2019	0.00	9.69	0.81	1.48	1.83	11.98	3.06
D21 A252	39°51'26"	39°45'56"	1976	1990–2019	0.20	9.23	1.98	1.88	0.95	1.54	1.52
D21 A263	38°46'0"	38°22'24"	831	1999–2019	0.00	6.58	0.76	1.02	1.35	6.46	2.28
D21 A265	37°25'14"	37°28'46"	591	1992–2018	0.00	3.80	0.37	0.54	1.48	10.12	2.87
D21 A279	39°19'16"	37°23'28"	1488	1998–2019	0.00	8.12	0.94	1.49	1.60	5.53	2.33
E21 A002	38°41'18"	39°55'52"	852	1968–2011	13.98	1893.70	244.17	319.68	1.31	5.81	2.35
E21 A019	39°40'57"	39°23'35"	1123	1995–2019	16.86	427.74	81.52	71.17	0.87	4.55	2.14
E21 A024	38°40'23"	37°26'35"	1193	1963–2018	0.62	36.27	6.77	4.05	0.60	9.73	2.06
E21 A031	38°19'47"	38°12'38"	892	1957–2018	0.17	18.07	1.55	2.02	1.31	19.93	3.94
E21 A033	39°2'45"	39°31'34"	875	1968–2009	19.01	436.80	88.42	76.44	0.86	3.27	1.87
E21 A035	37°59'38"	38°14'13"	1252	1961–2019	0.00	16.93	3.68	2.47	0.67	3.47	1.66
E21 A045	38°28'34"	37°41'8"	933	1964–2011	6.37	151.84	22.11	13.29	0.60	22.04	3.63

Table 2 (continued)

Station	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Elevation	Data Interval	Min. Flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Max. Flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Mean Flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Std. Deviation	Coefficient of Variance	Kurtosis	Coef- ficient of Skewness
E21 A051	39°34'43"	40°10'12"	1355	1964-2019	6.73	447.39	59.53	69.25	1.16	6.18	2.38
E21 A054	39°56'20"	40°45'35"	1675	1969-2010	2.01	153.08	19.65	24.13	1.23	4.62	2.16
E21 A056	39°26'5"	38°27'4"	865	1969-2011	55.82	667.68	150.13	107.71	0.72	4.00	2.02
E21 A057	38°47'2"	41°29'43"	1250	1969-2007	0.77	233.50	24.97	35.65	1.43	8.07	2.65
E21 A058	39°6'30"	41°29'14"	1310	1969-2017	1.52	133.86	18.38	25.11	1.37	4.45	2.17
E21 A064	38°48'31"	40°33'17"	990	1969-2018	0.72	285.57	32.23	46.95	1.46	5.67	2.35
E21 A066	38°51'33"	39°47'47"	840	1970-2011	1.67	509.39	77.36	87.29	1.13	5.06	2.18
E21 A076	39°35'24"	39°52'14"	1225	1984-2019	0.00	10.86	1.61	1.66	1.03	5.97	2.29
E21 A077	39°13'10"	42°10'6"	1452	1986-2015	1.78	197.74	28.38	35.02	1.23	6.27	2.45



**Fig. 4** Time series of SDI based on dry (red) and wet (green) periods

SDI clearly shows the distinction between dry periods ( $SDI < 0$ ) and wet periods ( $SDI \geq 0$ ) throughout the data range. At station E21 A045, located near the central basin area, significant drought conditions have occurred predominantly in the 2000 s, while wetter conditions were primarily observed in earlier time periods. This pattern of increasing drought events in recent years is consistent across all monitoring stations in the region.

According to Table 3, which summarizes the percentage distribution of drought categories and wet conditions ( $SDI \geq 0$ ), mild drought and wet conditions were the most frequently occurring categories across all time scales and stations, consistently showing the highest percentage of occurrences. According to Table 3, it seems that Mild drought has got its

**Table 3** Statistics of drought and wet categories

	SDI-1	SDI-3	SDI-6	SDI-9	SDI-12
Minimum Percentages of Drought and Wet ( $SDI \geq 0$ ) Categories					
Mild	15.625	16.071	16.369	16.220	16.369
Moderate	4.000	4.583	3.750	4.167	2.206
Severe	0	1.235	1.667	0.450	1.006
Extreme	0	0.556	1.075	1.563	1.882
Wet ( $SDI \geq 0$ )	25.000	36.937	40.476	39.583	39.881
Stations of Minimum Percentages					
Mild	E21 A024	E21 A024	E21 A024	E21 A024	E21 A024
Wet ( $SDI \geq 0$ )	D21 A181	D21 A181	D21 A240	D21 A241	D21 A240
Maximum Percentages of Drought and Wet ( $SDI \geq 0$ ) Categories					
Mild	64.414	51.802	47.619	46.726	44.643
Moderate	11.905	11.828	14.773	16.333	15.530
Severe	12.054	12.649	12.500	12.202	12.054
Extreme	5.000	6.111	6.944	9.069	11.275
Wet ( $SDI \geq 0$ )	71.389	62.054	61.607	62.202	62.054
Stations of Maximum Percentages					
Mild	D21 A181	D21 A181	D21 A240	D21 A240	D21 A240
Wet ( $SDI \geq 0$ )	D21 A250	E21 A024	E21 A024	E21 A024	E21 A024

minimum (15.625%) in SDI-1 while reaches its maximum in SDI-1 (64.6414) among all time scales. When all time scales are compared, moderate drought has been observed with its smallest in SDI-12 (2.206%) while the highest of it can be observed as 16.333% in SDI-9. Severe droughts are detected with its minimum as 0% in SDI-1 and its maximum has been recorded as 12.649 in SDI-3. The extreme drought category showed its lowest occurrence at 0% in SDI-1, while reaching its maximum at 11.275% in SDI-12. Wet conditions ( $SDI \geq 0$ ) ranged from a minimum of 25% in SDI-1 to a maximum of 71.389%, also in SDI-1. Overall analysis confirms that mild drought is the most frequently occurring drought type across all time scales throughout the basin. When minimum and maximum percentages are investigated only extreme drought class shown a constant behavior in which percentages are increasing with the increment of time scale.

Another assessment by considering categorization criteria has been done based on dry ( $SDI < 0$ ) and wet ( $SDI \geq 0$ ) category in Fig. 5. When SDI values are classified as dry ( $SDI < 0$ ) and wet ( $SDI \geq 0$ ), in SDI-1 and SDI-3 dry has a superiority upon wet, while in SDI-6 and SDI-9 wet has the superiority in terms of number of stations. In SDI-12 both groups have equal magnitude. From this point of view, in SDI-1 and SDI-3 drought events are more serious than SDI-6 and SDI-9-time scales in which even there is a slight difference between dry and wet.

