

## **CHARACTERIZATION AND ANALYSIS OF MATRICIAL TENSION IN SLOPES, GOUVEIA- MG, ESPINHAÇO MERIDIONAL.**

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The soil-water tension is an important factor in the characterization of subsuperficial hydrological flow considering that the water flows from higher to lower matricial tension. The objective of this work is to analyse the variation of tension in a slope developed on schist, located in the Chiqueiro basin, Gouveia, Minas Gerais (18°19'54 e 18°40'45 de Lat. S e 43°39'39 e 44°4'34 de Long. W). A slope developed over schists from the Supergroup Rio Paraúna was selected where gully erosion occurs. The measurements were taken from 13 to 02/20/99 and from 12 to 03/17/99, corresponding to the dry and wet periods, respectively. The data of soil-water tension were acquired with a tensiometer of manometer of Hg. There were installed three sets of tensiometers: the first on the upper, the second on the middle and the third on the lower slope. Each point had three tensiometers installed at the depth of 10, 30 and 70 cm. After data treatment, it has been observed that: the higher tensiometric amplitude occurs at the upper slope at 70 cm of depth, while in the middle slope it was at 30 cm, and in the lower slope again at 70 cm. A strong correlation was found between this data and that of soil texture: The higher tensiometric amplitudes occur in the same horizons where a higher amount of clay occurs as well, showing a relationship between the lower and higher tensions with the amount of water content in the clay. Financial support: FAPEMIG