

MACROPORES MODIFICATIONS

SUMMARY

Changes in the total porosity and pore size distribution due to treatment of microbial dextrans on two Italian clay soils were studied by micromorphological techniques. Molecular weight of dextrans ranged from 10,000 to 2,000,000. The measurements were carried out with a Leitz Classimat apparatus using an electro-optical procedure. Besides, a Leitz plus-contrast coating chamber was also used to produce a sufficient contrast between voids and quartz grains, so that voids could be detected also by means of transmitted light.

Noticeable differences were found both in the total porosity and in the pore size distribution between treated and untreated samples.