## 4.2 Spatial Distribution of Drought and Wet Categories

Using IDW interpolation, we analyzed drought categories based on occurrence percentages across different time scales, with results shown in Fig. 6. For SDI-1, mild drought (15.65–64.41%) was highest in upper eastern areas, while moderate drought (4.01–11.89%)

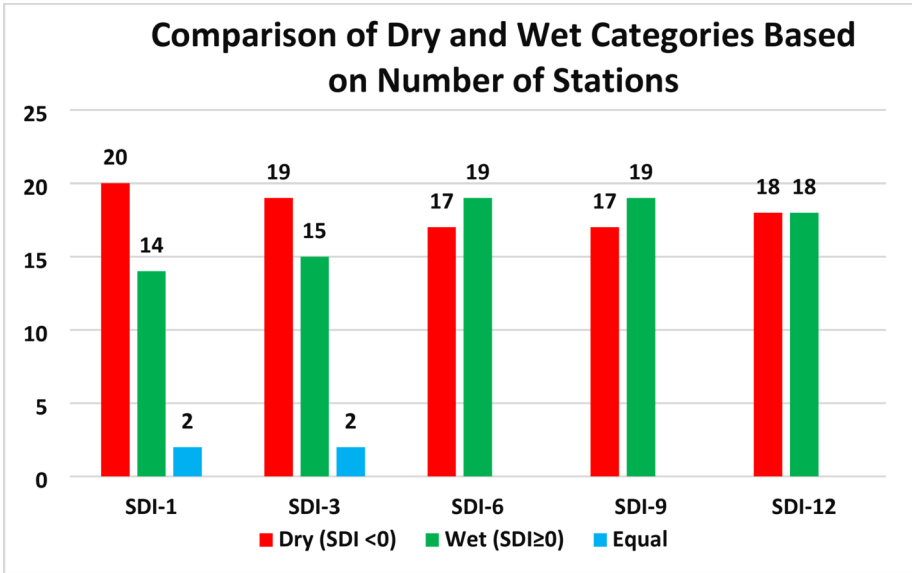


Fig. 5 Comparison of dry (SDI < 0) and wet (SDI ≥ 0) categories based on number of stations

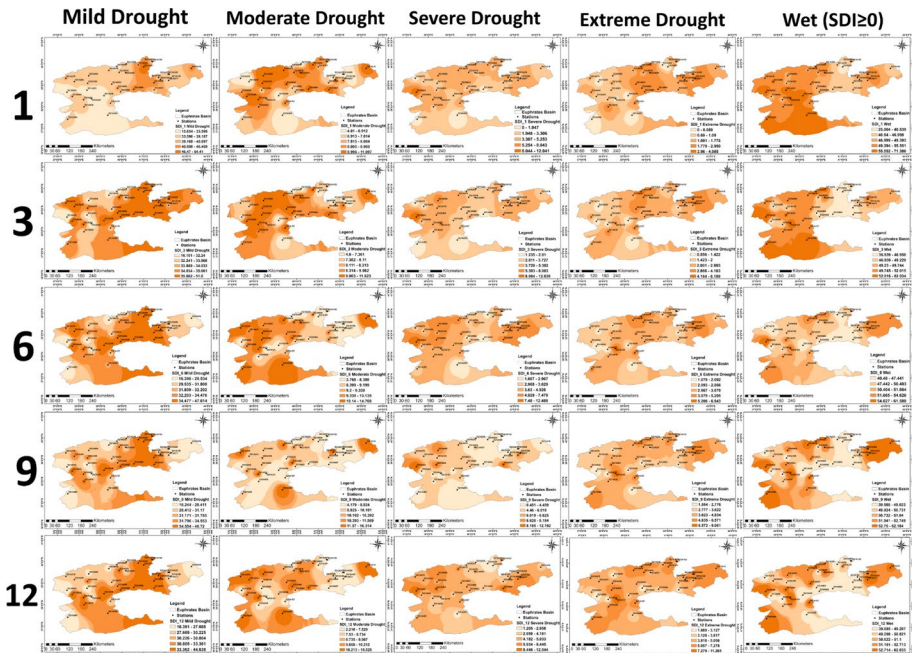


Fig. 6 Spatial distribution results of drought and wet categories in all time scales

primarily affected northern regions and portions of the middle-west and upper-east. Severe drought (1.94–5.25%) affected nearly the entire basin, with highest intensity in a small western section. Extreme drought (0–4.98%) was most severe in northern and upper eastern areas. Wet conditions ( $SDI \geq 0$ , 25–71.38%) were predominantly observed in northern regions including upper western areas, and in middle and southern portions of the basin.

For SDI-3, mild drought conditions (16.1–51.8%) were most prevalent in upper regions, parts of upper and lower western areas, middle upper eastern sections, and southeast regions. Moderate drought (4.6–11.82%) was highest in northern areas, the western middle section, and small portions of the upper east. Severe drought (1.23–12.63%) peaked in a small section of the upper east, while most of the basin experienced lower levels of severe drought (2.81–5.3%). Extreme drought (0.556–6.109%) was most intense in northern areas and parts of the upper east. Wet conditions (36.93–62.03%) were primarily observed in upper and lower eastern regions, southern areas, and small northern sections.

For SDI-6, mild drought (16.39–47.61%) extended throughout the basin, with higher concentrations in northern regions including areas near the west and east, the eastern middle section, and the southeast. Moderate drought (3.76–14.76%) showed greatest intensity in portions of the north including the northwest, a small northeastern area, and the lower west and south regions. Severe drought (1.66–12.48%) was most pronounced in upper areas including parts of the upper west and east. Extreme drought (1.07–6.94%) followed a distribution pattern similar to SDI-3 with minor variations. Wet conditions (40.48–61.58%) were most prevalent in a small northern section, a significant portion of the east, and in limited areas of the upper and lower east. Notably, compared to SDI-3, the regions experiencing higher levels of wet conditions decreased.

For SDI-9, mild drought (16.24–46.72%) was most pronounced in northeastern areas, some middle sections, and the southeast region. Moderate drought (4.17–16.31%) showed higher values in small portions of the north, south, northeast, and middle areas, with most of the basin experiencing the lower end of this range (4.17–10.10%). Severe drought (0.451–12.19%) reached peak intensity in small sections of the upper west, north, and upper middle regions, though most areas experienced lower severity levels. Extreme drought (1.56–9.06%) was most significant in small parts of the north, northeast, middle, and lower west. Wet conditions (39.58–62.18%) were concentrated in the north, northeast, a narrow strip of upper west, and small portions of the middle and lower west.

In SDI-12, mild drought (16.39–44.63%) was most severe in the northeastern areas, much of the middle region, and southern areas, particularly the southeast. Central regions showed increased susceptibility to mild drought compared to SDI-9. Moderate drought (2.21–15.52%) exhibited higher intensities in the north (especially northwest), a small northeastern section, parts of the middle, lower east, and south, with affected regions becoming larger and more evenly distributed than in SDI-9. Severe drought (1.20–12.04%) primarily manifested in lower to middle intensity ranges across most of the basin, with highest values in upper regions, parts of the north including northeast. Extreme drought (1.88–11.26%) peaked in portions of the north, northeast, and small sections of the middle and lower west. Wet conditions (39.88–62.03%) were most prevalent in northern, northeastern, and northwestern regions, as well as parts of the middle and lower west.

Overall, the findings of IDW analysis have demonstrated that many portions of the basin are under the risk of hydrological droughts. The spatial distribution of hydrological droughts over the basin changes according to either time scale or drought category.

