Package 'hydrocan'

October 19, 2026

Title Unified Access to Canadian Hydrometric Data

Version 0.0.2

Description Provides a unified interface for accessing diverse web-published hydrometric data sources across Canada, presenting users with consistent tabular output regardless of the underlying data source.

License MIT + file LICENSE

Encoding UTF-8

URL https://github.com/HakaiInstitute/hydrocan, https://hakaiinstitute.github.io/hydrocan/

BugReports https://github.com/HakaiInstitute/hydrocan/issues

Depends R (>= 4.2.0)

Imports cli, dplyr, glue, httr2, readr, tibble

Suggests httptest2, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0), withr

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/testthat/edition 3

Config/roxygen2/version 8.0.0

NeedsCompilation no

Author Sam Albers [aut, cre],
Emily Haughton [ctb] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-5756-1805>),
Tula Foundation [fnd, cph],
Canada Water Agency [fnd]

Maintainer Sam Albers <sam.albers@hakai.org>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-10-19 18:10:02 UTC

Contents

hc_citation 2
hc_list_sources 3
hc_read_daily_flows 3
hc_read_daily_levels 4
hc_read_flows 5
hc_read_levels 6
hc_read_stations 6
new_hydrocan_adapter 7
register_hydrocan_adapter 9

Index **10**

`hc_citation` *Cite a hydrocan data source*

Description

Returns a citation for a registered data source, formatted as a `bibentry()` object. The output behaves like `citation()`: it prints a human-readable reference and a BibTeX entry, and can be passed to `toBibtex()`.

Usage

```
hc_citation(source)
```

Arguments

`source`	Single character string naming the data source to cite. See `hc_list_sources()` for available names.

Value

A `bibentry()` object.

Examples

```
hc_citation("cehq")
toBibtex(hc_citation("hydroquebec"))
```

hc_list_sources *List registered data sources*

Description

Returns a summary of all data sources currently available via hydrocan, including their description and which data types they support. No network calls are made.

Usage

```
hc_list_sources()
```

Value

A tibble with columns `name` (chr), `description` (chr), `has_flows` (lgl), `has_daily_flows` (lgl), `has_levels` (lgl), `has_daily_levels` (lgl), `has_stations` (lgl), `license` (chr), `license_url` (chr), `terms_url` (chr), and `docs_url` (chr).

Examples

```
hc_list_sources()
```

hc_read_daily_flows *Retrieve daily flow summaries*

Description

Returns one value per station per calendar day as published by the data source. Not all data sources publish daily data; those that do not will produce a warning and return no rows for the affected stations.

Usage

```
hc_read_daily_flows(
  station_id,
  start_date,
  end_date = Sys.Date(),
  source = NULL
)
```

Arguments

station_id	Character vector of station identifiers.
start_date	Start of the requested period (Date, or character coercible to Date).
end_date	End of the requested period (Date, or character coercible to Date). Defaults to today.
source	Optional single character string naming the data source to use directly. When NULL (default) the source is detected automatically from the station ID. See hc_list_sources() for available names.

Value

A tibble with columns station_id (chr), date (Date), value (dbl), parameter (chr), unit (chr), provider_name (chr), quality_code (chr), and qf_desc (chr).

Examples

```
try(hc_read_daily_flows("030101", start_date = "2020-01-01", end_date = "2020-01-31"))
```

---

hc_read_daily_levels *Retrieve daily water level summaries*

Description

Returns one water level value per station per calendar day as published by the data source. Not all data sources publish daily level data; those that do not will produce a warning and return no rows for the affected stations.

Usage

```
hc_read_daily_levels(
  station_id,
  start_date,
  end_date = Sys.Date(),
  source = NULL
)
```

Arguments

station_id	Character vector of station identifiers.
start_date	Start of the requested period (Date, or character coercible to Date).
end_date	End of the requested period (Date, or character coercible to Date). Defaults to today.
source	Optional single character string naming the data source to use directly. When NULL (default) the source is detected automatically from the station ID. See hc_list_sources() for available names.

Value

A tibble with columns `station_id` (chr), `date` (Date), `value` (dbl), `parameter` (chr: `"water_level"`), `unit` (chr), `provider_name` (chr), `quality_code` (chr), and `qf_desc` (chr).

Examples

```
try(hc_read_daily_levels("030101", start_date = "2020-01-01", end_date = "2020-01-31"))
```

---

hc_read_flows *Retrieve sub-daily flow observations*

Description

Fetches sub-daily observations for one or more stations across the requested date range. The data source is determined automatically from the station ID, or fixed explicitly via `source`.

Usage

```
hc_read_flows(station_id, start_date, end_date = Sys.Date(), source = NULL)
```

Arguments

`station_id`	Character vector of station identifiers.
`start_date`	Start of the requested period (Date, or character coercible to Date).
`end_date`	End of the requested period (Date, or character coercible to Date). Defaults to today.
`source`	Optional single character string naming the data source to use directly. When `NULL` (default) the source is detected automatically from the station ID. See `hc_list_sources()` for available names.

