

EVOLUTION OF THREE EROSIONS IN SANTO ANTÔNIO DO LEITE DISTRICT - OURO PRETO, MINAS GERAIS STATE, BRAZIL

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The Santo Antônio do Leite District, in Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, is an alternative area for the urban and farming development of the region. However, the great number of bad gullies found there are an obstacle for that purpose. The physical characteristics of the area, like soil composition and thickness, landforms, rain regimes and a poor vegetation increased the development of these erosive forms. The erosive complex is composed by three bad gullies. The observation of their evolution was done by the comparing and measuring of two pairs of aereo photos taken in different periods (1949 and 1986), using a Parallax Bar. Field work was also carried out during 1999 with the purpose of mapping the erosional features. It was observed that the bad gullies had an intense erosive activity during the studied periods (1949, 1986 and 1999) with advancing erosional rates ranging from 2.50 - 0.49 meters/year. The reasons for this phenomena are the cutting and burning of the vegetal cover for cattle ranching, increase in the farming area and concentration of the water flux by fences. It is suggested a joint effort among Municipality State Government (with the financial support), University (elaboration of studies, technical support for the construction of Earth retaining structures) and community (execution) to solve the problem.