

THE MICROMORPHOLOGY OF OXISOLS

SUMMARY

Oxisols are a group of soils whose geographic distribution is confined to the tropics. Their definition in Soil Taxonomy is almost purely mineralo-chemical. An attempt is made to summarise existing information on the micromorphology of these soils. Soils from Brazil, Malaysia, Madagascar and Zaire are employed to show the homogeneity of the microfabric. The micromorphological properties are also related to other physico-chemical properties of the soils. Finally, the authors propose the term "oxic syndrome" to group the several different micromorphological properties which are characteristic for this group of soils.