

### 3.9 MAJOR GROUP : I

The main characteristic of these soils is their shallow, uniform sandy textured profiles. They have been separated on the basis of the presence or absence of a bleached subsurface horizon and those lacking this horizon are usually found on limestone in the survey area. Two soil profile classes have been formed from the profile descriptions of shallow, uniform textured sands.

#### 3.9.1 Soil Profile Class : Ia

General Features: These are shallow, uniform sandy soils that have a conspicuously bleached subsurface horizon that is directly underlain by rock. Soils with an acid soil reaction trend occur, ie. subclass IaA.

#### Soil Description:

##### Surface Soil

##### A<sub>1</sub> horizon

- . loamy sand.
- . 20cm thick.
- . very dark grey.
- . weakly coherent.

##### A<sub>2</sub> horizon

- . sand
- . 10cm thick over bedrock.
- . conspicuously bleached light grey dry, greyish brown moist.
- . loose.
- . slight amount of quartz gravel.
- . over substrate material.

### 3.9.2 Soil Profile Class : Ib

General Features: These are shallow uniform sandy soils that are formed on limestone. They lack the development of a bleached subsurface horizon and soils with acid and alkaline soil reaction trends occur, ie. subclasses IbA and IbK, with IbK being the more common.

#### Soil Description:

##### Surface Soil

loamy sand to fine sandy loam.

15-50cm thick.

black or dark reddish brown.

loose to weakly coherent.

##### Subsoil

sand, loamy sand or fine sandy loam.

20-50cm thick over limestone.

dark red, dark reddish brown or brown.

loose to weakly coherent.

the alkaline subclass contains variable amounts of hard and soft carbonate segregations.