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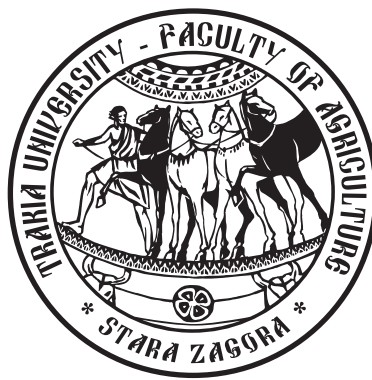
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Organic matter status in reclaimed Technosols of Bulgaria

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Abstract. *The paper deals with the characterization of organic matter in reclaimed Technosols (WRS, 2007) built in the different mine regions of Bulgaria (Chukurovo, Pernik, Maritsa-Iztok and Lokorsko). The studied soils were formed around 30 years ago through the humus and non-humus reclamation methods. The humus formation processes occur with greater intensity in reclaimed without humus technogenic soils and form the vertical differentiation of the section. The newly formed organic horizons contain mainly non-extractable (unreachable) carbon, formed due to the coal impurities and / or on-going evolution of the geological materials, building up the technogenic soils. The extractable carbon, which content averages at about 0.22%, is represented by humic acids with low condensation and maturity. The process of cultivation of the Technosols occurs along with the increasing content of fulvic acids, which decreases the stability and quality of the organic matter, especially in the humus reclaimed Technosols.*

Keywords: organic matter, reclamation, Technosols, humus, mine.

Introduction

The condition of the organic matter is a major diagnostic indicator used in the soil-genetic research and strategies for management and conservation of soil resources. The organic matter improves the chemical, physical and biological characteristics of the soils and determine their productivity. In recent years, it has become a valuable resource in the on going battle to reduce the harmful emissions in the atmosphere. The important role of the organic matter determines its enormous significance for the development of agriculture and the environmental improvement. The paper deals with the characterization of organic matter in reclaimed Technosols (WRS, 2007) built in the different coal and ore mine regions of Bulgaria (Chukurovo, Pernik, Maritsa-Iztok and Lokorsko). These soils were formed 50 years ago and provide abundant information about the modern pedogenesis in different geobioclimatic environment.

Material and methods

The studied soils are reclaimed through the humus and non-humus reclamation methods. Technosols reclaimed with humus horizons of destroyed natural soils /vertisol, cinnamon forest soils and meadow soils/ are arable lands allocated in the Maritsa-Iztok coal mine region. Non-humus reclaimed Technosols are technically (naturally re-vegetated with grass) and biologically reclaimed with forest. Studied Technosols also differentiated in the duration of the post-reclamation development which provides the different stage of soil maturity. Soils with 3, 5, 10, 20, and 30 years development were described below.

The amount and quality of organic carbon including its main chemical fractions are determined by the modified method of Turin (Kononova, 1963). The optical density of humic acids was determined in 0.1 M Na₄P₂O₇ + 0.1 n NaOH by Pye Unicam SP6-300 spectroscope.

The organic horizons depth and the level of humification are also used to describe the characteristics and accumulation of soil organic matter. The morphological survey was carried out in accordance with the criteria for diagnosis and classification of Bulgarian soils (Koynov et al., 1964; Penkov et al., 1992) and Guidelines for Soil Description (FAO, 2006).

Results and discussion

Reclaimed soils in the Pernik region have high carbonate content and alkaline reaction of the medium. These conditions favor the formation and accumulation of calcium humate, which represents the main compounds of humic acids in these soils (Table 1). The latter dominate the whole section depth, but their content is very low and determines the low humification of the organic matter. According to the classification of Grishina and Orlov (Orlov, 1985) the degree of humification is low (10-20%) in the newly formed humus-mineral horizons and very low in the mineral surface and sub-horizons.

Here, as well as in all other coal mining regions, the contents of non-extractable humus carbon dioxide is pre-dominating, which is mainly due to the coal impurities and to the weak transformation of natural organic matter. The uneven distribution of coal impurities determines the absence of pedogenetic differentiation of the section and prevents the diagnosis of the humus-formation processes in the Technosols with 10 year period of development. The influence of the vegetation on the content and mobility of organic acids is indistinguishable during this period.

In the areas with naturally vegetated Technosols in the region of Maritsa-Iztok a rough-humus turf horizon forms as early as during fifth year and reaches 5 cm in 20 years. The power of the humus-mineral horizon formed under the forest vegetation is similar. The newly formed organic horizons accumulate a significant amount of carbon (Table 2), also mainly in inaccessible (low soluble) form. In forest environment, the mineralization of organic matter appears to be more intense and more importantly, increases the content of

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fulvic acids, which are a key product in the initial phase of transformation. Moderate humification of organic matter (20-30%) is reported, which indicates its higher biological and agrochemical value.

