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## Technogenic soils – soils of the year 2020 in Poland. Concept, properties and classification of technogenic soils in Poland

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#### **Abstract**

The Soil Science Society of Poland has elected technogenic soils to be the Soils of the Year 2020 to highlight the growing understanding of the functions of human-created or significantly human-transformed soils in urban and industrial agglomerations, inhabited by the majority of the human population. Technogenic soils differ greatly in their morphology and physicochemical properties, depending on the kind/way of human intervention and the anthropogenic parent material. Thus, technogenic soils may either form highly productive horticular or park habitats, or unproductive or even toxic sites, which urgently require remediation. This introductory paper presents (a) a history of defining and classification of technogenic soils in Poland, (b) present concept of technogenic soils in the Polish Soil Classification and crucial diagnostics, and (c) a brief review of the subtypes and varieties of technogenic soils, including their recognition in formerly published research reports and correlations with the FAO-WRB classification. The Polish Soil Classification has extended the soil definition to allow classifying soils on buildings and other constructions, and has defined artefacts, geomembrane, hard technogenic layer, thick dumped material and deep soil mixing - new diagnostic properties important for distinguishing and classification of technogenic soils. The type of Technogenic soils includes seven principal subtypes, i.e., Ekranosols, Urbisols, Industriosols, Edifisols, Constructosols, Aggerosols, and

Turbisols, as well as three supplementary subtypes, i.e., humus, gleyed and stagno-gleyed.

### Keywords

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Urban soils Industrial soils Constructosols Edifisols Aggerosols Turbisols

### 1. Introduction

Industrial human activity, mining, urbanization, and development of technical infrastructure for ages have influenced soil cover all over the world. The scale of human-induced pedosphere transformations increased enormously during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and led to the recognition of man as the sixth factor of soil formation (Dudal, 2004). Presently, at least half of the world population, and in some countries more than 90% of the population, lives in the areas with significantly transformed or artificially created soils of cities and industrial regions (Morel et al., 2017). Thus, a rapid increase may be noted in the investigation of the origin, properties, and functions of human-transformed and human-made soils, in particular since the 1970s (Skawina, 1958a; Maciak et al., 1974; Dobrzański et al., 1975a 1975b, 1977; Blume and Runge, 1978; Strzyszcz, 1978; Burghardt, 1994).

A growing interest in various groups of technogenic soils can be traced by the increasing number of citations referring to these soils in the Web of Science Core Collection (Fig. 1a). Moreover, a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines covering the investigations of "industrial and technogenic soils" may be noted (Fig. 1b). It includes, apart from soil science, environmental sciences, environmental engineering, water resources, geosciences, applied biotechnology, ecology, agronomy, toxicology, plant sciences, and others. The investigations are carried out world-wide (Fig. 1c) and Poland is among countries with the highest number of citations in this field.

It is clear now that the soils in sites degraded by mining, industry, waste storage, transportation, uncontrolled demolition (like during wars), etc., may play numerous important functions in the ecosystems and landscape, in particular after their intentional or spontaneous remediation (Gwiżdż et al., 2010; Greinert

