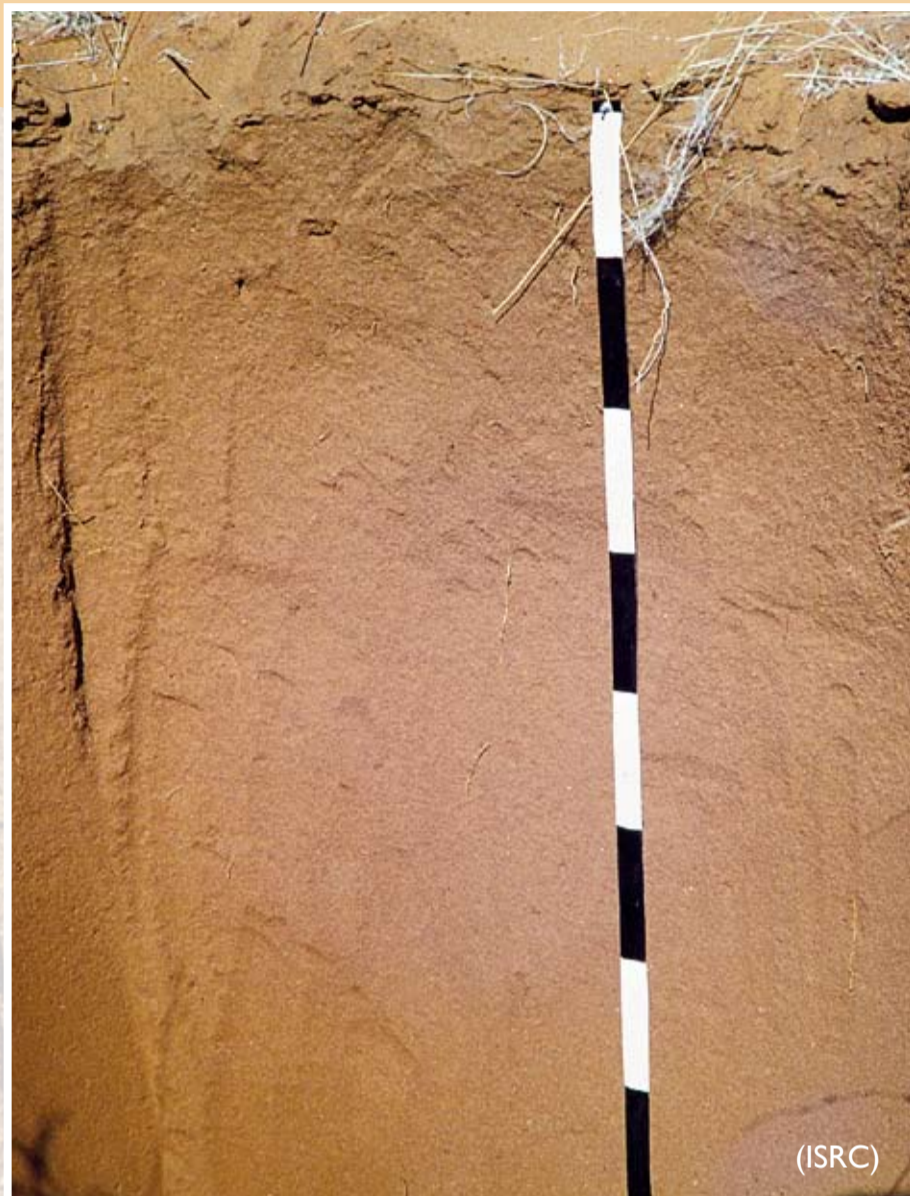


Arenosols

(from Latin, *arena*, meaning sand)



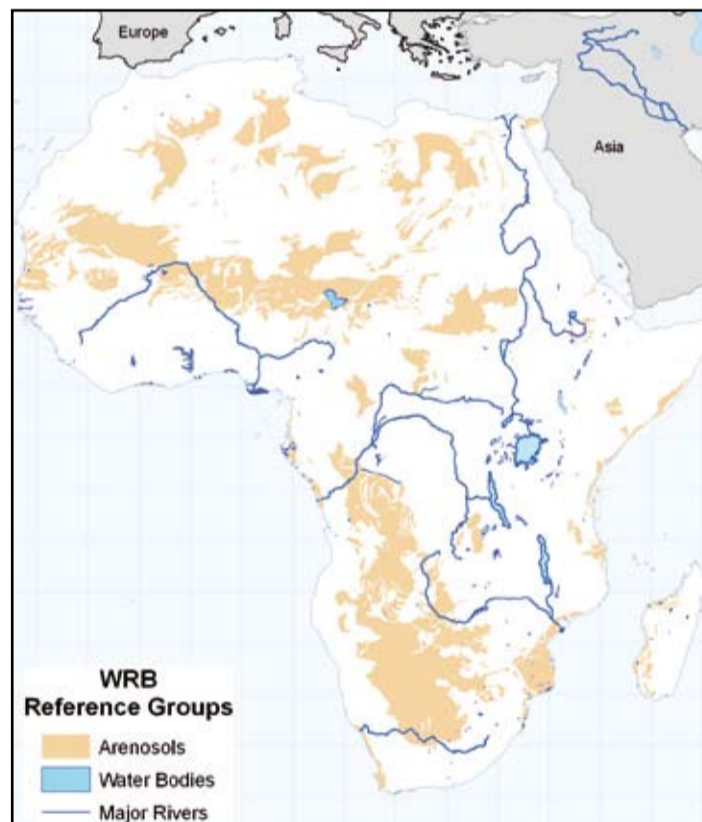
Soils with a loamy sand or coarser texture either to a depth of at least 100 cm from the soil surface, or to a contrasting layer between 50 and 100 cm from the soil surface. They contain less than 40 percent (by volume) rock fragments or other coarse fragments within that depth. The profile shows a featureless Arenosol in a Namibian dune the red colour is due to very thin iron coatings around the individual sand grains. Arenosols are much sought after by small farmers because they are easy to work. They do, however, suffer from moisture deficiency; irrigation is often needed to overcome drought periods. Nutrient supply is typically low.

Arenosols occur over large areas of Africa; the largest extent on Earth is found in southern Africa: *the Kalahari sands*.

August 2010



The photograph above shows part of a dune complex in Namibia containing some of the highest sand dunes on Earth, over 350 meters high.



Location of areas where Arenosols are the dominant soil. Arenosols cover around 18% of Africa.

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

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9	10 ☺	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24 ☺	25	26	27	28	29
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