

Composition of organo-mineral complexes migrating in soddy-podzolic soil (*Umbric Albeluvisols Abruptic*)

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ABSTRACT

In laboratory column experiments carried out on soddy-podzolic soil reclaimed by industry wastes, the composition of organo-mineral complexes (OMC) migrating during the washing was studied. Carbon from OMC precipitated at pH 13, and ranged from 5.5 to 5.7%, regardless of the particle sizes of applied ameliorant. The optical density ($E_{c,g} \text{ ml}^{-1}$) of OMC solution was 2.7 to 3.1, which is within the range typical for fulvic acids. The total amount of Ca, Mg, Sr washed out from the OMC depended on the size of the ameliorant particles, as well as the content and ratio of alkaline earth metals in it. The smaller the particle size was, the migration losses of Ca, Mg, Sr were higher. The presence of significant amounts of Mg in the ameliorant enhances unproductive loss of the bases. According to the ability to migrate in the OMC, the studied elements can be arranged in the following descending order: Mg > Ca > Sr. Unexpectedly new finding was that not all organic substances migrating in the profile of reclaimed soddy-podzolic soils can precipitate under the conditions of a strongly alkaline reaction of the medium.

Keywords: chalk; organo-mineral complex; migration; alkaline earth metals

INTRODUCTION

Labile humus compounds constitute the closest reserve of nutrient elements for plants and microorganisms. In the stable pool, for a certain period, the circulation of carbon and other chemical elements is inhibited by accumulation of relatively stable organic and organo-mineral products (Funakawa et al., 2007).

Water-soluble organic matter (WSOM) is an integral part of the labile humus. In humus, WSOM is presented by only 0.05 to 1% (Kalbitz and Kaiser, 2008), what is associated with its increased migration ability and mobility. WSOM have a high reactive and complexation ability, therefore it participates vigorously in the processes of mineral weathering (Kögel-Knabner et al., 2008; Kosanin and Knezevic, 2010; McCauley et al., 2017) and plays a great role in the transport of plant nutrients (Ca, Mg).

Alkaline earth metals (Ca, Mg, Sr) actively migrate in the profile of soddy-podzolic soils, of which Ca has the greatest mobility. Average annual losses of CaCO_3 from arable soils range from 300 to 400 kg ha^{-1} (Zelenov et al., 2010), the intensity of Mg migration is lower (12-42 kg ha^{-1} per year) (Mazaeva, 1977), and the lowest migration ability has stable Sr (1.6 kg ha^{-1} per year) (Litvinovich et al., 2008; Litvinovich et al., 1999; Salaev and Litvinovich et al., 2017).

For a suitable study of humic materials, good characterization must be achieved for the different fractions to facilitate their behaviour under given conditions. In this paper, the same humic fractions were investigated for their optical densities in an alkaline solution by visible spectroscopy for characterization of humic materials migrating with soil OMC.

The lime fertilizers from industrial waste have different characteristics and rate of dissolution in soil (Litvinovich and Nebolsina, 2012). The influence of such materials on the components of soil humus often remains unclear. Therefore, the purpose of the present research is to study the composition of organo-mineral complexes leached from soddy-podzolic soils reclaimed by industrial wastes in the model experiments on columns.

The research was aimed to establish the carbon content in water-soluble OM, washed out from meliorated soddy-podzolic soils; to measure the optical density of OM removed from the soil because of wetting; determine the content of Ca, Mg and Sr, migrating in the composition of WSOM

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two laboratory experiments on the columns were laid out: experiment No. 1 and experiment No. 2. Soil samples for the experiment No. 1 were taken from the microfield plots, and for the experiment No. 2 from vegetative pot experiments.

Experiment No. 1.