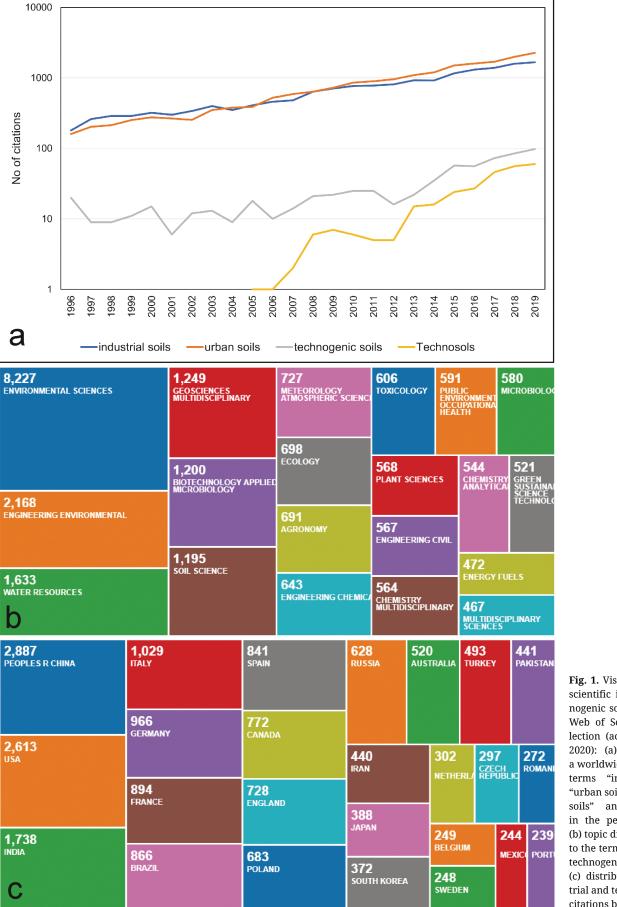


Fig. 1. Visualisation of the scientific interest on technogenic soils based on the Web of Science Core Collection (access in October 2020): (a) a dynamic of a worldwide citation of the terms "industrial soils", "urban soils", "technogenic soils" and "Technosols" in the period 1996-2019; (b) topic disciplines related to the term "industrial and technogenic soils", and (c) distribution of "industrial and technogenic soils" citations by countries

et al., 2013b), sometimes being the dominant kind of soil and the only available soil for various purposes, including peoples' recreation and food production (Greinert, 2003, 2017; Lehmann and Stahr, 2007; Kabala et al., 2009; Charzyński and Hulisz, 2017; Pindral et al., 2020). However, these soils may also create a risk for human health and for other living organisms, thus they require special attention, including complex characterisation, risk assessment, and permanent monitoring (Rosik-Dulewska and Dulewski, 1989; Karczewska et al., 2005; Uzarowicz, 2011; Dradrach et al., 2019; Kabala et al., 2020).

These issues led the Soil Science Society of Poland to electing the technogenic soils as the soils of the year 2020. The project "Soil of the Year" was invented to spread an information about particular soil types among the broad society, including scientists, farmers, foresters, politicians, teachers and young people, and to encourage scientists to explore the unsolved problems related to a particular soil types. The technogenic soils were elected the third Soil of the Year, after rendzina and chernozem (Kabała, 2018, 2019). One of the involved initiatives is the special issue of the Soil Science Annual with a collection of papers presenting the current state of knowledge on the origin, properties and functions of technogenic soils in Poland and the risks related to these soils. The present text is a kind of introduction to this special issue, dealing mainly with the concept of technogenic soils and their classification problems in Poland.

# 2. Brief review of an international context and development of terminology

Technogenic soils have emerged in soil classification relatively recently. Soil definitions and classifications developed until 1950s highlighted the natural origin of soils, natural factors of their transformation, and soil importance for agricultural and forest production. The soil definitions modified by Kubiëna (1958) and Mückenhausen (1954) allowed the classification of some anthropogenic soils, i.e., those developed or noticeably transformed in the course of horticultural or agricultural activities. Extensive studies in industrial, mining and urbanised areas, in particular carried out since the 1960s in Germany, provided original knowledge on the chemical and physical soil properties in these areas and arguments for their formal inclusion into soil classification schemes (Blume and Runge, 1978; Siem et al., 1987; Blume, 1989; Meuser and Blume, 2001). A recognition of human impact as a 6th factor of soil formation (Dudal, 2004) resulted in a discussion on the uniqueness of pedogenesis under human impact. The terms, such as "anthropedogenesis" (Effland and Pouyat, 1997) and "technopedogenesis" (Solntseva, 2002) were proposed. However, in many technogenic soils, the accumulation/formation of parent material seems more human-related ("anthropogenic lithogenesis") than the subsequent pedogenesis, which may proceed naturally, i.e. without further human contribution, as in non-reclaimed mining heaps (Meuser and Blume, 2001). In the case of soils forming on buildings, both the accumulation of material and its further transformation may occur without any intentional human impact (Charzyński et al., 2015).

