Clay Mineral Compositions of the Soils and Substrata of Some Quaternary Outcrops in the Saraburi and Lop Buri Area of the Central Plain of Thailand

by

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Introduction

This paper has two objectives. One is to describe about 20 additional Quaternary outcrops in Saraburi and Lop Buri—Khok Samrong areas of the Central Plain of Thailand, following the line of previous studies by Takaya. The other is to clarify the stratigraphy of the area through the study of the mineralogical characteristics of the soils and substrata, thus making another contribution to the knowledge of geomorphology of the Central Plain.

I Geomorphic setting and distribution of soils in the surveyed areas

The Saraburi area, which is drained by the Pasak river, comprises a part of the fan complex areas of the Central Plain described in a previous paper. This area has a slightly undulating ground surface with sparse standing trees and is utilized for rice cultivation. According to Dent's soil survey report, the soils in this area are gray podzolic soils (Hin Khon series) and low humic gley soils (Manorom series on old alluvia and Saraburi and Nakhon Phatom series on semirecent alluvia). The former occupies the upper part of the fan and the latter the lower part.

The Lop Buri area skirts a paleozoic limestone hill region located in the northeastern part of the Central Plain, and the southern part of this area smoothly merge in the Saraburi area. The Khok Samrong area spread on the foot of a Mesozoic sandstone hill located to the east of Amphoe Khok Samrong. The geomorphic setting of the Lop Buri—Khok Samrong area was described in a preceding paper in relation to the calcareous formation occurring in the same area. The soils that occur in this area are grumsols (Lop Buri series and Takhli series) and grumsol-like soils (humic gley soil, Ban Mi series).

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II Description of outcrops and samples

Notes on the description of outcrops and samples:

Location—Location of each outcrop is shown by a location number on the map of Fig. 1. The location numbers for the newly described outcrops start from 201, following those in the previous papers. Some of the previously described outcrops having location numbers below 200 are also dealt with in this paper in relation to clay mineralogical studies.

Ground height—The height recorded here is no more accurate than can be assessed from the 1:50,000 topographical map (AMS series L-708).
Color of materials—The Munsel color notation as observed on the standard color chart was recorded.

Stratigraphical horizon—At the end of description of each sedimental bed and/or soil horizon, a probable stratigraphical horizon is shown by one of the following abbreviations:

- (BVC) Black vertic clay
- (I) Formation I
- (II) Formation II
- (III) Formation III
- (Cal) Calcareous formation

In the Lop Buri—Khok Samrong area, surface or near-surface layers with a few to several decimeter thickness are often made up of black colored vertic clay. Though they are associated with calcareous formation, they are described separately under the name of black vertic clay, because of their wide distribution and characteristic nature.

Sample number—Sample numbers are given in parentheses at the end of description.

[Abbreviations]

- (Color) yellow: yl, white: wh, gray: gr, brown: br
- (Moisture) dry: d, moist: m, wet: w
- (Others) Calcareous: Ca, Manganese: Mn, iron: Fe, ground height: G. H.

Lop Buri—Khok Samrong Area

Loc. 201
Ca 2.5 km. SWS of Amphoe Phra Phutthabat; G. H. 31 m; slightly undulating
0–50 cm; Dark gr-br (7.5YR 2/2, m) HC; granular structure; very few Mn-pisoliths; gradual boundary (BVC, 201–1)
50–120 cm; Mixed gr-br (7.5YR 5/2, m) and yl-br (10YR 5/4, m) HC; very few Mn-pisoliths (φ 0.2–0.4 cm); clear boundary (BVC, 201–2)
120 cm–; Layer of wh Ca-nodules (Cal)

Loc. 202
Ca 5.5 km. SWS of Amphoe Phra Phutthabat; G. H. 22 m; slightly undulating rice land
0–30 cm; Dark red-br (5YR 2/2, d) HC; few Ca-nodules; few Mn-pisoliths (φ 0.2–0.5 cm); very hard when dry; gradual boundary (BVC, 202–1)
30–70 cm; Very dark br (10YR 2/2, m) HC; few concentric pisoliths; very few yl-red (5YR 5/8, m) fine spots; common pressure faces; gradual boundary (BVC, 202–2)
70–100 cm; Dark br (7.5YR 4/2, m) HC; few yl (10YR 7/8) fine to medium spots; few Mn-pisoliths (φ 0.2–0.5 cm); common slickensides; clear boundary (BVC, 202–3)
100–150 cm; Light yl-br (10YR 6/4, m) HC; profuse Ca-nodules; very few Mn-pisoliths (Cal, 202–4)