Soil samples were taken after a year from liming from the microfield experiment with size of plot 1 m². The experiment was laid in 2015 with the aim of establishing ameliorative properties of dolomite dropout fractions of less than 0.25; 5-7 and 7-10 mm and mixtures of fractions (<0.25, 0.25-1, 1-3, 3-5, 5-7, 7-10 and 10-20 mm) used for road construction. Each treatment was replicated 4 times. For studying the effect of the treatments on crop peas (*Pisum sativum* L.) was cultivated; fertilizer (NPK - 16:16:16) was applied at the rate of 60 gm⁻². The scheme of the experiment is presented in Table 1. The dolomite composition was: CaCO₃ content was 46.1%; MgCO₃ - 38.4%; Sr - 160 mg kg⁻¹ dropout.

Soddy-podzolic light loamy soil with the following physicochemical parameters was used: pH_{KCl} - 4.6; Ha - 4.9 mmol (eq) 100⁻¹ g of soil; humus - 2.18%; the content of fractions <0.01 mm - 21.4%. The dolomite crumb was used in an amount corresponding to the full dose of hydrolytic acidity (1 Ha) calculated as: $CaCO_3, \frac{t}{ha} = \frac{Ha * 10 * 50 * 3000000}{10^9} = Ha * 1.5$, where Ha is a hydrolytic acidity, mmol(eq.) 100⁻¹ g soil; 10 is conversion into mmol(eq.) kg⁻¹; 50 is the amount of CaCO₃ required to neutralize 1 mmol (eq) of H⁺, mg; 3000000 - mass of arable layer per 1 hectare, kg; 10⁹ – conversion from mg ha⁻¹ into t ha⁻¹).

Experiment No. 2.

The composition of organo-mineral complexes (OMC) migrating from acidic soddy-podzolic soil, treated by a strontium-containing ameliorant, in an amount corresponding to 2.5 doses calculated according to hydrolytic acidity (Ha) was determined. Soil samples were taken from the pot experiment carried out to establish the translocation of strontium to plants from various biological families 5 years after liming, when the ameliorant completely reacted with soil (Lavrischev, 2016). Crop rotation was: spring rape (*Brassica napus* L.), vetch (*Vicia sativa* L.), barley (*Hordeum Sativum* L.), spring rapeseed, spring rape. Plants were fertilized annually with NPK (16:16:16) in a dose of 0.2 g kg⁻¹ soil. Conversion chalk (CC) (size <0.25 mm), a by-product of the treatment of phosphate raw materials was used as an ameliorant, which contained CaCO₃ -90%, Mg - 0.0015% and Sr - 1.5%.

Table 1 The composition of organo-mineral complexes washed out of meliorated soddy-podzolic soils

Treatments	C _{tot} , %	E _c mg ml ⁻¹	Content of metals, g kg ⁻¹			
			Ca	Mg	Sr	Σ
Experiment No.1 (dolomite crumb)						
NPK + dolomite < 0,25 mm at 1Ha [§]	5.6a*	3.1a	123.0a	196.1a	0.323a	319.35
NPK + dolomite 5-7 mm at 1Ha	5.7a	2.7a	145.0a	120.7b	0.670b	266.49
NPK + dolomite 7-10 mm at 1Ha	5.6a	2.9a	685.0b	110.2b	0.368a	179.05
NPK + mixture of dolomite fractions at 1Ha	5.5a	2.8a	511.7b	139.3b	0.231a	190.71
LSD ₀₅	–	–	120.5	2.656	0.0126	–
Experiment No. 2 (conversion chalk)						
NPK + CC ^{§§} no 2,5 Ha	5.5a	3.0a	117.5a	132.92b	3.050c	133.83

[§] Ha – hydrolytic acidity; ^{§§}CC - conversion chalk

*different letters design significant differences between the treatments within the column, at p < 0.05.

Acid soddy-podzolic soils were characterized with the parameters: pH_{KCl} - 4.1; Ha - 5.4 mmol (eq)100⁻¹ g of soil; humus - 3.02%, content of particles with a size <0.01 mm - 18.6%.

Column test

In both experiments, before being placed on the columns, the samples of reclaimed soils were dried, ground, sieved through a 1 mm mesh sieve and placed in polyethylene columns with a diameter of 65 mm. The mass of soil in the column was 800 g. The height of the soil layer was 18 cm. The packing density was 1.1 g cm⁻³. Each treatment was set in 6 replications.