No specific term was applied for a long time for a variety of anthropogenic, non-arable soils; thus typically they were named according to their origin or localisation as mining, industrial, or urban soils (Burghardt, 1994). The first version of WRB classification allocated these soils in the Regosols group, considering their poorly developed profiles and strong relation to the parent material, in this case an anthropogenic one (Nachtergaele et al., 2000). Valuable contribution to the classification concepts was provided by the IUSS Working Group 'Soils of Urban, Industrial, Traffic, Mining, and Military Areas' (SUITMA), established in 1998 (Burghardt et al., 2017; Schad, 2018). Numerous well-documented suggestions (Lehmann, 2006; Rossiter, 2007; Charzyński et al., 2013a, 2013b, 2013c; Morel et al., 2015) led to the arising of Technosols as a separate Reference Soil Group in the second edition of WRB in 2006, and its further development in the third WRB edition (IUSS Working Group WRB, 2015). At present, WRB offers the largest opportunity to classify the human-created and human-transformed soils, which undoubtedly contributes to its increasing popularity. It seems a fulfilling of Strzemski's predictions written in "The main ideas of soil taxonomy" (Strzemski, 1971): "The classification that will take into account soil transformation occurring under the influence of the human economy will have the greatest chance of success on a global scale".

Although Technosols are considered conceptually close to SUITMA, some crucial differences have to be highlighted. SUITMA cover all soils of the sites specified in its name, irrespectively of their origin and transformation degree; whereas, the Technosols involve three categories of soils only: (a) soils bearing a significant amounts of *artefacts* (20–100% w/w) to the specified depth, or (b) having a constructed geomembrane, or (c) covered with technic hard material or underlain with it at a little depth. The soils intentionally constructed from earthen materials, which do not contain *artefacts*, are not involved in the Technosol group, even if they form artificial landforms. Furthermore, the soils located on man-made constructions cannot be called Technosols if they are thicker than 5 cm or do not contain artefacts down to the technic hard material.

SUITMA/Technosols are introduced to the local classification systems to a various extent, depending on the definition of soil accepted by national pedological societies. Thus, apart from the SUITMA and Technosols, also the term 'technogenic soils' is still applied for a naming of undoubtedly human-made or significantly human-transformed soils (Charzyński et al., 2013a, 2013b, 2013c). In this paper, the term "technogenic soils" is used in its meaning defined in the soil classification of Poland (Kabała et al., 2019), broader than the definition of Technosols, but not as such broad as the SUITMA.

### History of the technogenic soils in the Polish soil classifications

Major industrialisation and urbanisation of Poland launched after 1945, apart from numerous economic and social benefits, had an extensive negative impact on the soil cover, regarding both soil naturalness and productivity (Skawina, 1958a; Strzemski, 1955). Thus, the necessity to classify and include these soils

in soil maps of Poland was reported. Strzemski (1955), probably as one of the first pedologists in Europe, has outlined the specific properties of soil cover in cities and suburban lands, including the mining and industrial activities in these areas, and suggested dividing the urban soils into five groups.

- A. Soils developed from natural parent materials: 1) not transformed or only slightly transformed by agricultural operations; 2) markedly transformed by agricultural processes (so-called "garden chernozems");
- B. Soils developed from natural but reworked parent materials: 1) soils on mixed grounds; 2) soils in anthropogenic hollows and pits; 3) soils on the surface of filled-up ground;
- C. Soils developed from natural materials, excavated from some depth and stored in above-ground landforms (heaps), e.g. waste rock from mining and waste earthen materials from digging of tunnels, wells, etc.;
- D. Soils developed from artificial (at least in part) materials:
  1) soils from construction debris;
  2) soils on garbage landfills;
  3) soils on heaps of slag, ash and smelting wastes;
- E. Artificially constructed soils with a differentiated profile.

These proposals were appreciated by the pedological society in Poland; however, the early soil classifications in the 1950s were created mainly as extended legends on low-scale soil maps (Przyrodniczo-genetyczna klasyfikacja gleb Polski, 1956), where the anthropogenic soils typically cover insufficiently little areas and commonly were omitted. Moreover, the soils of urban and industrial area have still been considered unproductive in terms of agriculture and forestry, therefore ignored. Large-scale remediation works initiated in the 1950s (Skawina, 1958b) have shown the potential usability of these soils for forestry, recreation, and to a lesser extent, for agriculture, and caused the necessity of their professional naming and classification.

