

**Chapter 1 : Soil solution chemistry: applications to environmental science and agriculture.**

*5 Soil and Soil Solution Chemistry JAN MULDER AND MALCOLM S. CRESSER SOIL CHEMICAL REACTIONS INTRODUCTION Biogeochemical processes in the terrestrial environment dominate the hydrochem-*

Project Methods Objectives 1 and 2 will be addressed using laboratory incubations. Small portions of different organic amendments such as plant residues, compost, and papermill sludge will be mixed with sand and soil and incubated at constant temperature for approximately 6 weeks during which destructive sampling will occur. Objective 3 will be addressed in a field experiment which compares plots amended with whole red clover plants to those which have had aboveground biomass removed roots remain to those which have been amended with aboveground red clover only. Objective 4 will be addressed with soil bioassays of amended soil using wild mustard as a test plant. Early-stage humification was monitored for four different organic residues, wheat straw *Triticum aestivum* L. Related studies were conducted on the effects of organic amendment and root growth on soil solution chemistry and the effects of soil organic matter on the prediction of plant available phosphorus in soils. Dissemination of information has been primarily through peer-reviewed publications. Two graduate students conducted studies related to this project, Karen Merritt and Allison Piper. Target audiences were primarily other soil scientists. Impacts Outcomes are enhanced understanding of soil processes. Early-stage humification was monitored for four different organic residues. For wheat straw and crimson clover, early-stage humification progressed through increasing molar absorptivity, averaged molecular size, and both phenolic and total charge density, and through the polymerization of originally monomeric plant breakdown products as determined through transitions in fluorescence properties. The cumulative picture generated was of an increase over time in the structural complexity of the dissolved organic C pool. Related studies were conducted on the effects of organic amendment and root growth on soil solution chemistry and the effects of soil organic matter on the prediction of plant available P in soils. Barley and forage consistently had higher root length density than other crops. Barley and forage plots also typically had higher concentrations of soluble soil C than potato or soybean, but the differences were significant at only three of the five sampling dates. As with soil C, soluble soil P levels were typically higher in barley and forage plots than in soybean and potato. When dried soil samples were extracted, forage had the highest levels, and potato and soybean had the lowest levels, of both water-soluble and resin-extractable P, suggesting that P was more bioavailable in forage plots. It is possible that soluble C derived from root systems in the forage plots may have sorbed to soil surfaces altering them in a way that made P more soluble and extractable. Despite the difficulty of measuring root length in soils and the numerous dynamic processes which may influence both soluble C and soluble P, our study showed the importance of root influences on soil chemical processes and suggests the possibility of soil soluble C fraction involvement in P chemistry. Modified-Morgan soil test P values were found to be well correlated with both degree of P saturation DPS and water-soluble P for soils examined, including some high pH soils. This level of modified-Morgan soil test P represents a threshold above which water-soluble P is expected to increase more rapidly with additional P loading. Although soil organic matter had a strong influence on the relationship between soil test P and water-soluble P, the relationship between DPS and water-soluble P was less affected by soil organic matter level. Although we had hypothesized that P solubility was enhanced in soils with higher levels of organic matter, we found no evidence of this effect. In fact soils with higher levels of organic matter tended to have less P in solution at all levels of soil test P than soils with lower levels of organic matter. Higher soil organic matter levels were associated with higher levels of oxalate-extractable Fe and Al and, therefore, higher P sorption capacities and lower DPS values. Modification of the Mehlich lime buffer test. Communications in Soil Science and Plant Analysis. We had hypothesized that soluble C in soils, produced by growing roots and as a product of the decomposition of organic amendments, would influence soil solution chemistry, in particular phosphorus solubility. This hypothesis was examined in a rotational cropping system by examining the differences in root growth among rotation crops and between manure-amended and unamended soil. There were differences among crops in root growth. Barley and forage consistently had higher root length density. Barley and forage