Loc. 203
Ca 6.5 km. SWW of Amphoe Phra Phutthabat; G. H. 20 m; very slightly sloping rice land
0–30 cm; Dark red-br (5YR 2/2, d) HC; very few Mn-Fe pisoliths and Ca-nodules; clear boundary (BVC, 203–1)
30 cm–; Layer of wh Ca-nodules (Cal)

Loc. 204
Near Loc. 203; G. H. 20 m; slightly sloping rice land
0–30 cm; Very dark br (7.5YR 2/2, d) HC; few Ca-nodules; few Mn-pisoliths (φ 0.2–0.5 cm); very hard when dry; gradual boundary (BVC, 204–1)
30–80 cm; Light yl-br (10YR 6/4, d) LiC; few Ca-spots; few Ca-fissure fillings and Ca-nodules; very few Mn-pisoliths; clear boundary (BVC, 204–2)
80–130 cm; Layer of wh Ca-nodules (Cal)
Loc. 205  Ca 10.5 km. SWW of Amphoe Phra Phutthabat; G. H. 7 m; flat rice land
0–30 cm:  BVC with very few Mn-pisoliths (Φ 0.2 cm) (205-1)

Loc. 206  Ca 300 m. N of Ban Khlong Bun Railway Station; G. H. 5 m; slightly undulating rice land
0–70 cm:  Dark br (7.5YR 3/2, d) HC; very few Mn-pisoliths (Φ 0.2–0.3 cm); common slickensides; gradual boundary (BVC, 206-1)
70–140 cm:  Dark gr (N 3, m) HC; very few dark olive gr (5Y 3/2, m) medium cloudy mottles; few Ca-nodules (Φ 0.3–1.0 cm); few fine to medium Ca-spots; very few Mn-pisoliths; gradual boundary (BVC, 206-2)
140–170 cm:  Gr (N 6, m) HC; few to common pale yl (2.5Y 7/4) small cloudy mottles; few Ca-nodules (Φ 0.3–1.0 cm); few Mn-pisoliths with yl and wh clay; gradual boundary (I, 206-3)
170–200 cm:  Same as above; more mottles than above; larger nodules than above; (I)

Loc. 141  Refer to Takaya’s report.²
1) (141-1)  3) (141-2)  4) (141-3)  5) (141-4)
7) (141-5)  8) (141-6)  9) (141-7)  10) (141-8)

Loc. 144  Refer to Takaya’s report.²
4.0–4.4 m; (144-1)  4.4–4.7 m; (144-2)  4.7–4.9 m; (144-3)
4.9–6.4 m; (144-4)

Loc. 208  Near Ban Khok Krathiam Railway Station; G. H. 8 m; slightly undulating rice land
0–30 cm:  Mixed dark red-br (5YR 4/2, d) and very dark br (10YR 2/2, d) HC; very few pisoliths (I, 208-1)

Loc. 209  Ca 8 km. E of Amphoe Khok Samrong; G. H. 40 m; slightly undulating bush land
0–20 cm:  Gr-wh (N 7, d) SL; profuse pink quartz sands; profuse botryoidal and pisolithic concretions (Φ 0.2–1.0 cm); clear boundary (? , 209-1)
20–70+ cm:  Br (7.5YR 5/4, m) SL; many pink quartz sands; many Mn-pisoliths (Φ 0.2–0.8 cm); very few irregular shaped Ca-nodules (up to 1.5 cm) (? , 209-2)

Loc. 210  Ca 2 km. SW of Amphoe Khok Samrong; G. H. 30 m; Ca-carbonate quarry
0–20 cm:  Dark br (7.5YR 3/2, d) LiC; many coarse sands; few small limestone gravels; few pink quartz sands; hard fine to medium angular blocky structure; shells, bornes and ceramic wares buried; clear boundary (BVC, 210-1)
20–45 cm:  Dark br (7.5YR 3/4, d) HC; common Ca-nodules (Φ 0.1–0.6 cm); gradual boundary (BVC, 210-2)
45–100 cm:  Ca-nodule layer; accidently slate blocks; gradual boundary (Cal, 210-3)
100–150+ cm:  Wh powdery materials with light gr (10YR 7/2, d) SL; original rock structure remains (Cal, 210-4)

