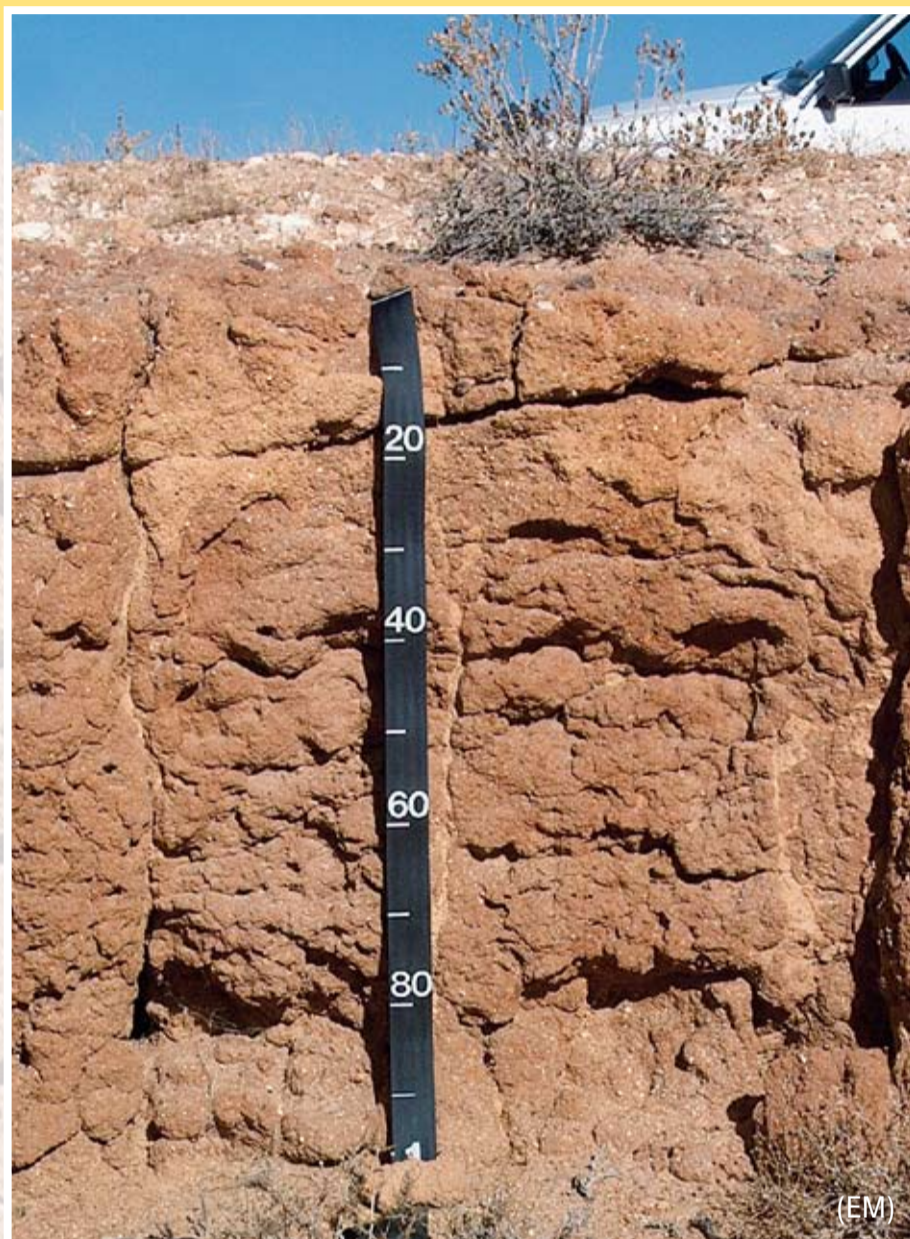
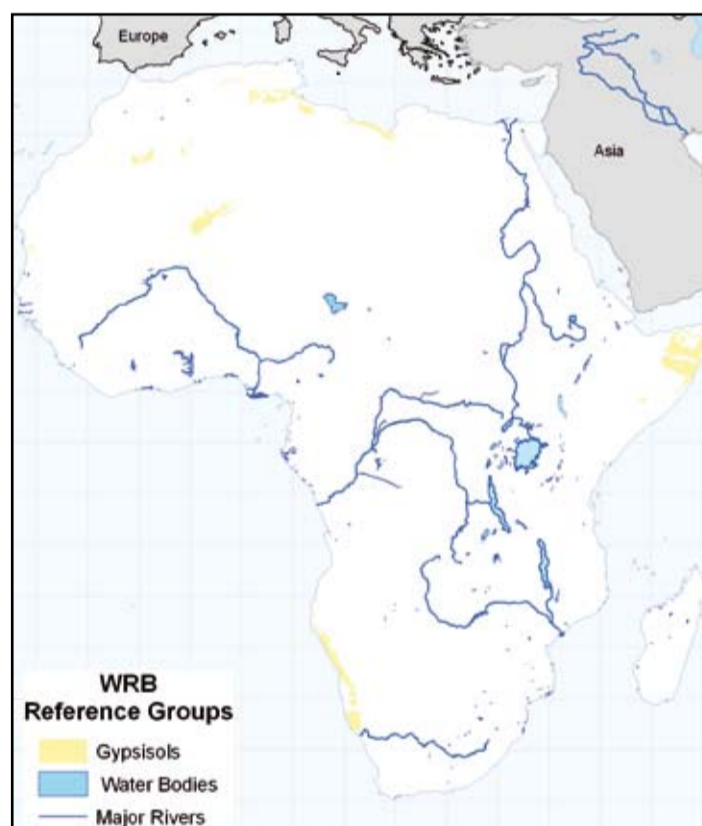


Gypsisols

(from Greek *gypsos*, meaning gypsum)



The picture shows the desolate Namib Desert where Gypsisols are one of the dominant soil types. Gypsum is easily dissolved when scarce rain water enters into the soil. The dissolution gypsum crystals creates many cavities in the soil. When a stone is dropped on the surface, a hollow sound can often be heard.



Location of areas where Gypsisols are dominant (i.e. > 50% of the mapping unit). Gypsisols cover around 1% of Africa.

Soils having a layer with five percent or more gypsum, one percent of which is at least visibly redeposited (secondary or pedogenetic) gypsum. This layer can be soft (gypsic horizon) or hardened (petrogypsic horizon). If a clay-enriched subsurface horizon is present, this horizon must also contain gypsum or calcium carbonate.

The above example from Namibia shows the irregular face of the soil profile, caused by the needle-shaped gypsum crystals, as well as a number of cavities resulting from the dissolution of the gypsum. Gypsisols occur in the driest parts of semi-arid regions where annual evapotranspiration exceeds greatly the precipitation, and where a source of sulphate is present to form gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$).

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

					1	2	3
4	5	6	7 ☾	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15 ☺	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23 ☾	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30 ☺	31	