plots also typically had higher concentrations of soluble soil C during the growing season than potato or soybean, but the differences were significant at only three of the five sampling dates. Root length density was significantly correlated to soluble C only for amended soils on the August sampling date. As with soil C, soluble soil phosphorus levels were typically higher in barley and forage plots than in soybean and potato. When dried soil samples were extracted, forage had the highest levels, and potato and soybean had the lowest levels, of both water-soluble phosphorus and resin-extractable phosphorus, suggesting that phosphorus was more bioavailable in forage plots. It is possible that soluble C derived from root systems in the forage plots may have sorbed to soil surfaces altering them in a way that made phosphorus more soluble and extractable. Despite the difficulty of measuring root length in soils and the numerous dynamic processes which may influence both soluble C and soluble phosphorus, our study showed the importance of root influences on soil chemical processes and suggests the possibility of soil soluble C fraction involvement in phosphorus chemistry. Modified-Morgan soil test phosphorus values were found to be well correlated with both degree of phosphorus saturation DPS and water-soluble phosphorus for soils. Although soil organic matter had a strong influence on the relationship between soil test phosphorus and water-soluble phosphorus, the relationship between DPS and water-soluble phosphorus was less affected by soil organic matter level. Although we had hypothesized that phosphorus solubility was enhanced in soils with higher levels of organic matter, we found no evidence of this effect. In fact soils with higher levels of organic matter tended to have less phosphorus in solution at all levels of soil test phosphorus than soils with lower levels of organic matter. Higher soil organic matter levels were associated with higher levels of oxalate-extractable iron and aluminum and, therefore, higher phosphorus sorption capacities and lower DPS values. Impacts Rotation crops and soil amendments have a positive effect on soil quality, and often crop yield, due to increases in nutrient availability and decreases in disease, among other factors. Increasing soil organic matter levels is a potential positive benefit associated with manure application, although high levels of soil phosphorus due to manure can be environmentally detrimental. Understanding the effects of amendments such as manure on soil chemistry and crop performance is important so that positive benefits can be maximized and negative environmental consequences minimized. Publications Dail, Heidi, W. Susan Erich, and C. Biology and Fertility of Soils in press Piper, A. Root growth effects on soluble C and P in manured and non-manured soils. Plant and Soil Soil Science Society of America Journal Basing manure application on N supply, as in this project, typically results in additions of P significantly exceeding crop needs. The excess P builds up in soils increasing their potential to contribute soluble and particulate P to surface waters. In addition, manure inputs may increase bioavailability of soil P, due to interactions between soluble C and soil P. This study examines changes in P fractions and saturation over time in soils which have received high levels of P from different sources over 14 years. The Maine Potato Ecosystem study was initiated in in Presque Isle, Maine to examine the effects of different pest and soil management systems on the productivity, pest dynamics, soil characteristics, and economic viability of potato production. Although the specific rotations in the study changed in , the study has maintained a comparison between two contrasting soil treatments: Amended, which receives manure, compost, and supplemental fertilizer versus Unamended, which receives only fertilizer. By Amended plots had received approximately kg total P per ha different rotations received somewhat different levels of inputs , while Unamended plots had received approximately kg total P per ha. Amended plots had also received greater than 44, kg total C per ha from the compost and animal manure. We determined degree of phosphorus saturation DPS, the molar ratio of extractable P to extractable Al and Fe , soluble P, and soil test P both Mehlich and modified Morgan for a set of archived soil samples from this study. Compost and manure additions increased both soil organic matter and pH in Amended plots. Substantial P inputs have resulted in increases in soluble P, Mehlich 3 extractable P, and Modified Morgan extractable P in Amended plots; increases in these parameters in Unamended plots have been much less. Mehlich 3 extractable P is a reasonable predictor of soluble P concentration; Modified Morgan extractable P is less effective at predicting soluble P. Although Amended soils are higher in P than Unamended soils due to higher P inputs, the relationship between extractable P and soluble P is similar for both Amended and Unamended. Manure and compost applications in these soils seem to primarily affect P loading rather than influencing P solubility due

