

ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF THE SOILS FROM THE COASTAL PLATEAU, NORTH BAHIA, BRAZIL

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This work focuses in the pedological processes responsible by the transformation of clayey soils from the Barreiras Group deposits into sandy soils, which have been heavily extracted for the civil construction. Two sequences were studied: the first (sequence 1) is located 6 km landward, in an area with a 1500 mm/yr. average rainfall, and the second sequence (sequence 2) is 30 km inland, where rainfall is 1280 mm/yr. The inland sequence (2) is best preserved, while the coastal one (1) is altered by erosive processes, which originate the Barreiras Fans. The pedological processes occur similarly in both sequences, with the transformation of Oxisols to Spodosols. Above sequence 1 the processes are more active because these deposits are already removed materials, which form Spodosols best developed that occupy extensive areas. Subsurface the accumulation is thinner because there is loss of clay, iron and aluminum chelates that produce less developed cemented horizons and more thick sandy layers. Above sequence 2, there is the formation of Duripan and Fragipan horizons, few meters thick, originating less developed sandy layers.