DE4: Acidic, Eutrophic, Red Dermosol

General description of the soil

A structured, strongly acid red soil in which the major part of the B2 horizon has a moderately high base status (i.e. Eutrophic).

Distribution:	A common profile in the high rainfall wet sclerophyll forests in southern New South Wales and north-east Victoria.
Typical land use:	Hardwood forestry and nature conservation.
Common variants:	Drier sites have profiles that are shallower, less gradational, lighter red and with less organic matter. These grade to Red Kandosols.
World Reference Base:	Humic Lixisol.
Other names:	Red Podzolic Soils and Krasnozems.

Environment and location of the example profile

Landform:	Undulating hills.
Parent material or substrate:	Granodiorite.
Drainage class:	Well-drained.
Surface condition:	Soft.
Site disturbance:	Selective logging.
Native vegetation:	Alpine Ash (Eucalyptus delegatensis) forest.

Site location









Abundant organic matter and faunal activity dominate the profile, Maragle State Forest, east of Tumbarumba, New South Wales

Soil morphology

Horizon	Depth	Colour	Mottles	Texture		Structur	e	Consistence	Coarse	Segregations	Boundary		
	(m)				Grade	Shape	Size		fragments				
01	0.00-0.02	organic layer											
A11	0.02–0.14	dark reddish brown (5YR 3/2)	-	clay loam	moderate	granular	2–5 mm	weak (moderately moist)	10–20% subangular granodiorite (20–200 mm)	-	gradual smooth		
A12	0.14–0.28	dark reddish brown (5YR 3/3)	-	clay loam	moderate	rate granular 2–5 mm		weak (moderately moist)	10–20% subangular granodiorite (20–200 mm)	-	diffuse smooth		
B1	0.28–0.52	dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4)	-	light clay	moderate	polyhedral and granular	2–5 mm and 10–20 mm	weak (moderately moist)	10–20% subangular granodiorite (20–200 mm)	-	diffuse smooth		
B21	0.52–0.82	dark red (2.5YR 3/5)	_	light medium clay	moderate	polyhedral	20–50 mm parting to 10–20 mm	firm (moderately moist)	20–50% subangular granodiorite (20–200 mm)	-	diffuse smooth		
B22	0.82–1.42	dark red (2.5YR 3/5)	-	medium clay	weak	polyhedral	20–50 mm	firm (moderately moist)	10–20% subangular granodiorite (20–200 mm)	-	gradual smooth		
B31	1.42–2.12	red (2.5YR 4/6)	20–50% yellowish red (7.5YR 6/6)	medium clay	weak	polyhedral	10–20 mm	firm (moderately moist)	10–20% subangular granodiorite (20–200 mm)	-	gradual smooth		
B32	2.12–3.02	yellowish red (5YR 5/6)	20–50% light brownish grey (10YR 6/2)	medium clay	weak	polyhedral	10–20 mm	firm (dry)	10–20% subangular granodiorite (20–200 mm)	-			

Soil chemical and physical properties

Horizon	Sample Depth	рН Н ₂ О	pH CaCl2 ^C	Elect. Cond.	CaCO ₃ %	Org. C % ^C	Extr. P	Tot. P % ^B	Tot. K %		Cati	on ex	ESP %	Bulk dens.	l	Parti	cle si: %	ze				
	(m)			dS/m			mg/kg			Са	Mg	К	Na	H+Al	CEC	ECEC ^A		Mg/m³	CS	FS	Silt	Clay
A11	0.02-0.14		5.4			8.1		0.141		23.8	2.7	1.6	0.1	0.3		28	-	0.7				
A12	0.14-0.28		5.5			3.6		0.117		14.3	1.9	1.8	0.1	0.1		18	-	0.9				
B1	0.28-0.52		5.5			1.6		0.081		7.8	1.2	1.4	<0.1	<0.1		10	-	0.9				

Dermosols

Horizon	Sample Depth	рН Н ₂ О	pH CaCl ₂ C	Elect. Cond.	CaCO ₃ %	Org. C % ^C	Extr. P	Tot. P % ^B	t. Tot. Cation exchange properties ¹ ESP Bulk Particle siz % ⁸ K % cmol(+)/kg % dens. %							ze						
	(m)			dS/m			mg/kg			Ca	Mg	К	Na	H+Al	CEC	ECEC ^A		Mg/m³	CS	FS	Silt	Clay
B21	0.52–0.82		5.2			1.2		0.058		5.0	1.6	0.9	<0.1	0.2		8	-	1.3				
B22	0.82–1.42		5.3			0.7		0.046		5.2	1.8	1.0	<0.1	<0.1		8	-					
B31	1.42-2.12		4.9			0.2		0.035		3.9	2.5	0.5	0.1	0.1		7	-					
B32	2.12-3.02		4.8			0.2		0.032		2.9	2.6	0.1	0.1	0.1		6	-					
* The data	The data for H+AI are for aluminium determined by compulsive exchange (Gillman 1979). These data are also used to calculate FCEC																					

Key profile properties



General qualities of the soil

Infiltration:	Rapid.
Available water store:	Very large.
Permeability:	Very high in the upper 0.5 m and high in the deeper layers.
Physical root limitations:	None apparent.
Erosion hazard:	Low, unless organic matter levels are greatly depleted.
Nutrient availability:	A fertile soil. Large organic matter reserves and only moderate acidity ensure good nutrient supplies.
Toxicities:	None apparent.



Tall alpine ash forests to the west of the Snowy Mountains are associated with deep red soils, many of which have received significant additions of dust.

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