to interactions between soluble C and P. The archived set of soil samples from this 15 year long project will be useful for addressing questions related to the environmental consequences of manure applications to soils, particularly the impacts of manure on increasing P levels in soils. Root length affects soluble carbon and phosphorus in a rotational cropping system. Root growth and manure effects on soluble C and P in soils. Submitted to Plant and Soil. The effect of phosphorus loading on degree of phosphorus saturation and phosphorus fractions in soils from a long term cropping systems study. The primary objectives of the study are 1 to determine whether root length differs significantly among the four rotation crops or between crops growing in manure amended and unamended soil and 2 to investigate relationships among root biomass, soluble soil C, and soluble soil P. Soil and roots from four rotation crops potato, barley, soybean, and forage were sampled. Experimental procedures were modified slightly from last field season, specifically root length was quantified using a WINRHIZO image analysis system Regent Instruments, Quebec, Canada in as compared to quantification by hand in . In addition soybeans were not sampled in due to poor crop growth. Barley had significantly higher root length density RLD than forage or potato in , while forage had significantly higher RLD than barley or potato in . RLD did not differ significantly by amendment in . In , RLD was significantly higher in unamended plots than amended plots. There was a positive relationship between soluble soil C levels and soluble soil P levels in . Similar results were found in July , while August data suggested a weaker relationship. The strongest relationship between RLD and soluble soil C levels was found in the amended soils in . There is evidence that significant differences exist in the root length densities among crops. A positive relationship between RLD and soluble C indicates that higher root length densities may be associated with higher levels of soluble soil C; however, crops with the highest RLD did not consistently have the highest level of soluble soil C. In addition, soluble C levels were consistently higher in amended soils regardless of crop grown. Data from two of the three sampling periods shows a strong positive relationship between soluble soil C and P levels, indicating that soluble C may play a role in enhancing plant-available P levels. Impacts Potato is grown in rotation with other crops for a number of reasons. One potential benefit of rotation crops is increasing soil microbial activity and another is potentially increasing soil organic matter levels. A number of crops contribute more above ground and below ground residue to soils than potato does. Understanding the effects of rotation crops on soils and subsequent potato crops holds the potential to improve potato cropping systems. Influence of organic matter decomposition on soluble carbon and its copper-binding capacity. Carbon exuded from plant roots can increase microbial biomass, in turn leading to key nutrient transformations. In addition, soluble C could potentially influence the form of P found in the soil. There is little documentation in the literature on how various root parameters and, thus, various crops contribute to the pool of soil organic C. The objective of this study was to determine root length and weight for 4 rotation crops barley, potato, soybean, forage in both manure amended and unamended soils and discover potential relationships between root system properties and soil chemical parameters. The portion of the Potato Ecosystem project sampled for the present study is constructed as a randomized complete block design with four rotation crops and two amendments either amended or unamended with beef manure replicated four times. The project began in and the transition to the current treatments began in . In August , soil and root samples were collected in 32 plots by soil coring. An 8-cm diameter soil corer was used to collect root samples.

**Chapter 2 : Soil Solutions – A solution to climate change is right beneath our feet**

*Soil Chemistry Section 3 - Solution Chemistry Ion Activity Product (IAP) is another important concept in electrolyte solutions. You are probably most familiar with the concept applied to the solubility of sparingly soluble salts.*

Soil solution from the Harvard Forest DIRT plots will be sampled on an event basis at least 12 times during the growing season April to November and analyzed for dissolved organic carbon, dissolved organic nitrogen, nitrate, and ammonium. The organic matter manipulation represents the treatment 5 treatment categories and a control, and repeated measures of soil solution organic chemistry are taken over time. In addition to a statistical comparison of concentrations, fluxes will be estimated for each treatment using PNET to develop a hydrologic budget for the plots. Soil solution from both the Harvard Forest Chronic N and Luquillo Chronic N plots will be sampled on an event basis at least 12 times during the growing season April to November for Harvard Forest; year-round for Luquillo. Chemistry and statistical analysis will be as described for Objective 1. Timetable and Frequency of Sampling: Samples will be collected every third year for each experiment, with a staggered schedule. Thus, soil solution from one of the experiments will be collected during each year. Methods of Chemical analysis: Dissolved organic carbon will be measured using automated high temperature platinum-catalyzed combustion Shimadzu TOC analyzer with autosampler. Total dissolved N will be measured using high temperature platinum-catalyzed combustion followed by chemiluminescent analysis of total NO in the combustion gas Shimadzu TOC and TDN analyzer. Nitrate and ammonium will be analyzed using standard colorimetric techniques. Dissolved organic N will be estimated as the difference between total N and the inorganic fraction. The chronic N plots at HF have additions of 50 and kg N per ha per year; at the LEF, two different forest sites are fertilized with 50 kg N per ha per year. Results pooled across all the sites and experiments show that production of dissolved organic carbon DOC is remarkably insensitive to N additions and the changes in ecosystem structure primary productivity, soil microflora that accompany N fertilization. Nor is DOC production strongly related to organic matter supply; only litter doubling significantly affects DOC concentrations. Dissolved organic nitrogen DON, in contrast, is very sensitive to inorganic N application, with concentrations doubling or tripling with fertilization. Impacts Dissolved organic carbon DOC, an important contaminant in water supplies, changes its character but not its overall concentration when forests are amended with nitrogen. In contrast, concentrations of DOC increase when organic matter is added to forest soils, such as with increased leaf litter inputs. Better understanding of how forest nutrient cycles affect the DOC in groundwater will improve forest management, and result in better predictions of the impacts that changing forest conditions will have on water quality. A comparison of methods to determine the biodegradable dissolved organic carbon from different terrestrial sources. Soil Biology and Biochemistry Impacts This project provides fundamental information about controls on soil solution chemistry in forest ecosystems, with an emphasis on factors controlling the production and delivery of dissolved organic carbon and nitrogen DOC and DON to surface waters. Better understanding of forest nutrient cycles will improve forest management and facilitate predictions of changes in forests with changing climate. Initial effects of N additions in two rain forest ecosystems of Puerto Rico. Sources, production and regulation of allochthonous dissolved organic matter In S. Interactivity of Dissolved Organic matter. Academic Press, San Diego. Dissolved organic matter in soils-future directions and unanswered questions. The environmental consequences of 1, years of change in New England. Exploring the process of nitrogen saturation. Effects of chronic nitrogen amendment on dissolved organic matter and inorganic nitrogen in soil solution. Forest Ecology and Management

