THE MESOFAUNA AND THE RECYCLING OF THE SOILS ON THE SLOPES AT GOUVEIA, M.G.,BRAZIL.

DIAS,Janise;AUGUSTIN,Cristina.Geosciences Institute. Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais. Av. Antonio Carlos, 6627. Pampulha. CEP: 31270.090 Belo Horizonte, M.G., Brazil DIAS, Janise., jbdias@dedalus.lcc.ufmg.br; AUGUSTIN, Cristina.- Chaugusti@igc.ufmg.br Geosciences InstituteUniversidade Federal de Minas Gerais. Av. Antonio Carlos, 6627. Pampulha. CEP: 31270.090 Belo Horizonte, M.G., Brazil

This study has focused the attention on the impact of the mesofauna (termites and ants) on the physic and chemical characteristics of the soil. The soils studied are predominantly latosoils developed on the granit-gnaiss of the Crystalline Basement, and of schist from Rio Paraúna Supergroup, in Gouveia, M.G. They are very weathered soils containing low concentration of bases and high Al and Fe. This study was developed along the Chiqueiro Basin, MG, where thirty soil profiles were opened, observed and sampled for laboratory analysis (chemical and physical). Around the site, data measurements of termites and ants mounding as well as surface horizon were sampled and taken for laboratory, including X-ray analysis of clay. The chemical analysis have showed a higher concentration of macronutrients in the superficial horizon of the soils localized near the mounds compared to those located at soil profiles. The textural analysis and X-ray analysis of clay demonstrated that the mesofauna proceeds to a selection of edaphic material to build the mounds, promoted an important recycling of this soil. The results are very important to enhance soil capability of sustaining vegetation cover and soil resistance to of the erosion and important too, on soil remotion and soil formation in the region.* Financially supported by Fapemig