### 4.3 Trend Detection Tests Results

Obtained SDI series are tested by using MK test for detection of possible trends in time series. Test results are evaluated for significance level of  $\alpha = 0.01$  which corresponds to  $Z = \pm 2.576$  and given in Fig. 7. Significant decreasing trends were observed in 14 stations for SDI-1, 18 stations for SDI-3, 20 stations for SDI-6, 19 stations for SDI-9, and 22 stations for SDI-12. This analysis suggests that a substantial proportion of stations (approximately half) exhibited significant decreasing trends across nearly all investigated time scales. Moreover, 12 stations which are D21 A121, D21 A169, D21 A181, D21 A213, D21 A220, D21 A240, D21 A265, E21 A024, E21 A031, E21 A035, E21 A045, E21 A077 have

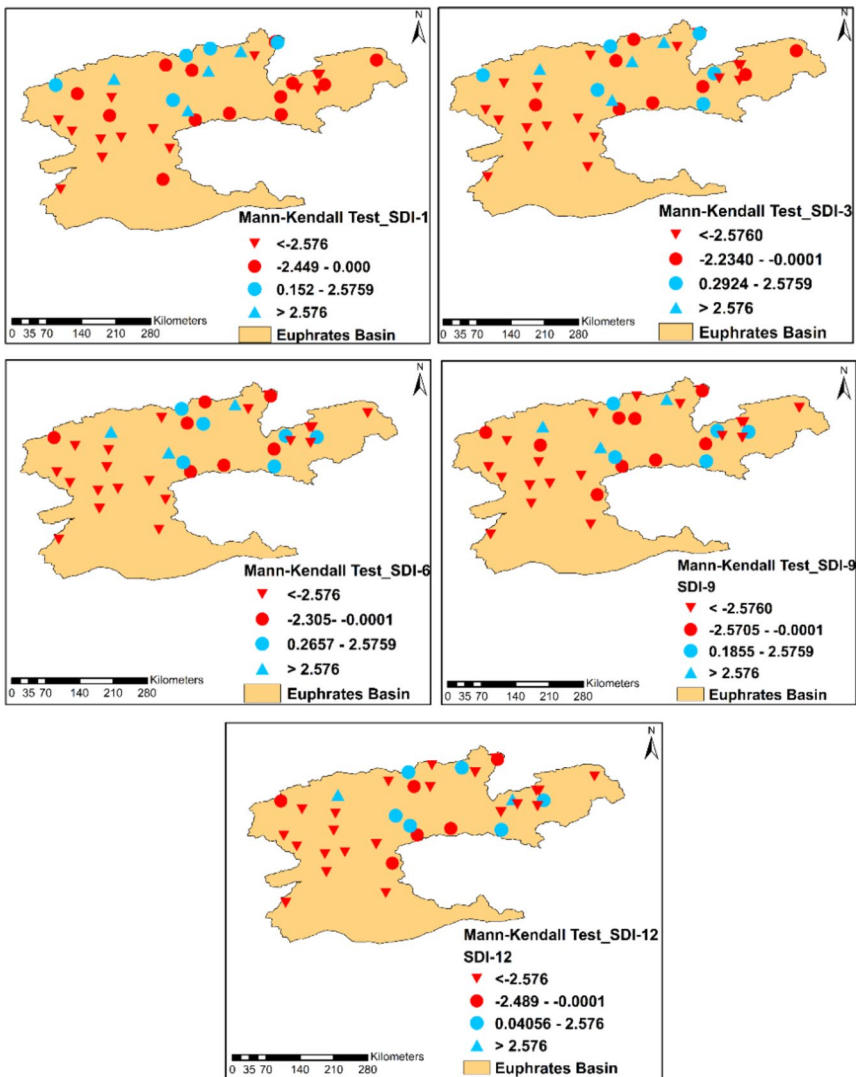


Fig. 7 Mann-Kendall test results for all time scales over Euphrates Basin

demonstrated significant decreasing trends in all time scales while 5 stations (D21 A001, D21 A193, D21 A243, D21 A250, E21 A019) have significant decreasing trends in four timescales. Figure 7 reveals a spatial concentration of negative decreasing trends primarily within the western and central regions of the study area. Furthermore, significant increasing trends were observed in 4 stations for SDI-1, 4 stations for SDI-3, 3 stations for SDI-6, 3 stations for SDI-9, and 2 stations for SDI-12. Notably, station E21 A056 exhibited significant increasing trends across all time scales, while station E21 A054 demonstrated significant trends in four-time scales. Beside of significant cases, there have been non-significant results. For example, in SDI-1 13(5), in SDI-3 8(6), in SDI-6 7(5), in SDI-9 9(5), in SDI-12 6(6) stations possess decreasing trends (increasing trends). However, these trends are not significant when considering significance level of  $\alpha = 0.01$  ( $Z = \pm 2.576$ ). But again, superiority of decreasing trends is prevalent in the basin in all time scales except at SDI-12.

Via SR Test SDI series are tested for possible trend detection. Similar to the MK Test, trends are assessed considering significance level of  $\alpha = 0.01$  which corresponds to  $Z = \pm 2.576$ . Results are illustrated in Fig. 8. The results demonstrate that significant decreasing trends are observed in 14 stations for SDI-1, 17 stations for SDI-3, 20 stations for SDI-6, 21 stations for SDI-9, and 21 stations for SDI-12. In 13 stations which are D21 A121, D21 A169, D21 A181, D21 A193, D21 A213, D21 A220, D21 A240, D21 A265, E21 A024, E21 A031, E21 A035, E21 A045, E21 A077 all time scales have significant decreasing trends while 4 stations (D21 A001, D21 A157, D21 A243, D21 A250) have significant trends in four-time scales. Similar to MK test, significant decreasing trends have been mostly observed in west and middle. Also, In SDI-1 4 stations, in SDI-3 4 stations, in SDI-6 2 stations, in SDI-9 2 stations, in SDI-12 2 stations have shown significant increasing trend behavior. Similar to MK test, only E21 A056 station have shown a significant increasing trend in all time scales while E21 A054 station have significant trends in all time scales. When it comes to non-significant cases, in SDI-1 13(5), in SDI-3 9(6), in SDI-6 6(8), in SDI-9 7(6), in SDI-12 7(6) stations have given non-significant decreasing (increasing) trends. Again, either in significant or non-significant cases, there has been a superiority of decreasing trends over the basin except at SDI-6 in non-significant cases.

In another trend detection test which is Wilcoxon Test, trend results have been illustrated in Fig. 9. The findings have revealed that in SDI-1 15 stations, in SDI-3 17 stations, in SDI-6 17 stations, in SDI-9 16 stations, in SDI-12 20 stations have shown a significant decreasing trend behavior based on significance level of  $\alpha = 0.01$  ( $Z = \pm 2.576$ ). In 12 stations that are D21 A121, D21 A169, D21 A181, D21 A193, D21 A213, D21 A240, D21 A265, E21 A024, E21 A031, E21 A035, E21 A045, E21 A077 all time scales have significant decreasing trends while the stations of D21 A243 and E21 A019 have significant decreasing trends in four-time scales. Besides, a significant increasing trend behavior has been observed as in SDI-1 4 stations, in SDI-3 5 stations, in SDI-6 2 stations, in SDI-9 2 stations, in SDI-12 2 stations. In E21 A056 station all time scales have significant increasing trends while D21 A252 there have been four-time scales having significant increasing trends. Similar to Mann-Kendall and Spearman Rho's Test, non-significant trends have been observed. In SDI-1 11(6), in SDI-3 9(5), in SDI-6 8(9), in SDI-9 15(3), in SDI-12 11(3) stations have demonstrated non-significant decreasing(increasing) trends. Again, by this test, it is also very attractive that there has been a superiority of decreasing trends either in significant or non-significant cases, except at SDI-6 of non-significant case which is similar to non-significant case of SDI-6 of Spearman's Rho Test.

