

## CONTENT

	Page
Acknowledgements	ix
Preface	xi
1. Geography and Soils	1
1.1 Physical geography and soils	1
1.2 Soils and human geography	15
1.3 Soils and geographical method	33
1.4 Conclusions about soils and geography	41
2. The mineral fraction of the soil	42
2.1 The classification of particle sizes	42
2.2 The coarse fraction	44
2.3 Sand	45
2.4 Silt	51
2.5 Clays	55
3. Soil organic matter	69
3.1 Supply of organic matter to the soil	69
3.2 Breakdown of organic matter in the soil by macrofauna	76
3.3 Biochemical compounds in soil organic matter	78
3.4 Humus	89
3.5 Peat	97
4. Soil structure and porosity	101
4.1 Soil structure	101
4.2 Porosity	111
5. Physical Properties of the Soil	115
5.1 Introduction	115
5.2 Soil Water	117
5.3 Soil temperatures	136
5.4 Soil air	143
6. Chemical Properties of the soil	151
6.1 Oxidation-reduction processes	151
6.2 Ion exchange	154
6.3 Soil acidity	162
6.4 Interaction of organic matter with metals, oxides, and clays	166
6.5 Iron, aluminium, and silica	167
6.6 Potassium, calcium, and magnesium	174
6.7 Nitrogen, phosphorus and sulphur	178
6.8 Micronutrients	193
6.9 Sodium chloride and associated salts	197
7. Soil mechanical properties	203
7.1 Bulk density	203
7.2 Soil strength	207
7.3 Swelling and dispersion	210
7.4 Shrinkage and fissuring	213
7.5 Consistency or atterberg limits	214
7.6 Compaction	216
7.7 Brittleness	218

7.8	Cementation of iron concretions	219
7.9	Induration	220
8.	Soil colour	224
8.1	The influence of colour on other soil characteristics	224
8.2	Description of soil colour	224
8.3	Sources of pigments in soil colours	225
8.4	Significance of soil colour	226
8.5	Significance of soil colour	227
8.6	Soil colour and man in contact with the earth	228
	Bibliography	229
	Appendix : soil names	271
	Subject Index	277