Loc. 211  Ca 5.5 km. W of Amphoe Khok Samrong; G. H. 22 m; slightly undulating rice land with few standing trees
0–40 cm:  Very dark br (10YR 2/2, m) HC; few Mn-pisoliths (Φ 0.2–0.3 cm); common pressure faces; fine angular blocky structure; clear boundary (BVC, 211-1)
40–80 cm:  very dark gr-br (10YR 3/2, m) SCL; very few pink quartz grains; very few Ca-spots and nodules (Φ 0.3–0.5 cm); very few Mn-pisoliths (Φ 0.2–0.4 cm); gradual boundary 484
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(BVC, 211–2)

at 100 cm: Gr-br (10 YR 5/2, m) SCL; more Ca-spots and nodules and pink quartz grains than above; gradual boundary (?, 211–3)

at 120 cm: Same as 211–3; few to common sand lenses [yl-br (10 YR 5/4) SL with profuse pink quartz grains]; gradual boundary (?, 211–4)

at 160 cm: Same as 211–4 (?, 211–5)

at 200 cm: Gr (N 4, m) CL; common sand lenses; very few Ca-spots and nodules; very few Mn-pisoliths (?, 211–6)

Loc. 212

Ca 4.5 km. W of Khok Samrong; G. H. 23 m; gently sloping rice land

Mixed weak red (2.5 YR 5/2, m) and pale red (10 R 6/4, m) S; very hard when dry; common Fe-Mn pisoliths (?, 212–1)

Loc. 213

Ca 7 km. E of Ba Hi Railway Station; G. H. 18 m; slightly undulating rice land with sparse standing trees

Gr (N 4, w) HC; very few yl-red (5 YR 5/6) very fine spots; common slickensides; looks like weathered porphyllite (?, 213–1)

Loc. 214

Ca 2.5 km. SEE of Ban Khok Krathiam Railway Station; G. H. 13 m

0–50 cm: Very dark br (7.5 YR 2/2, d) LiC; few quartz grains; few Ca-spots; very few Mn-pisoliths (φ 0.2–0.3 cm); very few round transported materials; gradual boundary (BVC, 214–1)

50–150 cm: Dark gr-br (10 YR 4/2, d) SCL; few to common sand grains; few Mn-pisoliths (φ 0.2–0.7 cm); common transported materials (φ 0.3–0.5 cm) (I, 214–2)

Saraburi Area

Loc. 215

Ca 3 km. E of Amphoe Hin Khon; G. H. 5 m; slightly undulating and sloping rice land

0–30 cm: Mixed pinkish wh (7.5 YR 8/2, d) and strong br (7.5 YR 5/6, d) CL; profuse Fe-Mn concretions; common pink quartz grains; clear boundary (III, 215–1)

30–90 cm: Pale red (2.5 YR 6/2, d) LiC; red (10 R 4/8) spots and their aggregates; few Fe-Mn pisoliths and many concretions (up to 3.0 cm) (III, 215–2)

Loc. 216

Refer to Takaya's report.21

1) (142–1) 4) (142–2) 5) (142–3) 6) (142–4) 7) (142–5)

Loc. 217

Ca 2 km. W of Amphoe Hin Khon; G. H. 7 m; the bank of a small stream
Natural levee: Red-br (5 YR 5/2, d) CL (217-1)
Old fan deposits: Dark yl-br (10 YR 3/4, d) HC; common Mn-pisoliths (Φ 0.2-0.4 cm, up to 1.2 cm); few red (2.5 YR 5/8) soft concretions (217-2)

Loc. 218
Ca 4 km. W of Ban Nong Khrek; G. H. 12 m
0- 20 cm: Mixed light br-gr (2.5 Y 6/2, d) and gr (N 6, d) HC; few pisoliths; very few red-yl (5 YR 6/8) fibrous mottles (II, 218-1)

Loc. 219
Ca 7 km. W of Ban Nong Khrek; G. H. 11 m
0- 10 cm: Surface soil
10- 50 cm: Pinkish beige (2.5 YR 7/2, d) SL; common to many red (2.5 YR 4/8), red-yl (7.5 YR 7/6) and Mn spots and their aggregates; gradual boundary (II, 219-1)
50-170 cm: Yl-br (10 YR 5/6, m) CL; profuse Mn-pisoliths and Ca-nodules; many slickensides (Cal, 219-2)