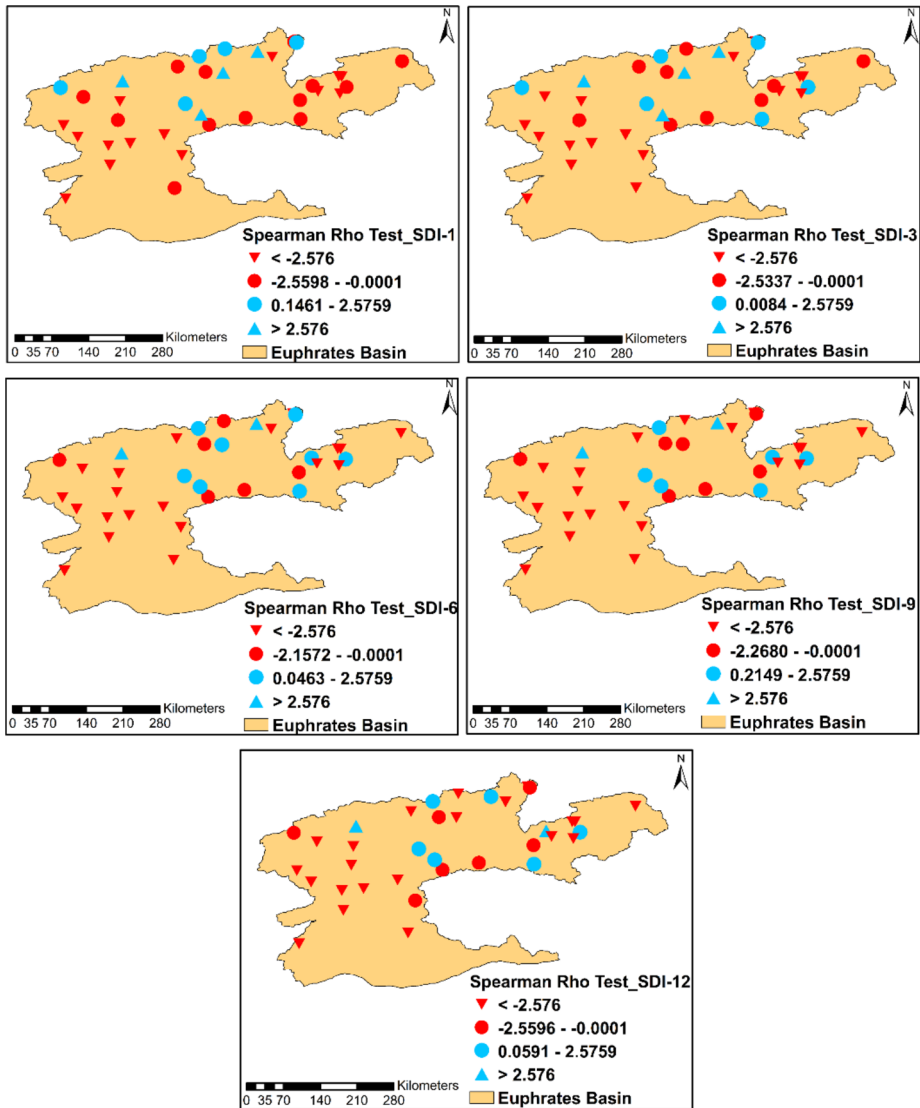
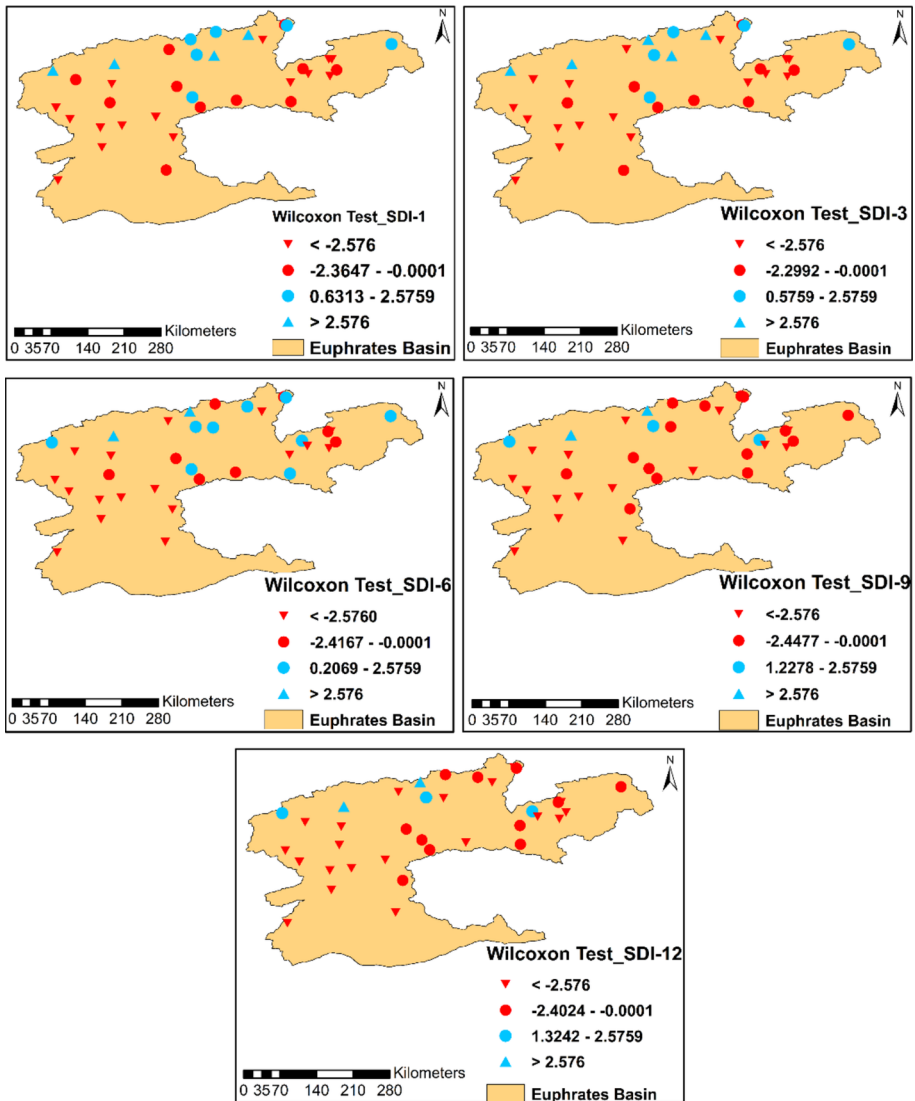