For the first time, anthropogenic soils have appeared in the 2nd edition of the Polish Soil Classification (Genetyczna Klasyfikacja Gleb Polski, 1959) as "soils of artificially created landscape forms (e.g., heaps)" in the order of initially developed/raw soils. In the 3rd edition of the Polish Soil Classification (Systematyka Gleb Polski, 1974), the separate two classes (i.e., the highest level of classification) of anthropogenic soils have been distinguished. Culturozems class (Gleby kulturoziemne) included soils having a very thick and humus-rich topsoil horizon, developed mainly in the course of long-term horticultural (Hortisole) and agricultural/forest (Regosole) practices. The class of industrial soils (Gleby industrioziemne) consisted of two groups of (1) soils formed by industrial activity and (2) soils transformed by industrial activity. This classification has omitted the urban soils (if they do not fulfil the criteria for industrial soils or culturozems), but provided a new possibility to classify the saline soils formed under mining or industrial impacts (such as coal mining, ore processing, soda industry etc.), in one class along with natural saline soils.

These statements were considered insufficient, as they did not reflect soil transformation in the course of reclamation (Gołębiowska and Bender, 1983) and the variability of soils in the urban areas (Czerwiński and Pracz, 1990). New studies, carried out in Warsaw (Dobrzański et al., 1975a, 1975b, 1977) and Kraków (Komornicki, 1986), yielded in the proposals of the origi-

nal terminology and taxonomy of these soils (Konecka-Betley et al., 1984). Authors divided anthropogenic soils into classes (Urbanosols and Industriosols, Anthrosols), subclasses (forms of land use) and types, based on soil location, origin and physicochemical properties, such as soil pH, CaCO<sub>3</sub> content, base saturation and contamination with trace elements. Following these suggestions, a new soil order (the highest classification level) of anthropogenic soils has been distinguished in the 4th edition of Polish Soil Classification (Systematyka Gleb Polski, 1989), to bring together all soils created or significantly transformed by humans. Two soil types were distinguished within the order. Culturozems type (Gleby kulturoziemne), with two subtypes (Hortisole and Rigosole), inherited the concept of Culturozems class from the previous edition of the classification. The type of industrial and urban soils (Gleby industrio- i urbanoziemne) collected the four most common forms of these soils, listed as subtypes: (a) "anthropogenic soils with unformed profile", which allowed to classify the raw soils on heaps and many urban soils, (b) "anthropogenic humus-enriched soils", for many mechanically and biologically reclaimed industrial and urban soils, (c) "anthropogenic rendzinas", with soils developed from construction debris, mainly in towns, and (d) "anthropogenic saline soils". These subtypes allowed classifying the majority of anthropogenic soils, which fitted within the contemporary definition of soils.

Growing interest in a sustainable management of resources in cities led since the beginning of the 21st century to numerous new investigations focused on soils, in particular in Zielona Góra (Greinert, 2003). It was highlighted that the soil cover of the town includes both the naturally developed soils and those transformed by human activities, and their qualitative and quantitative differentiation is strongly related to land use. Thus, even the soils considered to have prevailing natural genesis can be in urban areas distinctly different from their analogues in non-urbanised lands. Strongly transformed urban soils should be classified according to the main reason of their transformation, diagnostic properties and ecological function (Greinert, 2003). The investigations initiated in Toruń (Charzyński et al., 2011a, 2011b) provided arguments to include permanently sealed soils (covered with concrete, asphalt, etc.) into soil classification. Also the extensive research in mining and industrial regions confirmed the importance of sufficient pedological terminology and soil classification for land management and for the evaluation of reclamation efficiency (Greinert and Drab, 2000; Krzaklewski and Pietrzykowski, 2002; Znamirowska-Karaś, 2001; Pietrzykowski et al., 2011; Uzarowicz, 2011). The 5th version of Polish Soil Classification (Systematyka Gleb Polski, 2011) has distinguished four, instead of the previous two soil types in the order of anthropogenic soils, by splitting the industrial and urban soils into separate ones, and by adding the saline and salinized soil type (Kabała et al., 2016). In the types of urban and industrial soils, three subtypes were, respectively, distinguished: (a) initially developed, (b) humus enriched, and (c) chemically transformed soils. Moreover, the subtype of sealed soils (Ekranosole) was added to urban soils. Whereas, no further divisions were agreed within the type of saline and salinized soils.