The humic acids dominate in all types of land use, mainly as free or associated with sesquioxides. They are short-chained and slightly aromatic but with relatively weak mobility. The overwhelming

participation of humic acids, which is also discussed in previous publications (Banov, 1989; Marinkina, 1999) is a specific phenomenon that can hardly be regarded as a connate feature of the geological maternal formations. According to Tsoleva and Petrova (2003), the coal impurities are the likely source of humic acids in the reclaimed soils.

Table 1. Quantity and composition of organic matter in the Technosols in the Pernik region

Horizons	Depth (cm)	Total C	Humus acids (%)				C_{HA}/C_{FA}	Non extractable	E_4/E_6	
			Humic acids	HA, free/ R_2O_3	Ca humates	Fulvic acids				Aggressive FA
Section № 1 – Mine “Biala Voda”, natural vegetation, 10 years										
C_{1k}	0 – 20	1.41	$\frac{0.11}{7.80}$	0.0	100.0	$\frac{0.07}{4.96}$	$\frac{0.02}{1.42}$	1.6	$\frac{1.23}{87.23}$	-
C_{2k}	20 – 40	1.04	$\frac{0.07}{6.73}$	0.0	100.0	$\frac{0.05}{4.81}$	$\frac{0.01}{0.96}$	1.4	$\frac{0.92}{88.46}$	-
Section № 3 – Mine “Biala Voda”, natural vegetation, 10 years										
Ac_k	0 – 3	7.45	$\frac{0.77}{10.34}$	$\frac{0.15}{19.48}$	$\frac{0.62}{80.52}$	$\frac{0.06}{0.81}$	$\frac{0.04}{0.54}$	12.8	$\frac{6.62}{88.86}$	-
C_{1k}	3 – 20	6.24	$\frac{0.51}{8.17}$	0,00	100.0	0.0	0,0	-	$\frac{5.73}{91.83}$	-
Section № 7 – Moshino neighborhood, natural vegetation, 10 years										
C_{1k}	0 – 15	2.19	$\frac{0.25}{11.42}$	0.0	100.0	0.0	$\frac{0.04}{1.82}$	-	$\frac{1.94}{88.58}$	-
C_{2k}	15 – 40	4.97	$\frac{0.20}{4.02}$	0.0	100.0	$\frac{0.07}{1.41}$	0.0	2.9	$\frac{4.70}{94.57}$	-
Section № 2 – Mine “Biala Voda”, pine, 10 years										
Ac_k	0 – 5	3.35	$\frac{0.34}{10.15}$	$\frac{0.05}{14.71}$	$\frac{0.29}{85.29}$	$\frac{0.18}{5.37}$	$\frac{0.03}{0.90}$	1.9	$\frac{2.83}{84.48}$	-
C_{1k}	5 – 20	1.99	$\frac{0.16}{8.04}$	0,00	100,00	$\frac{0.06}{3,02}$	$\frac{0.01}{0,50}$	2.7	$\frac{1.77}{88.94}$	-
Section № 6 – Moshino neighborhood, pine, 10 years										
C_{1k}	0 – 5	2.39	2.05	0.0	100.0	$\frac{0.13}{5.44}$	$\frac{0.02}{0.84}$	1.2	$\frac{2.10}{87.88}$	-
C_{2k}	5 – 20	2.05	$\frac{0.14}{6.83}$	0.0	100.0	0,00	0.0	-	$\frac{1.91}{93.17}$	-

In the areas with naturally vegetated Technosols in the region of Maritsa-Iztok a rough-humus turf horizon forms as early as during fifth year and reaches 5 cm in 20 years. The power of the humus-mineral horizon formed under the forest vegetation is similar. The newly formed organic horizons accumulate a significant amount of carbon (Table 2), also mainly in inaccessible (low soluble) form. In forest environment, the mineralization of organic matter appears to be more intense and more importantly, increases the content of fulvic acids, which are a key product in the initial phase of transformation. Moderate humification of organic matter (20-30%) is reported, which indicates its higher biological and agrochemical

value.

The humic acids dominate in all types of land use, mainly as free or associated with sesquioxides. They are short-chained and slightly aromatic but with relatively weak mobility. The overwhelming participation of humic acids, which is also discussed in previous publications (Banov, 1989; Marinkina, 1999) is a specific phenomenon that can hardly be regarded as a connate feature of the geological maternal formations. According to Tsoleva and Petrova (2003), the coal impurities are the likely source of humic acids in the reclaimed soils.