Fig. 8 Spearman’s Rho test results for all time scales over Euphrates Basin

Using Sen’s Slope Estimator, trend slopes were calculated, and the results are presented in Fig. 10. The analysis reveals declining trends across multiple time scales: 27 stations in SDI-1, 26 in SDI-3, 26 in SDI-6, 28 in SDI-9, and 28 in SDI-12. Notably, 24 stations exhibit declining trends across all time scales. Conversely, increasing trends were observed in 8 stations for SDI-1, 10 for SDI-3, 9 for SDI-6, 8 for SDI-9, and 7 for SDI-12. Four stations—D21 A252, E21 A033, E21 A056, and E21 A066—show increasing trends across all time scales, while D21 A166 and E21 A057 exhibit increasing trends in four out of five-time scales. Additionally, no trend was detected in specific cases: SDI-12 for D21 A148, SDI-6



**Fig. 9** Wilcoxon test results for all time scales over Euphrates Basin

for D21 A152, and SDI-1 for D21 A230, as indicated by a trend slope of zero. Similar to the findings of the previous three tests, decreasing trends dominate across the basin.

The ITA significance test results are tabulated in Table 4. In the table,  $\nabla$  shows significant decreasing trend,  $\uparrow$  indicates significant increasing trend and  $\emptyset$  means no significant trend exists for the selected confidence level. The analysis revealed significant decreasing trends in 24 stations for SDI-1, 25 stations for SDI-3, 27 stations for SDI-6, 28 stations for SDI-9, and 29 stations for SDI-12. Notably, 22 out of 36 stations demonstrated significant decreasing trends across all time scales, with stations D21 A001 and E21 A064 exhibiting significant decreases in all time scales. Conversely, significant increasing trends were

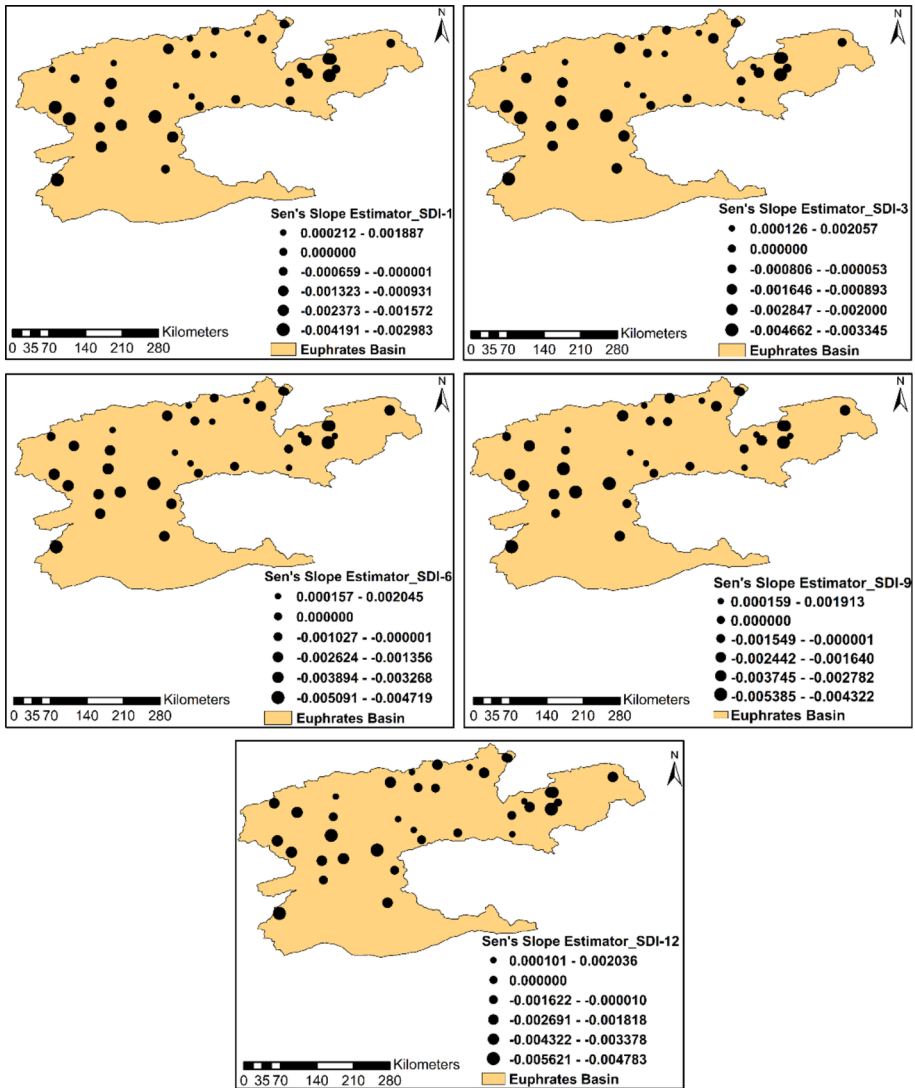





Fig. 10 Sen's Slope test results for all time scales over Euphrates Basin

observed in 10 stations for SDI-1, 9 stations for SDI-3, 7 stations for SDI-6, 4 stations for SDI-9, and 4 stations for SDI-12. In the stations of D21 A252, D21 A279, E21 A056, E21 A076 all time scales have significant trends. When it comes to no significant trend case it has been recorded that in SDI-1 2 stations, in SDI-3 2 stations, in SDI-6 2 stations, in SDI-9 4 stations, in SDI-12 3 stations no significant trends have been existed. Similar to other tests, it is again very clear that decreasing trends have dominated the basin.

In the graphical ITA assessment groups have been categorized as Mild Drought (MD), Moderate Drought (MOD), Severe and Extreme Drought (SED) which indicates a combination of the last two drought categories ( $SDI \leq -1.5$ ), Mild Wet (MW), Moderate Wet (MOW),

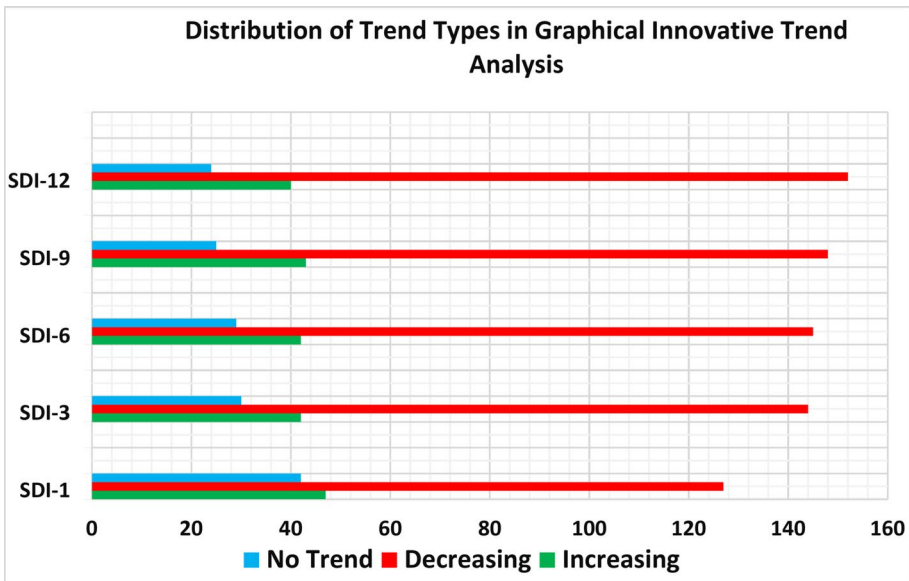
**Table 4** Innovative trend significance test results (↓: significant decreasing trend, ↑: significant increasing trend, 0: no significant trend)