# 4. Present concept and classification of technogenic soils in Poland

Rapidly growing recognition of soil variability in the urban and industrial agglomerations in recent years, generating the need for adequate pedological concepts and terminology (Greinert, 2003, 2015; Charzyński et al., 2013c, 2017a; Kabała, 2014; Hulisz et al., 2018a), has inspired significant changes in the Polish Soil Classification, launched in its 6<sup>th</sup> edition (SGP6) (Systematyka Gleb Polski, 2019).

### 4.1. Definition of soil

The definition of soil in SGP6, or more strictly, the definition of the classification object, was constructed in such a way as to indicate clearly which of the natural and anthropogenic accumulations may be classified using the SGP6. Therefore, soil is defined as the accumulation of mineral and organic materials, being the surface part of the lithosphere or connected to the lithosphere by buildings or other permanent constructions, naturally or anthropogenically originated from weathering or accumulation processes, subject to transformation under the influence of soil-forming factors, and able to supply the living organisms with water and nutrients (Kabała et al., 2019).

This definition does not specify the volume of accumulated material or its origin, while its environmental function and susceptibility to further pedogenic transformation are highlighted. Moreover, the soil must be a part of the lithosphere unless it is permanently bound to the lithosphere through the construction.

This means the mineral and organic accumulations on buildings, ruins, fortifications, etc., also these isolated from surface soils, may be classified as soils, but similar materials placed in movable flowerpots (e.g. on windowsill) or accumulated on tractor wheels, trees, etc., are excluded.

## 4.2. Diagnostic materials and properties

The diagnostic horizons, materials and properties, crucial for modern soil classifications (IUSS Working Group WRB, 2015), also got such role in the classification of technogenic soils in SGP6. Anthropogenic diagnostic horizons were specified for culturozemic soils only, while technogenic soils are identified based on diagnostic materials and properties only. These materials and properties are defined in a close relation to WRB (IUSS Working Group WRB, 2015), but not identically.

Artefacts (artefakty) are various materials created or excavated and transported by humans, including the household, construction, mining, and industrial wastes, stored in heaps/landfills, intentionally formed layers, or admixed to soil profile (Fig. 2). Two kinds of artefacts are distinguished by SGP6 based on their reactivity/toxicity, i.e., normal artefacts (crushed stones, bricks, metals, glass, plastics, etc.) and reactive artefacts (construction lime, ash and slag from metal smelting and coal burning, tailings, mining wastes containing sulphides and elemental sulphur, phosphogypsum, petrochemistry wastes, chemical industry wastes, etc.). The definition of artefacts, both in WRB and SGP6, implies their dissimilarity from the natural materials present at the soil surface in a close surrounding. Thus, the sandy or loamy waste materials stored in the heaps at



Fig. 2. Artefacts (construction rubble – crushed bricks and concrete) on the soil surface (photo A. Greinert)



Fig. 3. Thick heap material in the road flyovers – stored directly on earth surface (embankment) or isolated from the surface, i.e. over the constructed tunnel (photo A. Greinert)

the lignite open-cast mines cannot be called *artefacts*, because similar glacial sands and loams occur in Poland elsewhere at the land surface. To allow the classification of newly formed technogenic soils developed from common Pleistocene materials, if they were excavated, transported and stored in new landforms, SGP6 has defined a *thick heap material* (*glęboki material nasypany*).

The *thick heap material (THM)* is a loose, earthen material having <10%/<20% of *artefacts* (normal or reactive, respectively), forming an intentionally constructed layer  $\geq$  50 cm thick (Fig. 3). The following expression of intentional heaping is required: sharp or distinct boundary to underlying native material, or *artefacts* in an underlying material (e.g. ash or construction rubble), or forming a mound (heap, embankment, etc.)  $\geq$  150 cm high (Kabała et al., 2019). In WRB classification, THM has an equivalent in the Transportic qualifier (IUSS Working Group WRB, 2015).

Among the diagnostic properties, the *geomembrane* was defined as "synthetic membrane covering the soil surface or dividing soil layers, impermeable or hardly permeable to water and gas" (Kabała et al. 2019). In WRB, the term geomembrane is applied, but not defined.