**Chapter 3 : Soil chemistry - Wikipedia**

Michael A. Velbel, "Soil Solution Chemistry: Applications to Environmental Science and [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com) Wolt," *The Journal of Geology*, no. 1 (Jan., ):

When soils and minerals weather over time, the chemical composition of soil also changes. However, nothing changes the chemistry of soils faster than humans do. What happens when a chemical is accidentally spilt in the soil? How fast does it break down? What does it break down into? Where does it go and how fast does it move? A soil chemist may ask these example questions. Soil chemists research concerns about organic and inorganic soil contamination, pesticides and other pollutants, and environmental health risks. What do Soil Chemists Study? This is just a small example of what soil chemists study. All of these chemical processes work together, and impact many of the other disciplines in soil science.

**Ion Exchanges** This diagram represents soil cations attached firmly to the soil. Ion exchange involves the movement of cations positively charged elements like calcium, magnesium, and sodium and anions negatively charged elements like chloride, and compounds like nitrate through the soils. In the United States, cation exchange is much more common. Cation exchange is the interchanging between a cation in the solution of water around the soil particle, and another cation that is stuck to the clay surface. The number of cations in the soil water solution is much smaller than the number that is attached to soil particles. The total amount of positive charges that the soil can absorb is called the cation exchange capacity CEC. CEC impacts how quickly nutrients move through the profile. A soil with a low CEC is much less fertile because it cannot hold on to many nutrients, and they usually contain less clays. If your soil has a low CEC, it is important to apply fertilizer small doses so it does not infiltrate into the groundwater.

**Soil pH** The soil pH is a measure of soil acidity or alkalinity. Soils usually range from 4 to 14. The pH is one of the most important properties involved in plant growth, as well as understanding how rapidly reactions occur in the soil. For example, the element iron becomes less available to plants a higher the pH is. This creates iron deficiency problems. Crops usually prefer values between 5. The pH of soil comes from the parent material during soil formation, but humans can add things to soils to change them to better suit plant growth. Soil pH also affects organisms. Learn more with this Soil pH activity.

**Sorption and Precipitation** Soil particles have the ability to capture different nutrients and ions. Sorption is the process in which one substance takes up or holds another. In this case, soils that have high sorption can hold a lot of extra environmental contaminants, like phosphorus, onto the particles. Soil precipitation occurs during chemical reactions when a nutrient or chemical in the soil solution water around soil particles transforms into a solid. This is really important if soils are really salty. Soil chemists study the speed of these reactions under many different conditions.

**Soil Organic Matter Interactions** Soil chemists also study soil organic matter OM, which are materials derived from the decay of plants and animals. They contain many hydrogen and carbon compounds. The arrangement and formation of these compounds influence a soil's ability to handle spilt chemicals and other pollutants. Soil has four major categories of organic matter inside of it, including active and long term types.

