

Analysis of samples from podzolic soil layers

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Introduction / Background information

In soil science, podzols, also known as podosols, spodosols, or espodossolos, are the typical soils of coniferous or boreal forests and also the typical soils of eucalypt forests and heathlands in southern Australia. In Western Europe, podzols develop on heathland, which is often a construct of human interference through grazing and burning. In some British moorlands with podzolic soils, cambisols are preserved under Bronze Age barrows. Climate, vegetation type, chemical composition of the substrate material, and topography are the major environmental influences that produce the typical boreal podzol. The combination of low temperatures and low pH impede decomposition processes and slow the rate of soil development.

Execution of the research

1. We first put some distilled water with soil in four test tubes, and we wait about fifteen minutes;
2. Next we add six drops of four different indicators;
3. Then we add some powder in every test tube and we shake them;
4. Finally we see the results;

Results

pH: 6.5 = slightly acid

N: below low

P: between medium and high to medium

K: between medium and high to medium