The soils in the columns were saturated with deionised water until the first drop of leaching moisture appeared, followed by washing with 400 ml of water and collecting the filtrate in a flask. The pH of the eluate was adjusted to 13 by adding 0.1N NaOH until the brown flakes of OMC precipitated, which were separated from the supernatant, dried and analysed for total carbon content, for optical density and presence of alkaline earth metals Ca, Mg and Sr. In the experiment No. 2, the supernatant solution also was analysed.

Analytical methods

Determination of carbon in the composition of the sediment and supernatant was carried out according to Tyurin (1951), based on the oxidation of humus with a sulphuric chromium mixture (ratio 1:1). The optical density of OMC was measured at the photo-electro-colorimeter by Plotnikova -Ponomareva (1967) with a blue light filter, previously dissolving the precipitate in NaOH. The wavelength was 430 nm and the cuvette thickness 1 cm.

The content of elements (Ca, Mg and Sr) in the sediments was determined using an ICPE-9000 emission spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, Japan) according to the manufacturer's method. The samples were ground and burned in a mixture of concentrated HNO₃ and 38% H₂O₂ (1:1) at 70°C using a DigiBlock system (LabTech, Italy).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Organo-mineral complex and its optical density

The content of OMC carbon migrated in the soil meliorated by dolomite (experiment No. 1), varied depending on the treatment from 5.5 to 5.7% (Table 1). The influence of the dolomite size on the amount of leachable carbon was not revealed.

The optical density (OMC, E_c mg ml⁻¹) chemically can be defined as an intensity of staining of alkaline solution of OM per unit of carbon: the darker the solution is, the more it contains carbon. At an equal concentration of C in the solution, the E_c mgml⁻¹ value depends on the depth of humification (aromatization) of the humic substances in it.

The values of optical density of the migrating organic substances ranged from 2.7 to 3.1 units i.e. were within the range typical for FA (Bakina, 2012). In the experiment using CC, the amount of C and optical density were not statistically different from the experiments with dolomite.

In our study, the straw-yellow colour of the solution over the sediment, led us to examine the supernatant. The results showed that the least enriched with carbon was the supernatant from the experiment No. 2 (75.5 m g l⁻¹) (Fig. 1). The carbon concentration in the supernatant from the experiment No.1 was for 1.21-2.06, depending of the treatment, times higher than in the experiment No. 2. Consequently, not all organic substances migrating in the profile of reclaimed soddy-podzolic soils can precipitate under the conditions of a strongly alkaline reaction of the medium.

The optical density of organic substances not capable to precipitate in the experiment No. 2 was E_c mg ml⁻¹ = 1.2, which corresponds to the fulvic acids, but much lower than the optical density of alkaline solutions of the OMC precipitating after adjusting the pH of the solution to 12.

