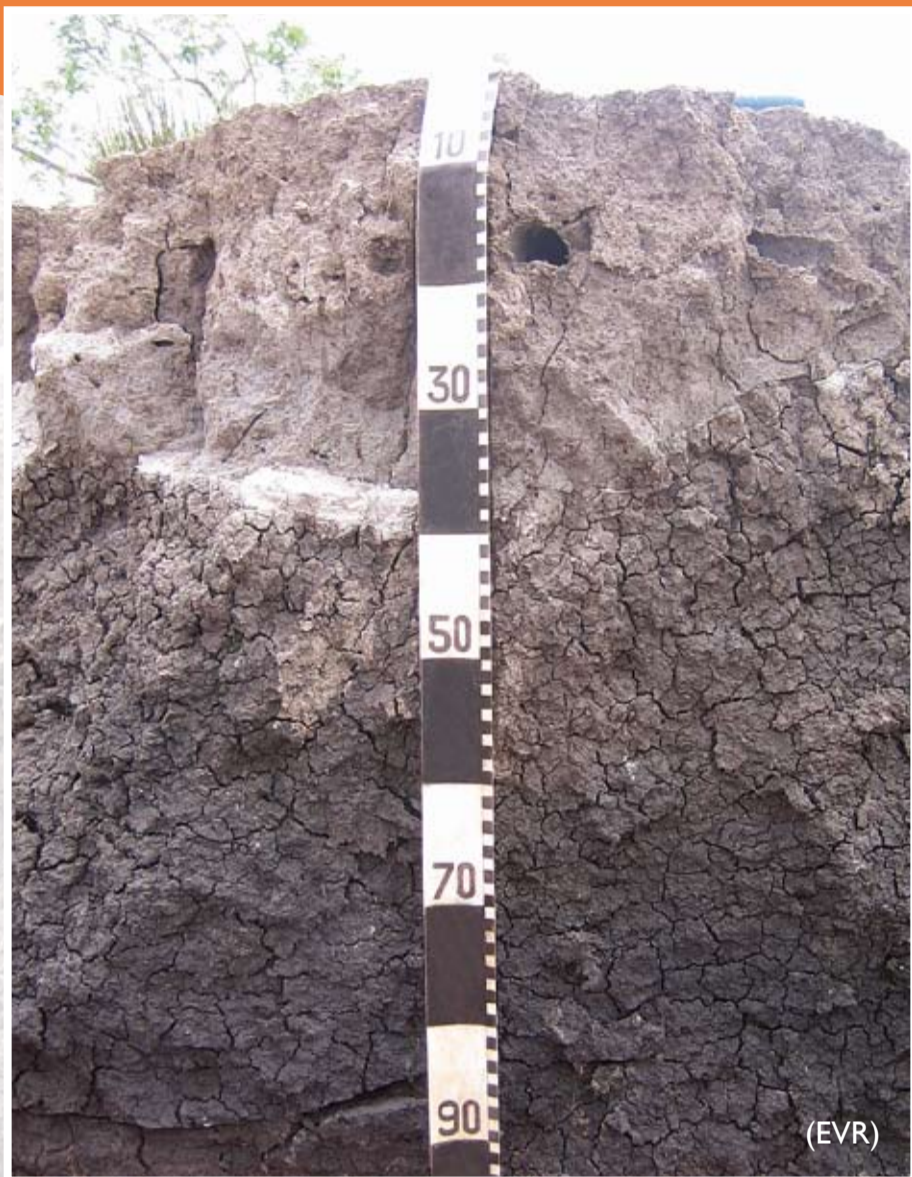


# Planosols

(from Latin *planus*, meaning flat)



Soils having an abrupt textural change within 100 cm from the soil surface, associated with stagnic properties (waterlogging) above or below that boundary.

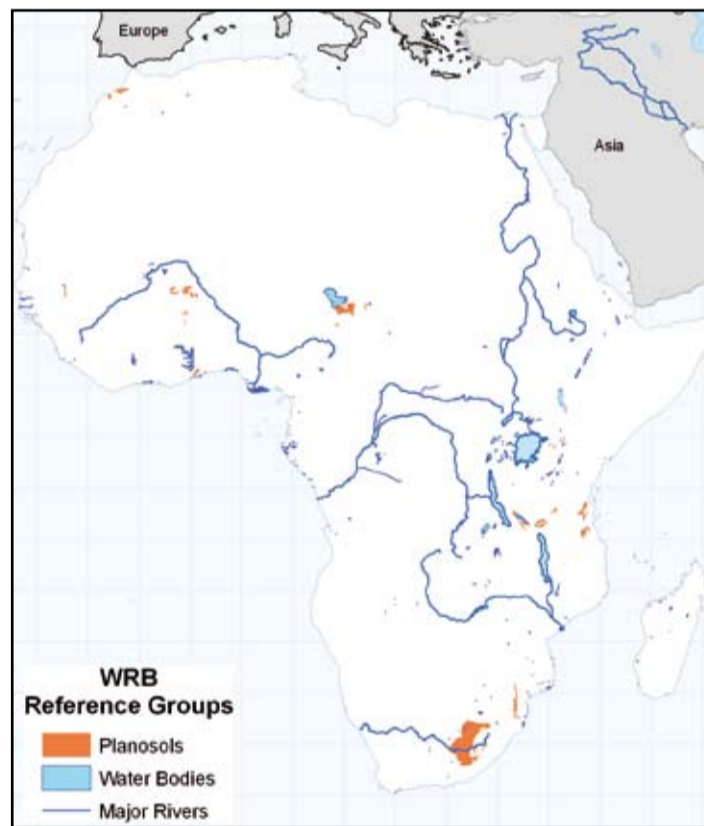
This profile from Ethiopia shows a typical Planosol with a thick, structureless topsoil. At about a depth of 40 cm, there is an abrupt textural change; evidence of the stagnating conditions can be seen as yellowish brown mottles at the bottom of the profile. According to some researchers, the texture contrast of Planosols can be explained by clay decomposition in the upper part of acid, seasonally wet soils. In this process, termed ferrollysis, clay minerals are destroyed in a sequence of repetitive cycles, each cycle involving a reduction and an oxidation phase.

Planosols occur in level landscapes throughout the world and are often associated with broad river valleys. During the rainy season, water can stagnate on the impermeable soil layer for a significant period of time.

# November 2010



A truck driving over a temporary road on a terrace of the Volta River in Ghana creates huge dust clouds. This is due to the lack of cohesion between the particles in the topsoil.



Location of areas where Planosols are the dominant soil. Planosols cover around 1% of Africa.

**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