Loc. 145
Refer to Takaya’s report. 2)
1) (145-1) 3) (145-2) 4) (145-3) 5) (145-4)

Loc. 220
South of canal gate at Tha Rua; G. H. 11 m
0- 4 m: Probably (1)
4-4.4 m: Dark gr (N 4, d) HC; common br-yl (10 YR 6/6) and red-yl (7.5 YR 7/6) cloudy mottles; clear boundary (I, 220-1)
4.4-4.7 m: Yl-br (10 YR 5/4, d) SC; profuse round and botryoidal pisoliths; thin laterite layer; clear boundary (III, 220-2)
4.7-4.9 m: Gr-wh (N 8, d) HC; common red (10 R 4/8) and br-yl (10 YR 6/6) cloudy mottles; few pisoliths and concretions; gradual boundary (III, 220-3)
4.9-5.0+m: Gr (N 6, d) HC: less mottles than 220-3 (III, 220-4)

Loc. 143
Refer to Takaya’s report. 2)
0- 0.1 m; (143-1) 0.1-0.2 m; (143-2) 0.2-0.4 m; (143-3 & 4)
0.4-0.6 m; (143-5) 0.6-1.4 m; (143-6, 7 & 8) 1.4-1.6 m; (143-9 & 10)

Loc. 221
Ca 2 km. W of Amphoe Pachi; G. H. 3 m; depressional part on slightly undulating swampy region in rice land
0- 30 cm: Black HC; (recent clay ?)
30- 80+cm: Gr-br (10 YR 5/2, w) HC; common red (10 R 4/8) spots and their aggregates; common yl (10 YR 8/6 and 10 YR 7/6) cloudy and fibrous mottles; common Mn-films and spots; few Fe-concretions (Φ up to 2.0 cm); few fine pisoliths; few slickensides (I, 221-1)

Loc. 222
Ca 7 km. W of Amphoe Pachi; G. H. 4 m; very slightly undulating rice land
0- 10 cm: Surface soil
10- 50 cm: Gr (N 4, d) HC; common strong br (7.5 YR 5/8) pipes and fibrous mottles; common yl-br (10 YR 5/4) cloudy mottles; very few dark red-br (2.5 YR 3/4) films; few Mn-films; very few loose Mn-concretions (I, 222-1)

Loc. 223
Ca 8.5 km. E of Amphoe Nakhon Luang; G. H. ?; almost flat rice land without standing trees
10- 30 cm: Weak red (2.5 YR 5/2, d) LiC; few strong br (7.5 YR 5/8) fibrous and filmy mottles; very few Ca-nodules (Φ 0.5-1.0 cm) and Mn-concretions (I, 223-1)
Loc. 224  Ca 1.5 km. W of Pasak Canal on the road to Pachi from Hinkhon; G. H. 5 m; slightly undulating rice land with common standing trees
0-10 cm; Surface soil
10-50 cm; weak red (2.5 YR 5/2, m) HC; few to common red-yl (5 YR 6/8) fibrous mottles; few red (2.5 YR 5/6) cloudy mottles; very few concretions gradual boundary (I, 224–1)
50–80+ cm; Br (7.5 YR 5/2, m) LiC; common red (10 R 4/8) spots and their aggregates; few yl (10 YR 8/8) fibrous mottles; well indurated; hard (I, 224–2)

III Clay mineralogical characteristics of soils and substrata of the observed outcrops

The X-ray diffraction procedure (cf. Hattori et al.) was used for the mineralogical study of clays in the soils and substrata of the above described outcrops. Some of the representative X-ray diffraction patterns are shown in Fig. 2 and 3.

The X-ray diffraction patterns of the samples taken from the Lop Buri and Khok
Samrong area are classified into three types—\(I, \ IIa\) and \(IIb\).

Type \(I\); the clay is composed almost purely of montmorillonite.

Type \(IIa\); the clay is composed dominantly of montmorillonite but contain a small amount of kaolin minerals that show a sharp peak at 7 Å.

Type \(IIb\); similar to Type \(IIa\), but kaolin minerals show a broad 7 Å peak.

The samples from the Saraburi area may be classified into five types according to their X-ray diffraction patterns, as shown in Fig. 3.

Type \(IIIc\); similar to Type \(IIa\) and \(IIb\), but some vermiculite is present.

Type \(IIIa\); the clay contains kaolin minerals in nearly equal quantities. 14 Å minerals are dominantly montmorillonite.