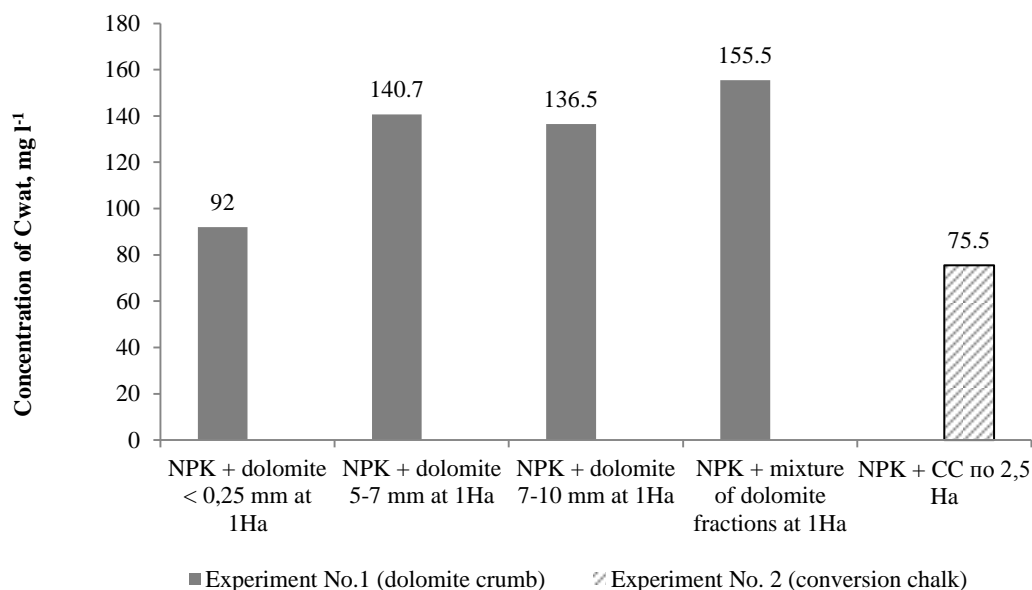


Figure 1 Concentration of water soluble carbon (C_{wat}) in supernatant, $mg\ l^{-1}$, ($LSD_{05} = 15.5$)

Thus, the organo-mineral complexes (OMC), which migrates in the profile of reclaimed soddy-podzolic soils, are heterogeneous in both chemical composition and optical density. Under certain conditions, the most humified part of them can precipitate. Less humified FA, as well as low-molecular organic substances remains in solution. Determination of the amount of FA from those of remaining in solution that are capable of precipitation during alkaline reaction requires special experiments. However, in practical terms in the soil with pH less than 8.0 FAs cannot be fixed in soils in the form of fulvates of calcium and magnesium and are removed from the soil profile. The OMC capable of precipitation in the case of a strongly alkaline solution contain in their composition significant amounts of alkaline earth metals (Table 1).

Content of calcium and magnesium in OMC

The highest calcium content in OMC in the Experiment No. 1 was established in the treatment reclaimed by dolomite size of 5-7 mm. In the treatments using dolomite of less than 0.25 and 7-10 mm, the calcium content was lower. The least amount of calcium was washed out from the soil of the treatment limed with a mixture of fractions. Thus, by the amount of leachable calcium in OMC, all studied treatments can be arranged in the following descending order: 5-7 mm > 0.25 mm > 7-10 mm > mixture of fractions.

The leaching of magnesium in the experiment was as follows: the smaller the particle size of dolomite, the higher the magnesium content of the OMC. Thus, the concentration of magnesium in the OMC of the treatment using the smallest fraction of dolomite was 196.1 g kg^{-1} , and in the treatments using fractions 5-7 and 7-10 mm in size, it decreased for 1.6 and 1.8 times, respectively. The least amount of magnesium leached from the soil OMC was established in the treatment reclaimed by a mixture of fractions.

It is important to emphasize that the content of Mg in dolomite is less than content of Ca. However, the amount of Mg washed out from OMC, was 1.6-2.7 times higher than of Ca. Apparently, magnesium has a greater affinity of to the organic matter of the soil. An exception was the treatment using 5-7 mm size, where the concentration of Ca was higher than the concentration of Mg.

Even though the dose of CC in the experiment No. 2 was 2.5 times higher than that of dolomite of the same size (1st treatment of experiment No. 1), and Ca content was 2 times lower, the amount of Ca migrating with OMC was not higher than in the experiment with dolomite (117.5 and 123.0 g kg^{-1} , respectively). The concentration of migrating Mg was much lower than of Ca, due to the extremely low content of this element in the CC.

The dolomite absorbs FA, neutralizing up to 5.4 % of total carbon (Yashin, 1991), then Ca cations are mobilized into the solution accompanied by formation of WSOM that is characterized with stability and high migration ability. A part of calcium passes into solution and in the form of organo-mineral compounds can migrate in the soil. Yashin (1991) also found that the removal of carbon from the arable horizon reaches $280\text{-}310 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$ per year, where, fluvic acids tightly bound up to 51.4 % of calcium cations as water-soluble calcium-fulvate compounds capable of migration along the soil profile.

