

3.6 MAJOR GROUP : F

The main characteristics of these soils is their uniform medium textured (loamy) profiles which exhibit a porous, rough-ped fabric. They are shallow to very shallow soils and B horizons are absent. Two soil profile classes have been formed from the profile descriptions of shallow uniform medium textured soils.

3.6.1 Soil Profile Class : Fa

General Features: These are friable, well-structured black or red loamy soils which lack the development of a bleached subsurface horizon. They are most commonly associated with the stone barriers of the basalt "stony rise" country and occur extensively throughout the region. Soils with acid, neutral and alkaline soil reaction trends occur, ie. subclasses FaA, FaN and FaK, with the acid subclass being the most common.

Soil Description:

Surface Soil

clay loam or loam; may be fine sandy clay loam to fine sandy loam on limestone. commonly 10-30cm thick, may occasionally be 60-100cm thick; where these soils are found on limestone the depth is more variable and may be as thick as 60-120 cm.

black, very dark brown and dark reddish brown, or less commonly, dark brown or brown.

moderate or strong, medium to fine crumb or fine blocky structure; the immediate surface may occasionally have a weak to massive structure.

variable amounts of fine and coarse gravel and rock fragments are common throughout the profile; a slight amount of hard carbonate segregations may occur in the lower portion of the alkaline soils, especially those formed on limestone.

over substrate material.

3.6.2 Soil Profile Class : Fb

General Features: These are shallow, massive loamy soils that have a pale subsurface horizon which is directly underlain by rock. Soils with an acid soil reaction trend occur, ie. FbA.

Soil Description:

Surface Soil

A₁ horizon

- . fine sandy clay loam to sandy clay loam.
- . 5-20cm thick.
- . very dark greyish brown to light brownish grey.
- . massive.
- . light amount of quartz fragments.

A₂ horizon

- . fine sandy clay loam.
- . 10-35cm thick.
- . conspicuously bleached white dry, light grey moist or greyish brown dry if not bleached.
- . common to moderate levels of fine gravel or quartz fragments.
- . massive.
- . over substrate material.