Type \(IIIb\); similar to Type \(IIIa\), but 14 Å minerals are composed of montmorillonite and vermiculite and/or Al-intergrade minerals in about halves.

Type \(IIIc\); similar to Type \(IIIa\) and \(IIIb\), but 14 Å minerals are mainly vermiculite and Al-intergrade minerals.

Type \(IV\); the clay is composed of kaolin minerals.

The clay mineralogical characteristics of the samples from the Lop Buri—Khok Samrong area and from the Saraburi area are given in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

**Fig. 3** X-ray diffraction patterns of oriented specimens prepared from soils and substrata in Saraburi Area (1. Mg-AD, 2. Mg-Gly, 3. K-AD, 4. K-500°heat)
From the results given in the tables the clay mineralogical characteristics can be pointed out as follows: the following general

1) The samples taken from calcareous formations are composed mainly of montmorillonite. But there are slight local variations:

   1a) Calcareous formations in the Lop Buri and Saraburi areas contain a small amount of kaolin minerals whose 7 Å peak is broad.

   1b) Those in the Khok Samrong area contain a small amount of kaolin minerals whose 7 Å peak is very sharp.

2) Black vertic clays are composed of montmorillonite and a small amount of kaolin minerals. The kaolin minerals of black vertic clays show either a sharp or a broad 7 Å peak depending on the type of kaolin minerals contained in the underlying calcareous formations.

3) Most samples taken in the Saraburi area are composed of kaolin minerals and montmorillonite in nearly equal quantities but some samples taken in the area south of Pasak river contain small amounts of vermiculite and illite.

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**Table 1** Mineralogical characteristics of clay fractions separated from soils and substrata of outcrops in Lop Buri and Khok Samrong area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sample Number</th>
<th>Feature of materials</th>
<th>Clay mineralogical characteristics</th>
<th>Notes on soils</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Clay mineralogy</td>
<td>Kinds of Sharpness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Khok Samrong area</td>
<td>208–1, 210–1, 2, 211–1, 2</td>
<td>Black vertic clay with pink quartz grains</td>
<td>Kaolin Kinds of Sharpness</td>
<td>14 Å</td>
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<td></td>
<td>210–3, 4</td>
<td>White and pale brown clay and calcium nodules</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mt</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>209–1, 2, 211–3, 4, 5, 211–6, 212–1, 213–1</td>
<td>Dark gray clay with many pink quartz grains</td>
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<td>141–1, 2, 6</td>
<td>Black vertic clay</td>
<td>White and pale brown clay and/or calcium nodules</td>
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<td></td>
<td>141–3, 4, 5, 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lop Buri area</td>
<td>201–1, 202–1, 203–1</td>
<td>Black vertic clay</td>
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<td>204–1, 205–1, 2, 206–1, 144–1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>201–2, 202–2, 3, 4, 204–2, 206–2, 3, 144–2, 3, 4</td>
<td>Dark gray to gray clay with calcium nodules</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mt</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>214–1, 2</td>
<td>Look like heavily weathered porphyllite</td>
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Mt: montmorillonite
**Table 2** Mineralogical characteristics of clay fractions separated from soils and substrata of outcrops in the Saraburi area

<table>
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<th>Sample Number</th>
<th>pH (1 : 5) mineralogical characteristics</th>
<th>Note on soils and geologic formation</th>
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<td>Mica minerals in %</td>
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Mt: Montmorillonite  Ver: Vermiculite  Al: Al-intergrade minerals
Conclusion

Based on the observation of outcrops and the clay mineralogical studies the stratigraphy of the surveyed areas may be drawn as in Fig. 4.

There seem to be two kinds of calcareous deposits; one is the Kanker deposits (Cal-I, which is formed either in Paleozoic calcareous shales or in Tertiary volcanic rocks) and the other is the deposits of calcium carbonate nodules (Cal-II) precipitated within the Quaternary strata. The calcareous deposits in the outcrop at Loc. 141 and 210 of the Lop Buri area represent the former type, while the one at Loc. 211 of the...
Khok Samrong area is representative of the latter type.

The surface materials of the Saraburi area are considered to have been deposited by the present and old Pasak river. But there seem to be hidden calcareous bodies like limestone and/or Tertiary volcanic rocks beneath the ground surface. Thus the soils and substrata sometimes show mixed nature of the fluvial and calcareous materials.

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