Station	Time Scale												Type of Trends															
	TS	LCL (99%)	LCL (90%)	TS	LCL (99%)	LCL (90%)	TS	LCL (99%)	LCL (90%)	TS	LCL (99%)	LCL (90%)		TS	LCL (99%)	LCL (90%)												
D21A00	-0.000040	-0.000517	0.000517	-0.001829	-0.000602	0.000602	-0.000492	-0.000701	0.000701	-0.000548	-0.000697	0.000697	-0.000772	-0.000527	0.000527	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A12	-0.002160	-0.000836	0.000836	-0.002171	-0.000856	0.000856	-0.002344	-0.0001125	0.0001125	-0.000484	-0.0001291	0.0001291	-0.000489	-0.0002114	0.0002114	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A48	-0.000284	-0.000083	0.000083	-0.000284	-0.000083	0.000083	-0.000284	-0.000083	0.000083	-0.000284	-0.000083	0.000083	-0.000284	-0.000083	0.000083	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A152	-0.000284	-0.000083	0.000083	-0.000284	-0.000083	0.000083	-0.000284	-0.000083	0.000083	-0.000284	-0.000083	0.000083	-0.000284	-0.000083	0.000083	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A157	-0.001729	-0.000829	0.000829	-0.001845	-0.000794	0.000794	-0.001694	-0.0001194	0.0001194	-0.001425	-0.0001245	0.0001245	-0.001282	-0.0001345	0.0001345	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A160	-0.001329	-0.000546	0.000546	-0.001123	-0.000258	0.000258	-0.000303	-0.000273	0.000273	-0.000167	-0.0001599	0.0001599	-0.0001374	-0.0000896	0.0000896	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A169	-0.001539	-0.000669	0.000669	-0.001749	-0.000655	0.000655	-0.002123	-0.000701	0.000701	-0.000444	-0.000706	0.000706	-0.002775	-0.0001061	0.0001061	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A181	-0.0019496	-0.0001996	0.0001996	-0.0021324	-0.0001452	0.0001452	-0.002157	-0.0002166	0.0002166	-0.001479	-0.0002077	0.0002077	-0.002105	-0.0001580	0.0001580	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A193	-0.0012946	-0.0001983	0.0001983	-0.0014598	-0.0001653	0.0001653	-0.0014885	-0.0000917	0.0000917	-0.0014622	-0.0001125	0.0001125	-0.001340	-0.0001937	0.0001937	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A211	-0.0015225	-0.0001208	0.0001208	-0.0018057	-0.0000838	0.0000838	-0.0022540	-0.0000919	0.0000919	-0.0002395	-0.0001271	0.0001271	-0.002539	-0.0001255	0.0001255	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A216	-0.0002532	-0.0001038	0.0001038	-0.000114	-0.0001168	0.0001168	-0.0003033	-0.0001083	0.0001083	-0.0002722	-0.0001160	0.0001160	-0.000496	-0.0001399	0.0001399	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A220	-0.0018115	-0.0001330	0.0001330	-0.0017945	-0.0001086	0.0001086	-0.001869	-0.0000957	0.0000957	-0.0014265	-0.0001282	0.0001282	-0.001472	-0.0001243	0.0001243	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A230	-0.0004026	-0.0000889	0.0000889	-0.0001856	-0.0001497	0.0001497	-0.0002800	-0.0001873	0.0001873	-0.0007727	-0.0001935	0.0001935	-0.0002792	-0.0002792	0.0002792	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A240	-0.0021742	-0.0002088	0.0002088	-0.0041817	-0.0001693	0.0001693	-0.0025714	-0.0002318	0.0002318	-0.0006851	-0.0002730	0.0002730	-0.0004646	-0.0002522	0.0002522	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A241	-0.000598	-0.0000884	0.0000884	-0.0011546	-0.0001103	0.0001103	-0.002478	-0.0001741	0.0001741	-0.0002789	-0.0002009	0.0002009	-0.0002845	-0.0002845	0.0002845	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A250	-0.0002835	-0.0000820	0.0000820	-0.0006376	-0.0001022	0.0001022	-0.0012937	-0.0001379	0.0001379	-0.0017670	-0.0001614	0.0001614	-0.0021763	-0.0001805	0.0001805	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A252	-0.0016948	-0.0000989	0.0000989	-0.0021794	-0.0001474	0.0001474	-0.0024463	-0.0001919	0.0001919	-0.0024892	-0.0001910	0.0001910	-0.0025796	-0.0002075	0.0002075	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A261	-0.0008895	-0.0001471	0.0001471	-0.0006072	-0.0001522	0.0001522	-0.0018602	-0.0001532	0.0001532	-0.0021113	-0.0001269	0.0001269	-0.0023372	-0.0001372	0.0001372	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A263	-0.0001760	-0.0001831	0.0001831	-0.0046731	-0.0001089	0.0001089	-0.0058386	-0.0001600	0.0001600	-0.0002040	-0.0002306	0.0002306	-0.0051847	-0.0002894	0.0002894	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
D21A279	-0.0025470	-0.0002540	0.0002540	-0.0026458	-0.0002716	0.0002716	-0.0026652	-0.0001149	0.0001149	-0.00034010	-0.0002323	0.0002323	-0.0022950	-0.0003496	0.0003496	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E1A002	-0.0006939	-0.0000772	0.0000772	-0.0007597	-0.0000858	0.0000858	-0.0007281	-0.0001167	0.0001167	-0.0006546	-0.0001318	0.0001318	-0.0007172	-0.0001721	0.0001721	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E1A019	-0.0011557	-0.0001817	0.0001817	-0.0023424	-0.0001683	0.0001683	-0.0029277	-0.0002174	0.0002174	-0.0003419	-0.0002772	0.0002772	-0.0004532	-0.0001155	0.0001155	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E1A024	-0.0008880	-0.0001880	0.0001880	-0.0017327	-0.0001166	0.0001166	-0.0037609	-0.0001193	0.0001193	-0.0007782	-0.0001203	0.0001203	-0.0037954	-0.0001223	0.0001223	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E1A031	-0.0011246	-0.0002117	0.0002117	-0.0013450	-0.0002927	0.0002927	-0.0014621	-0.000336	0.000336	-0.0018400	-0.0003021	0.0003021	-0.0019791	-0.0003566	0.0003566	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E1A033	-0.0001834	-0.0000679	0.0000679	-0.0001113	-0.0000485	0.0000485	-0.0001044	-0.0000556	0.0000556	-0.0000948	-0.0000619	0.0000619	-0.0001423	-0.0000687	0.0000687	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E1A035	-0.0004391	-0.0000403	0.0000403	-0.0014828	-0.0000297	0.0000297	-0.0014749	-0.0000440	0.0000440	-0.0015999	-0.0000618	0.0000618	-0.0017278	-0.0000714	0.0000714	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E1A045	-0.0002682	-0.0000574	0.0000574	-0.0003512	-0.0000540	0.0000540	-0.0002987	-0.0000676	0.0000676	-0.0002565	-0.0000713	0.0000713	-0.0002442	-0.0000648	0.0000648	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E1A051	-0.0013265	-0.0000957	0.0000957	-0.0018512	-0.0000590	0.0000590	-0.0003741	-0.0000713	0.0000713	-0.0003279	-0.0000807	0.0000807	-0.0007438	-0.0000899	0.0000899	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E21A054	-0.0012080	-0.0000595	0.0000595	-0.0007554	-0.0000751	0.0000751	-0.0006844	-0.0000684	0.0000684	-0.0009189	-0.0000917	0.0000917	-0.0002462	-0.0001208	0.0001208	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E21A056	-0.0017619	-0.0000955	0.0000955	-0.0017432	-0.0000991	0.0000991	-0.0015255	-0.0001411	0.0001411	-0.0013340	-0.0001742	0.0001742	-0.0012389	-0.0001957	0.0001957	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E21A057	-0.0003017	-0.0000696	0.0000696	-0.0000332	-0.0000735	0.0000735	-0.0002326	-0.0001000	0.0001000	-0.0000768	-0.0001206	0.0001206	-0.0002113	-0.0001486	0.0001486	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E21A058	-0.0001740	-0.0000488	0.0000488	-0.0000897	-0.0000474	0.0000474	-0.0000989	-0.0000444	0.0000444	-0.0000589	-0.0000398	0.0000398	-0.0001176	-0.0001109	0.0001109	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E21A064	-0.0000620	-0.0000684	0.0000684	-0.0001895	-0.0000826	0.0000826	-0.0006883	-0.0000851	0.0000851	-0.0007562	-0.0000915	0.0000915	-0.0009087	-0.0001095	0.0001095	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E21A066	-0.0001213	-0.0000108	0.0000108	-0.0001672	-0.0000825	0.0000825	-0.0000759	-0.0000660	0.0000660	-0.0001374	-0.0000538	0.0000538	-0.0005818	-0.0000798	0.0000798	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E21A076	-0.0001394	-0.0000778	0.0000778	-0.0001645	-0.0001271	0.0001271	-0.0001173	-0.0001105	0.0001105	-0.0001499	-0.0001242	0.0001242	-0.0005054	-0.0001364	0.0001364	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E21A077	-0.0003232	-0.0001222	0.0001222	-0.0001374	-0.0001171	0.0001171	-0.0004823	-0.0001303	0.0001303	-0.0002924	-0.0001572	0.0001572	-0.0004641	-0.0001849	0.0001849	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			

