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MICROMOR- PHOLOGICAL STUDY OF AN ULTISOL AFTER 10 YEARS APPLICATION OF OIL PALM EMPTY FRUIT BUNCHES

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The effects of long term application of EFBs on the soil properties of an ultisol (Bungor Series) from an experimental plot of the Banting Oil Palm Research Station were studied. Two rates of EFBs (150kg EFB/palm/year and 300 kg EFB/palm/year) had been applied yearly for 10 yeras. Samples were taken from treated and control plots. There is a distinct difference in the microstructure, size of aggregates and nature of organic matter between the treatments. Plate A and B shows the microstructure of the Ap horizons of the control plot and the plot treated with 300 kg EFB/palm/year, respectively. The treated plots have Ap horizons which are more porous with smaller aggregates (3-5 mm) than the control plot.

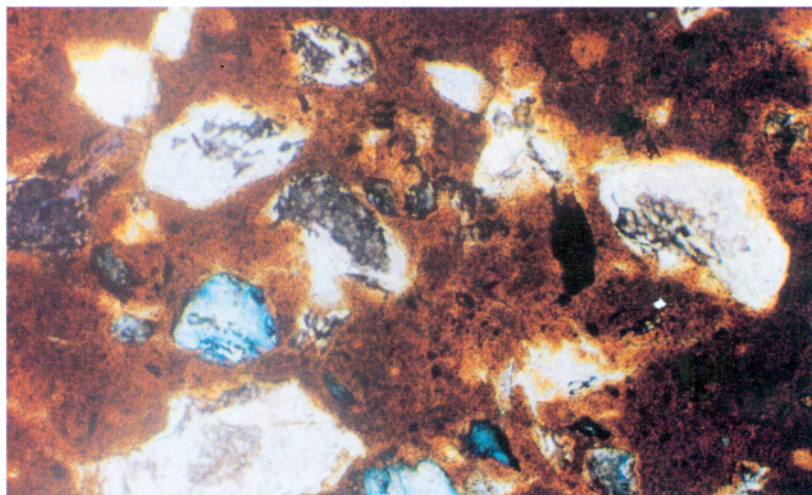


Plate A

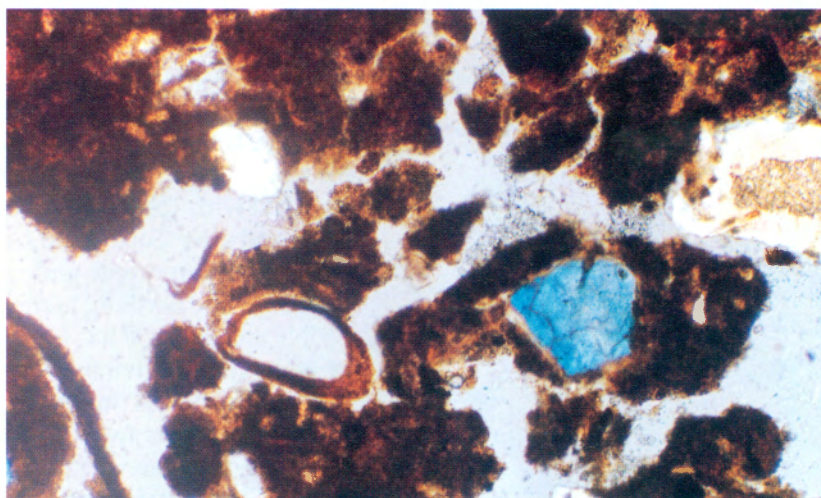


Plate B