Effect of magnesium on soil OM significantly differs from that of calcium. In the lysimetric experiments conducted on strongly acid soddy-podzolic soils, an addition of a large amount of magnesium carbonate resulted in a sharp increase of OM leaching, where a close correlation between the amount of leached OM and Mg was observed (Nebolsin and Nebolsina, 2010).

Content of strontium in OMC

Litvinovich et al. (1999) found that up to 50% of soil strontium is associated with humic acids, therefore content of strontium migrating in the composition of OMC are of certain interest.

Our data showed that Sr was present in OMC of all treatments. In the experiment No. 1, no regularities in leaching, related to the particle size of dolomite could be identified. The sediment of the treatment using a mixture of dolomite fractions was characterized by the least content of strontium. The largest was observed in the treatment ameliorated by 5-7 mm size dolomite. The difference between the treatments was 2.9 times.

The presence of a significant amount of Sr in the conversion chalk resulted in increase of Sr content in OMC migrated in the soil of experiment No. 2, whose concentration was 4.6-13.1 times higher than in the experiment No. 1.

Noticeably, concentration of the Mg migrated in the composition of OMC in the experiment with CC exceeded the concentration of Sr, although the amount of the latter in the composition of the ameliorant was much larger. Obviously, in the composition of OMC, not only the Mg of the ameliorant but the Mg of the soil also migrates.

CONCLUSIONS

In the experiments carried out on soddy-podzolic soils amended with industrial waste, the composition of OMC migrating from the arable horizon was studied. Regardless of the composition of the ameliorant, the amount of carbon of OMC precipitating in the alkaline solution varied from 5.5 to 5.7%. The optical density index was within the range typical for fulvic acids ($E_{cm}^{mg\ l^{-1}} = 2.7-3.1$).

The total amount of leachable bases was affected by the size and composition of the ameliorant. With smaller dolomite particles and larger area of their interaction with soil, the higher losses of metals was established.

The presence of significant amounts of Mg in the dolomite increases the total losses of alkaline earth metals due to their migration. By migration ability, studied elements were arranged as follows: $Mg > Ca > Sr$.

The new finding implies that not all organic substances migrating in the profile of reclaimed soddy-podzolic soils can precipitate under the conditions of a strongly alkaline reaction of the medium.

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Sastav organsko-mineralnih kompleksa koji migriraju u zemljištu tipa *Umbric Albeluvisols Abruptic*

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Zemljište tipa *Umbric Albeluvisols Abruptic* je tretirano industrijskim otpadom u cilju proučavanja sastava organsko mineralnog kompleksa koji migriraju tokom ispiranja. Ogled je sproveden u laboratorijskim uslovima sa kolonama. Taloženje ugljenika iz OMK se dešavalo u izuzetno baznoj sredini pri pH 13 i njegov sadržaj je iznosio od 5.5-5.7% bez obzira na veličinu čestica primenjenog tretmanskog sredstva. Utvrđena optimalna gustina (E_{cgm}^{-1}) rastvora je iznosila od 2.7-3.1, što je u karakteristično za opseg fulvo-kiselina. Ukupna isprana količina Ca, Mg i Sr isprana iz OMK je zavisila od veličine čestica tretmanskog sredstva (ili melioracionog) kao i od sadržaja i odnosa zemnoalkalnih metala u njemu. Smanjenje veličine čestice je dovelo do većih migracionih gubitka Ca, Mg, i Sr. Takođe je utvrđeno da povećani sadržaj Mg u tretmanskom sredstvu je povećavalo gubitak baza iz zemljišta. Prema sposobnosti migracije kod ispitivanih elemenata je utvrđen sledeći redosled: Mg>Ca>Sr. Neočekivano je utvrđeno da u izraženo alkalnoj sredini ne dolazi do taloženja svih organskih supstanci u profile zemljišta tipa *Umbric Albeluvisols Abruptic*.

Ključne reči: kreda; organsko mineralni kompleks; migracija; zemnoalkalni metali

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