Value

A tibble with columns `station_id` (chr), `timestamp` (POSIXct UTC), `value` (dbl), `parameter` (chr), `unit` (chr), `provider_name` (chr), `quality_code` (chr), and `qf_desc` (chr).

Examples

```
try(hc_read_flows("703", start_date = Sys.Date() - 7))
```

hc_read_levels *Retrieve sub-daily water level observations*

Description

Fetches sub-daily water level observations for one or more stations across the requested date range. The data source is determined automatically from the station ID, or fixed explicitly via `source`.

Usage

```
hc_read_levels(station_id, start_date, end_date = Sys.Date(), source = NULL)
```

Arguments

`station_id`	Character vector of station identifiers.
`start_date`	Start of the requested period (Date, or character coercible to Date).
`end_date`	End of the requested period (Date, or character coercible to Date). Defaults to today.
`source`	Optional single character string naming the data source to use directly. When `NULL` (default) the source is detected automatically from the station ID. See `hc_list_sources()` for available names.

Value

A tibble with columns `station_id` (chr), `timestamp` (POSIXct UTC), `value` (dbl), `parameter` (chr: `"water_level"`), `unit` (chr), `provider_name` (chr), `quality_code` (chr), and `qf_desc` (chr).

Examples

```
try(hc_read_levels("703", start_date = Sys.Date() - 7))
```

hc_read_stations *Retrieve station metadata*

Description

Returns location and period-of-record information for all stations available across registered data sources. Data sources that do not publish station metadata are skipped with a warning.

Usage

```
hc_read_stations(source = NULL)
```

Arguments

source	Optional single character string naming the data source to query directly. When NULL (default) all registered data sources are queried. See hc_list_sources() for available names.

Value

A tibble with columns station_id (chr), station_name (chr), provider_name (chr), longitude (dbl), latitude (dbl), elevation_m (dbl), period_start (Date), period_end (Date), and notes (list).

Examples

```
try(hc_read_stations())
try(hc_read_stations(source = "cehq"))
```

---

new_hydrocan_adapter *Create a hydrocan adapter*

Description

Constructs a validated adapter object for a data source. At least one fetch function must be supplied.

Usage

```
new_hydrocan_adapter(
  name,
  description,
  list_stations_fn,
  fetch_flows_fn = NULL,
  fetch_daily_flows_fn = NULL,
  fetch_levels_fn = NULL,
  fetch_daily_levels_fn = NULL,
  list_stations_meta_fn = NULL,
  title = NULL,
  publisher = NULL,
  license = NULL,
  license_url = NULL,
  terms_url = NULL,
  docs_url = NULL
)
```

Arguments

`name`	Non-empty string identifying this source. Used as the registry key and as the `provider_name` column in output.
`description`	String describing the source and any known limitations (e.g. rolling data window). Shown by `hc_list_sources()`.
`list_stations_fn`	Function with no arguments returning a character vector of station IDs this source can serve.
`fetch_flows_fn`	Optional `function(station_id, start_date, end_date)` returning a tibble matching the flows schema (`timestamp` column). `NULL` if sub-daily flow data is not available.
`fetch_daily_flows_fn`	Optional `function(station_id, start_date, end_date)` returning a tibble matching the daily flows schema (`date` column). `NULL` if daily flow data is not available.
`fetch_levels_fn`	Optional `function(station_id, start_date, end_date)` returning a tibble matching the flows schema (`timestamp` column) with `parameter = "water_level"`. `NULL` if sub-daily level data is not available.
`fetch_daily_levels_fn`	Optional `function(station_id, start_date, end_date)` returning a tibble matching the daily flows schema (`date` column) with `parameter = "water_level"`. `NULL` if daily level data is not available.
`list_stations_meta_fn`	Optional function with no arguments returning a tibble matching the stations schema. `NULL` if station metadata is not available.
`title`	Optional string with the formal name of the dataset as published by the provider (used in citations).
`publisher`	Optional string naming the organization that publishes the data (used in citations).
`license`	Optional string naming the data license (e.g. `"CC-BY 4.0"`).
`license_url`	Optional string with a URL to the license text.
`terms_url`	Optional string with a URL to the data provider's terms of use or data policy.
`docs_url`	Optional string with a URL to human-readable documentation about the data (field definitions, codes, data structure). A machine- readable metadata endpoint is acceptable if no human-readable page exists.

Value

A list with class `"hydrocan_adapter"`.

`register_hydrocan_adapter` *Register a hydrocan adapter*

Description

Adds an adapter to the package registry. Registering under an existing name overwrites it.

Usage

```
register_hydrocan_adapter(adapter)
```

Arguments

`adapter`	A `"hydrocan_adapter"` object from `new_hydrocan_adapter()`.

Value

`adapter`, invisibly.

Index

bibentry(), *2*

citation(), *2*

hc_citation, 2
hc_list_sources, 3
hc_list_sources(), *2*, *4–8*
hc_read_daily_flows, 3
hc_read_daily_levels, 4
hc_read_flows, 5
hc_read_levels, 6
hc_read_stations, 6

new_hydrocan_adapter, 7
new_hydrocan_adapter(), *9*

register_hydrocan_adapter, 9

toBibtex(), *2*