

SEM-EDXRA AND/OR IMMA ANALYSIS OF CUTANS

SUMMARY

Cutanic material often has a homogeneous appearance when examined with the light microscope. SEM-EDXRA measurements reveal, however, that if organic matter is present it may conceal heterogeneous distribution of other compounds.

SEM-EDXRA showed also that induration of the B horizon of a Haplaquod is not caused by the high Al content present in this soil. This Al appeared to be mainly concentrated in the strongly humified root mats occurring in this soil.

Light microscope investigations of clayified roots showed evidence of newformation of clayey material. IMMA and SEM-EDXRA analyses of the fine grained brownish substances occurring in these roots revealed that organic compounds are present together with a large number of heavier elements. This suggests that organic compounds can play a role during newformation of clayey material.