Table 2. Quantity and composition of organic matter in the Technosols in the "Maritza-Iztok" coal mines region

Horizons	Depth (cm)	Total C	Humus acids (%)				C_{HA}/C_{FA}	Non extractable	E_4/E_6	
			Humic acids	HA, free/ R_2O_3	Ca humates	Fulvic acids				Aggressive FA
Section № 50 – natural vegetation, 5 years										
A_{turf}	0–3	2.31	<u>0.50</u> 21.65	<u>0.45</u> 90.00	<u>0.05</u> 10.00	<u>0.10</u> 4.33	<u>0.03</u> 1.30	5.0	<u>1.70</u> 73.59	7.3
C_1	3–20	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	<u>0.03</u> 23.08	0.00	-	<u>0.10</u> 76.92	-
Section № 13 – natural vegetation, 10 years										
A_{turf}	0–5	1.30	<u>0.13</u> 10.00	0.00	100.00	<u>0.07</u> 5.38	<u>0.03</u> 2.31	1.9	<u>1.10</u> 84.62	7.1
C_1	5–20	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	<u>0.04</u> 22.22	<u>0.01</u> 5.56	-	<u>0.14</u> 77.78	-
Section № 47 – natural vegetation, 20 years										
A_{turf}	0–5	10.28	<u>1.34</u> 13.05	<u>1.00</u> 74.63	<u>0.34</u> 25.37	<u>0.19</u> 1.85	<u>0.07</u> 0.68	7.1	<u>8.75</u> 85.12	6.9
C_1	5–20	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	<u>0.06</u> 22.22	0.00	-	<u>0.21</u> 77.78	-
Section № 51 – forest, 10 years										
AC	0–5	1.56	<u>0.40</u> 25.64	<u>0.10</u> 25.00	<u>0.30</u> 75.00	<u>0.18</u> 11.54	<u>0.04</u> 2.56	2.2	<u>0.98</u> 62.82	6.7
C_1	5–20	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	<u>0.04</u> 25.00	0.00	-	<u>0.12</u> 75.00	-
Section № 39 – forest, 20 years										
AC	0–5	3.70	<u>1.08</u> 29.19	<u>0.62</u> 57.41	<u>0.46</u> 42.59	<u>0.28</u> 7.57	<u>0.05</u> 1.35	3.9	<u>2.34</u> 63.24	7.0
C_1	5–20	0.94	<u>0.09</u> 9.57	0.00	100.00	<u>0.09</u> 9.57	0.00	1.0	<u>0.76</u> 80.85	7.0

Table 3. Quantity and composition of organic matter in the Technosols in the "Chukurovo" mine region

Horizons	Depth (cm)	Total C	Humus acids (%)				C_{HA}/C_{FA}	Non extractable	E_4/E_6	
			Humic acids	HA, free/ R_2O_3	Ca humates	Fulvic acids				Aggressive FA
"Mlada Gvardia" dump, profile under 3 years old coniferous plantation										
C_1	0–10	7.42	<u>0.82</u> 20.35	<u>0.82</u> 20.35	0.0	<u>0.69</u> 9.30	-	1.2	<u>5.91</u> 79.65	5.60
C_2	10–30	9.08	<u>0.68</u> 7.49	<u>0.68</u> 7.49	0.0	<u>0.69</u> 9.30	-	4.3	<u>8.24</u> 90.75	5.86
"Mlada Gvardia" dump, profile under 3 years old coniferous and grasses plantations										
C_1	0–6	4.98	<u>0.68</u> 13.82	<u>0.68</u> 13.82	0.0	<u>0.34</u> 6.85	-	2.0	<u>3.92</u> 79.03	5.38
C_2	6–30	5.29	<u>0.50</u> 9.45	<u>0.50</u> 9.45	0.0	<u>0.18</u> 3.40	-	2.8	<u>4.61</u> 87.15	5.63
"Zapad" dump, 30 years old mixed forest of birch and pine										
AC	0–5	1.77	<u>0.29</u> 16.38	0.0	100	<u>0.10</u> 5.65	-	2.9	<u>4.61</u> 87.1	4.51
C_1	5–21	1.01	<u>0.23</u> 22.77	0.0	100	<u>0.05</u> 4.95	-	4.6	<u>0.73</u> 72.28	4.77

The typical for soils of the forest areas increase in the contents of fulvic acids in the humus horizon is observed in soils of the region of mine "Chukurovo" (Table 3). The content of humic acids dominates over the content of fulvic acids in these soils, but the extent of humification of organic matter is mostly weak. The data on optical density of the humic acids shows their higher aromatic characteristic and a higher condensation, typical for the more mature humus systems. This feature is more typical for dump "Zapad" where the humic acids are integrally linked to calcium. The acidic reaction of the medium of heap "Ml. Gvardia (pH 4.1 - 4.7) prevents the formation of calcium humates and increases the instability and mobility of organic matter.

