

TABLE 1. SIZES OF 11 MARSHES IN THE STUDY AREA.<sup>1</sup>

Marsh No.	Area	
	m <sup>2</sup>	Acres
11	8,745	2.16
3	751	0.18
2-A	394	0.10
9	234	0.06
5	186	0.05
10	172	0.04
2	157	0.04
8-A	118	0.03
8	104	0.03
1	102	0.02
6	56	0.01
Total Area	11,019	2.72

<sup>1</sup> Areas of all except Marsh 1 (area estimated) were determined with a planimeter.

The channels tend to widen imperceptibly near a seep, or marsh, then become braided. Within a marsh flow is reduced in many shallow (2-15 cm) rivulets. Substrate of the marshes is usually a dark mud. Less frequently a lighter, more calcareous, flocculent material is present.

Most marshes have no visible water outlets, and evaporation and seepage apparently balance inflow. During July and August 1965 the surface water in several marshes evaporated during the day, exposing patches of wet mud, but water was always replenished overnight. No marsh in the study area dried completely.

Two marshes (8A and 3) had small, underground exit tubes along their northeast borders, where water flowed out in small streams about 10 cm wide. Subterranean channels were further evidenced by several small (50 cm diameter) sinkholes in the grassy terrain between marshes. No surface channels connected one marsh with another, with one exception: marshes 8 and 8A. Marshes 9, 3, and 11 received their water by surface streams directly from nearly circular, spring-fed pits (posos), approximately 4 to 6 m in diameter (Fig. 5).

Much of the study area, especially the intervening grass zones outside the marshes, is periodically burned by man. Burned areas were locally extensive, but did not cover more than a few hundred or perhaps a few thousand m<sup>2</sup>. Charred grass tussocks and young second-growth plants evidenced old and recent fires over much of the area. Fires did not appear to kill larger shrubs, such as mesquite or acacia, and did not seem to cause long-term damage to marsh vegetation. During winter when vegetation is dry, some large marshes of the basin are occasionally destroyed by fires.