**Oxidation and Reduction Reactions** Soils that alternate between wet and dry go from having a lot of oxygen to not a lot of oxygen. The presence or absence of oxygen determines how soils chemically react. Oxidation is the loss of electrons, and reduction is the gaining of electrons at the soil surface. These type of reactions occur every day, and are responsible for creating things like rust. Soils, because they contain a lot of iron, can also rust, or if they contain a lot of water, can turn a light gray color. This is partially responsible for all of the different colors that are found, and creates the speckles usually found deeper in the soil.

## Chapter 4 : Controls on Forest Soil Solution Chemistry - UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*soil chemistry Soils transport and move water, provide homes for thousands of bacteria and other creatures, and have many different arrangements of weathered rock and minerals. When soils and minerals weather over time, the chemical composition of soil also changes.*

Within soils, soil solution chemistry changes seasonally e. Highly weathered soils with inherently low nutrient supply capacity in forested ecosystems may be more vulnerable to nutrient loss via leaching and decreased soil fertility following harvest than soils with greater nutrient supply capacity. Little information is available regarding soil solution chemistry and nutrient flux in highly weathered soils of the Missouri Ozark Highlands, and such background information is essential for evaluating changes in soil chemistry that may be induced by forest harvest. Therefore, the objectives of this work were to: In order to simulate temperature changes that occur following harvest, laboratory soil column experiments were conducted in constant temperature rooms to monitor the effect of incubation temperature on contrasting nutrient status soils. Each soil group represents a different class of relative nutrient status as indicated by subsoil percent base saturation BS: Field replicated sampling sites were identified in non-harvested stands based on available soil characterization data. Soil samples were collected from the 0 to 10 cm depth, air-dried, passed through a 2-mm sieve, and packed into polyvinyl chloride pipes to create soil columns. Soil solid phase characteristics and soil microbial enzyme activities were also determined post-incubation. Overall, the effect of incubation temperature was not significant for all bulk soil chemical properties and most leachate analytes. Temperature had the most pronounced effects for some N species and soil microbial activity. To characterize soil solution in the field, soil solution chemistry and nutrient flux was monitored at MOFEP in the low and medium nutrient status soils that had not been harvested in the past 40 years. A total of 18 locations were monitored nine locations for each soil studied ; twelve of the sampling locations were located in areas scheduled for future clearcut CC or single-tree selection STS harvests. All observations in this study were made prior to harvesting. Throughfall and soil solution samples collected with zero-tension solution samplers at 15 and 40 cm depths were analyzed for the same suite of analytes measured in the column experiments. Cumulative ion flux through the system was captured using ion exchange resin samplers installed at 15 and 40 cm depths. Field data from the pre-harvest sampling period demonstrated seasonal fluctuations in pH, base cation, DOC, and TN concentrations for both soils, though few significant differences in soil solution chemistry were observed between the low and medium nutrient status soils. Overall, soil solution chemistry in the low and medium nutrient status soils was very similar which suggests little influence of nutrient uptake and cycling by plants. The soil column study provides some insight into soil chemical and biological changes, or lack thereof, that may be associated with elevated soil temperatures following forest harvest. Results from the field study enhances our understanding of soil solution chemistry and ion flux in Ozark Highland soils and will aid in a better understanding of timber harvest effects on nutrient cycling and loss. Ultimately, this information will assist in the development of forest management policies that ensure sustainable use of Missouri Ozark forests.

## Chapter 5 : Soil solution chemistry and nutrient flux in Ozark Highland forest soils

*This book discusses soil solution chemistry with specific reference to its application and methodology for monitoring, assessing and interpreting chemical processes occurring in soil environments.*

## Chapter 6 : Chemistry | Soils 4 Teachers

*Soil solution chemistry has gained particular emphasis in this regard as a predictive and diagnostic approach for elucidating bioavailability, mobility, and geochemical cycling of chemicals in soil.*

## Chapter 7 : Soil Solution Chemistry

*The response of soil solution to experimental hurricane simulation largely mirrored the response of stream chemistry, with large increases in NO<sub>3</sub> concentrations within a few months of disturbance, and a return to background levels within 2 years.*