The Technosols of Lokorsko also contain insignificant amount of organic matter (Table 4), preserved over the ages as inaccessible, being part of the minerals carbon. The registered accumulation of organic matter occurs in alkaline environment in the presence of carbonates and carries the already described features of the other

objects.

In the humus reclaimed Technosols in the region of coal mines "Maritsa Iztok" the content of organic matter significantly varies (Table 5) probably as a result of bad agricultural practices. As the period of land use increases, some accumulation of organic carbon in the surface 5 cm of the A horizon is observed. These are mainly fulvic acids that change the nature of the organic matter from predominantly humatic to humatic-fulvic and fulvic. Although the synthesis of fulvic acids does not occur with an increase in the content of their aggressive fraction, a significant deterioration in the quality of humus is reported. Humic acids predominate only in the 5-year section and illustrate well the trends and intensity of the ongoing changes. Calcium humates dominate all humus soils. To some extent they mitigate the destabilizing influence of the fulvic acids, which are a highly aggressive fraction during the early years of agricultural usage of humus Technosols

Table 4. Quantity and composition of organic matter in the Technosols in the Lokorsko village region

Horizons	Depth (cm)	Total C	Humus acids (%)				C_{HA}/C_{FA}	Non extractable	E_4/E_6	
			Humic acids	HA, free/ R_2O_3	Ca humates	Fulvic acids				Aggressive FA
Section № 5 – natural vegetation, 10 years										
C_1	0 – 10	0.99	$\frac{0.13}{13.13}$	0.0	100.0	$\frac{0.07}{7.07}$	0.0	1.9	$\frac{0.79}{79.80}$	-
C_2	10 – 30	0.42	$\frac{0.68}{0.0}$	0.0	0.0	$\frac{0.04}{9.52}$	$\frac{0.01}{2.38}$	-	$\frac{0.38}{90.48}$	-

Table 5. Quantity and composition of organic matter in the reclaimed Technosols in the "Maritza-iztok" mines region

Horizons	Depth (cm)	Total C	Humus acids (%)				C_{HA}/C_{FA}	Non extractable	E_4/E_6	
			Humic acids	HA, free/ R_2O_3	Ca humates	Fulvic acids				Aggressive FA
Section № 6 – agricultural field, 5 years										
A_{turf}	0 – 5	1.73	$\frac{0.38}{21.97}$	0.0	100.0	$\frac{0.03}{1.73}$	$\frac{0.03}{1.73}$	12.7	$\frac{1.32}{76.30}$	-
	5 – 20	1.73	$\frac{0.42}{24.28}$	0.0	100.0	$\frac{0.06}{3.46}$	$\frac{0.06}{3.46}$	7.0	$\frac{1.25}{72.26}$	-
Section № 28 – agricultural field, 10 years										
A_{turf}	0 – 5	0.94	$\frac{0.07}{7.45}$	0.00	100.00	$\frac{0.18}{19.15}$	$\frac{0.02}{2.12}$	0.4	$\frac{0.69}{73.40}$	-
	5 – 20	0.82	$\frac{0.10}{12.19}$	0.00	100.00	$\frac{0.13}{15.85}$	$\frac{0.03}{3.65}$	0.8	$\frac{0.59}{71.95}$	-
Section № 36 – agricultural field, 20 years										
A_{turf}	0 – 5	2.05	$\frac{0.35}{17.07}$	$\frac{0.04}{11.43}$	$\frac{0.31}{88.57}$	$\frac{0.31}{15.12}$	$\frac{0.01}{0.41}$	1.1	$\frac{1.39}{67.81}$	-
	5 – 20	1.94	$\frac{0.37}{19.07}$	$\frac{0.07}{18.92}$	$\frac{0.30}{81.08}$	$\frac{0.46}{23.71}$	$\frac{0.02}{1.03}$	0.8	$\frac{1.11}{57.22}$	-

Conclusion

In the Technosols in Bulgaria, reclaimed without humus, run humus formation processes, which determine the formation of organic horizons and vertical differentiation of the soil properties. The organic horizons contain mainly non extractable and inaccessible carbon due to the coal impurities and/or the continuous evolution of the geological materials, forming the Technosol. The content of extractable carbon averages at 0.22% and exceeds 1% only in the none-humus reclaimed Technosols in the region of coal mines "Maritza-Iztok" with 20 year period of development. As a result of the genetic characteristics of the studied soils, their sections are dominated by humic acids with low condensation and maturity.

The process of cultivation of the Technosols occurs with an increase in the contents of fulvic acids, which decreases the stability and quality of the organic matter, especially in the humus reclaimed Technosols.

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Todorov N and Mitev J, 1995. Effect of level of feeding during dry period, and body condition score on reproductive performance in dairy cows, IXth International Conference on Production Diseases in Farm Animals, Sept.11 – 14, Berlin, Germany, p. 302 (Abstr.).

Thesis:

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