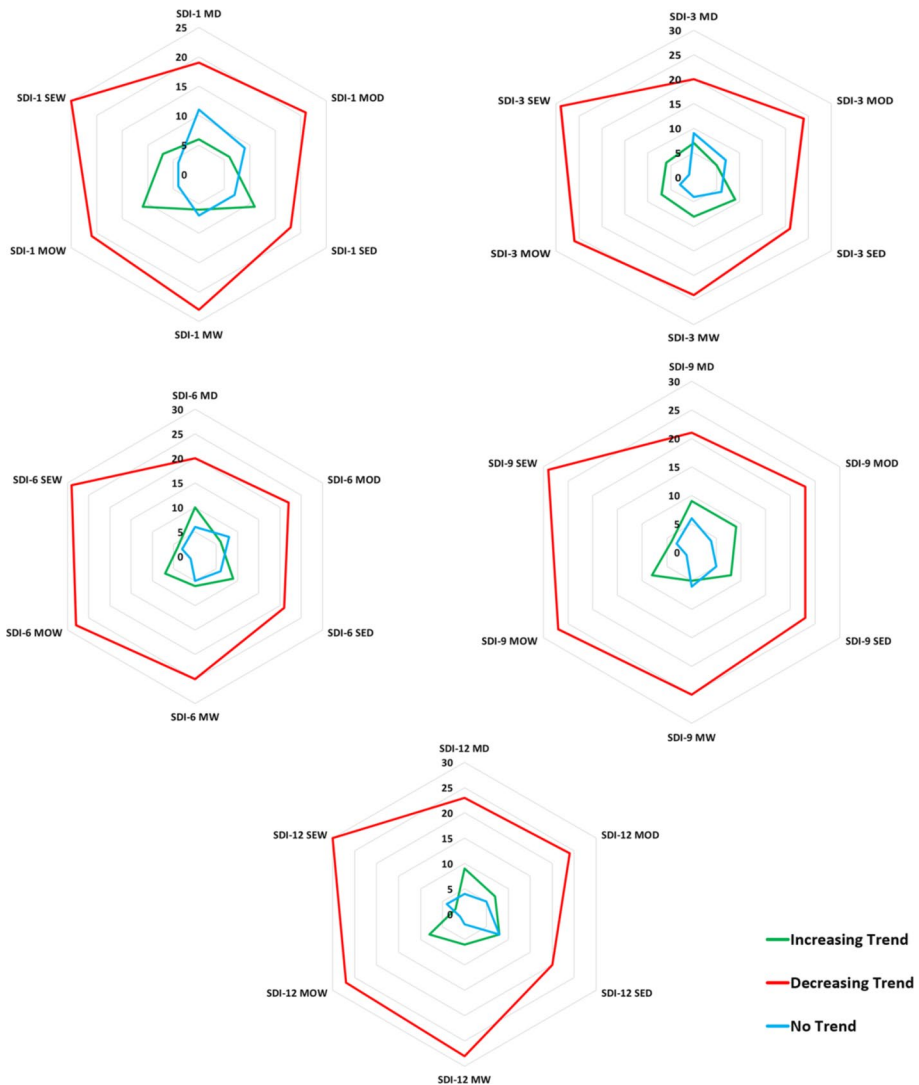
**Table 5** Graphical ITA results of selected stations in euphrates basin based on drought classification mild drought (MD), moderate drought (MOD), severe and extreme drought (SED) ( $SDI \leq -1.5$ ), mild wet (MW), moderate wet (MOW), severe and extreme wet (SEW) ( $SDI \geq 1.5$ ), : increasing trend, : decreasing trend, : no trend

Station	SDI-1						SDI-3						SDI-6						SDI-9						SDI-12					
	MD	MOD	SED	MW	MOW	SEW	MD	MOD	SED	MW	MOW	SEW	MD	MOD	SED	MW	MOW	SEW	MD	MOD	SED	MW	MOW	SEW	MD	MOD	SED	MW	MOW	SEW
D21A001	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A121	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A148	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A152	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A157	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A166	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A169	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A181	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A193	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A213	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A216	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A220	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A230	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A240	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A243	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A250	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A252	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A263	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A265	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
D21A279	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A002	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A019	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A024	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A031	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A033	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A035	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A045	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A051	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A054	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A056	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A057	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A058	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A064	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A066	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A076	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
E21A077	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		

decreasing trends. SDI-12 had the highest number of decreasing trends (152), but the fewest increasing (40) and no-trend (24) cases. Seven stations had all decreasing trends, while D21 A252 showed increasing trends in 5 groups. Figure 12 illustrates the trend distribution across time scales.



**Fig. 12** Distribution of trend types in graphical ITA test



**Fig. 13** Distribution of trend types in Mild Drought (MD), Moderate Drought (MOD), Severe and Extreme Drought (SED) ( $SDI \leq -1.5$ ), Mild Wet (MW), Moderate Wet (MOW), Severe and Extreme Wet (SEW) ( $SDI \geq 1.5$ ) by graphical ITA test

Figure 13 presents the trend patterns for drought and wet categories across time scales. Mild drought (MD) showed decreasing trends in all time scales for 18 out of 36 stations, while stations D21 A252, D21 A279, and E21 A056 showed increasing trends, and E21 A064 and E21 A066 showed no trend. Moderate drought (MOD) had decreasing trends in 14 stations, increasing in D21 A001, D21 A252, and E21 A056, and no trend in E21 A024. Severe and Extreme Drought (SED,  $SDI \leq -1.5$ ) showed decreasing trends in 10 stations, increasing in D21 A001, D21 A152, D21 A252, and E21 A054, and no trend in E21 A024. Mild wet (MW) showed decreasing trends in 19 stations, increasing in D21 A279 and E21

A056, and no trend in D21 A216. Moderate wet (MOW) had decreasing trends in 17 stations, and increasing trends in D21 A279 and E21 A057. Severe and Extreme Wet (SEW,  $SDI \geq 1.5$ ) showed decreasing trends in 21 stations and increasing trends in D21 A250.

#### 4.4 Discussion

The objective of this research was monitoring hydrological droughts for Euphrates Basin, Turkey, by examining spatiotemporal patterns considering across multiple times scales (1, 3, 6, 9, 12-month). Drought and wet events were predicted by SDI and drought and wet ( $SDI \geq 0$ ) categories were analyzed spatially by IDW for all time scales. Possible trends in time scales were tested with the tests of Mann-Kendall, Spearman's Rho, Wilcoxon Test, Innovative Trend Significance Test considering significance level of  $\alpha = 0.01$  and Sen's Slope Estimator. Even trends in drought and wet categories were analyzed by graphical ITA test.

The findings of this study have suggested that mild drought type has been the most repetitive drought type among all drought categories. In many drought monitoring studies (Gumus and Algin 2017; Ozkaya and Zerberg 2019; Altın et al. 2020; Eris et al. 2020; Simsek 2021; Gumus et al. 2021; Akturk et al. 2022; Katipoğlu and Acar 2022; Deger et al. 2023b; Yuce et al. 2023; Keskiner and Simsek 2024) mild droughts have been recorded in Turkey. In the current study except at some cases, more or less all trend techniques have put forth that decreasing trends are prevalent over the basin either in significant cases or non-significant cases. Besides, results of Sen's slope estimator have shown that many trend slopes of time scales are declining which also supports the findings of other tests. The superiority of negative trends have been emphasized by (Katipoğlu and Acar 2022) for Euphrates Basin. Again the presence of decreasing trends have been reported by (Esit et al. 2023) for Tigris Euphrates Basin. Recently, consistent significant negative trends have been reported by (Demirel et al. 2024) for Euphrates Basin. Besides, Gumus et al. (2021) has reported decreasing trends in the majority of Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP) region. Kartal and Nones (2024) has found that the trend of mean monthly streamflow values of Kızılırmak, Yeşilirmak and Sakarya Basins of Turkey are decreasing trends. In another assessment that has been performed by (Citakoglu and Minarecioglu 2021). The researchers have generally found decreasing trends in flow except at 3 stations stated that generally flow records in Kızılırmak Basin, Turkey. Even (Yuce et al. 2023) has found the decreasing trends in SDI time series by ITA significance test and in drought and wet categories by graphical ITA approximation for Yeşilirmak Basin. Many other studies (Katipoğlu et al. 2022; Robleh et al. 2024) have presented decreasing trends. Therefore, from this point of view the findings of these studies provide a good agreement with the findings of this study for the region.

#### 5 Conclusion

In the present research, a detailed study of hydrological drought has been conducted considering spatiotemporal variability patterns for multiple timescales. Overall, via the findings of this study the following conclusions have been reached.

- SDI values have shown that many drought events have formed in the past and near today. From time series given in Supplementary, it is very clear that in some stations, dry

(drought) conditions seem critical in the near past.

- Percentage occurrences of drought and wet categories have shown that among drought categories mild drought category is the most frequent. In SDI-1 and SDI-3 dry categories are superior while in SDI-6 and SDI-9 Wet ( $SDI \geq 0$ ) categories are higher with slight differences. In SDI-12 the distribution of stations has become equal. Spatial distribution of drought categories in different time scales have shown that many parts of the basin have experienced with droughts.
- Via Mann-Kendall Test, Spearman's Rho Test, Wilcoxon Test, Innovative Trend Significance Test trends in time scales have been determined. For a selected significance level of  $\alpha = 0.01$  many significant trends have been detected. Even these decreasing trends have been seen with negative trend slopes of Sen's Slope Estimator. Besides, graphical ITA results have put forth that trends in drought and wet categories have been decreasing so many times. These negative trends indicate a very critical situation in which the basin may experience with possible droughts with varying intensities or durations in the future as SDI values have continuously decreased within time. Therefore, the basin which is very critical for the country's development, economy, sustainability, water resources management must have a stronger and effective drought action plan. The findings of the study will aid researchers and local authorities, government agencies for monitoring the drought and keeping the water and environment stable.
- The findings of this study have provided significant and updated information which can be used in drought risk management strategies considering hydrological drought monitoring for Euphrates Basin. From this point, in a development of early-warning systems, water related projects and drought management; SDI based monitoring and trend implementation can give beneficial information to policy makers and decision-makers. Besides the findings of this study can be used for social awareness to prevent excessive uses of water.
- Although many valuable insights have been obtained by this research, the research is limited with analyzing hydrological droughts by suggested techniques for Euphrates Basin. Future studies could integrate one or more drought types with different techniques for a detailed assessment of regions.

**Acknowledgements** The General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI) is to be acknowledged for its contributions for providing streamflow data.

**Author Contributions** Ibrahim Halil DEGER: data gathering, material preparation, data trend analysis, interpretation of the findings, manuscript writing, editing and submission. Mehmet Ishak YUCE: data trend analysis, interpretation of the findings, manuscript writing, supervision and editing. Musa ESIT: data trend analysis, interpretation of the findings, manuscript writing, material preparation, data collection and editing.

**Funding** Open access funding provided by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK).  
Not applicable.

**Data Availability** Due to a non-disclosure agreement, the data used in the present study are not publicly accessible.

**Materials Availability** The data related to the study are available upon request.

**Code Availability** Not applicable.

## Declarations

**Ethics Approvals** Not applicable.

**Informed Consent** This study did not include any human participants or animals.

**Consent for Publication** Not applicable.

**Consent to Participate** Not applicable.

**Competing interest** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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