Technogenic hard layer (lita warstwa technogeniczna, THL) was defined accordingly to technogenic hard material (WRB); however, in SGP6 it was placed among the diagnostic properties, not materials, as such impermeable layer is in fact an external barrier limiting the soil deepening rather than the parent material for soil.

Deep mixing (głębokie wymieszanie) was defined as a deep (≥50 cm) mixing of soil, connected with the destruction of the native soil horizonation (e.g. translocation of fragments of diagnos-

tic horizons), due to (1) very deep cultivation, or (2) construction works. In WRB classification, *deep mixing* has a close equivalent in the Relocatic qualifier (IUSS Working Group WRB, 2015).

### 4.3. Classification of technogenic soils

Based on the extended definition of soil and the presence of diagnostic anthropogenic horizons, properties and materials, the order (the highest-rank unit) of anthropogenic soils (Gleby antropogeniczne) was distinguished in SGP6 and consisting of two soil types: culturozemic soil (Gleby kulturoziemne) and technogenic soils (Gleby technogeniczne).

The culturozemic soils are identified and further divided into subtypes based on the presence of *hortik* or *antrik* horizons (at least 50 cm thick), or *deep mixing* caused by agricultural, horticultural or forest cultivation.

Whereas, the technogenic soils involve seven principal subtypes and three transitional subtypes, added complimentary to the principal subtypes. All subtypes are listed in a hierarchical order, which highlights the uniqueness of soil properties and their importance for cartography or land use.

Ekranosols (ekranosole) have technogenic hard layer (which is not a part of building or other construction) at the soil surface or at the depth of ≤5 cm. These are soils covered with a continuous and impermeable layer of asphalt, concrete, pavement, granite/marble plates, etc., common in the urbanized (squares, streets, cemeteries) and transportation areas (highways, airports, parking sites) (Charzyński et al., 2011b; Kostecki et al., 2020). The soil profile is isolated (sealed) from the top, thus the water, gases, nutrients and xenobiotics may cycle laterally only (Charzyński et al., 2011a; Mendyk and Charzyński, 2016). Also

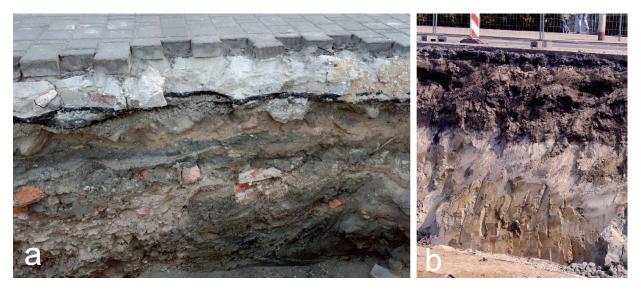


Fig. 4. Ekranosols: (a) sealed with concrete pavement over a mixed layers containing construction debris, (b) sealed with asphalt over a mixed layers and preserved genetic horizons of a native soil (photos A. Greinert)

the organisms may spread laterally from nearby unsealed sites (Piotrowska-Długosz and Charzyński, 2015). The native soil is truncated during the road/pavement construction and replaced with mixed materials, often containing *artefacts* (Fig. 4a), the subsoil diagnostic horizons (e.g. argik or siderik) are sometimes preserved in ekranosol profiles (Fig. 4b), which may influence the functioning of soil system under the sealing cover. Ekranosols create the most unfavourable space for the living organisms in the urbanized areas, called "concrete deserts" (Greinert, 2017; Lewin et al., 2017). Ekranosols are considered permanently sealed, but the impermeable cover may fracture physically (due

to frost action, insolation, etc.) or biologically (the tree root pressure) in the abandoned or neglected sites (Fig. 5), which breaks the sealing continuity and allows the vertical water/nutrient translocation. Ekranosols, as defined by SGP6, are closely related to Ekranic Technosols of WRB classification.

<u>Urbisols (urbisole)</u> contain  $\geq 10\%/\geq 20\%$  of reactive/normal (respectively) *artefacts* down to the depth of 100 cm (or to *continuous rock/technic hard layer*), which consist mainly of construction rubble, glass, metals, plastic, ash, bones and other wastes connected with human settlements (Fig. 6). Urbisols are typical soils of the city centres, where the long-term construction activi-



Fig. 5. Cracked, discontinuous surface of Ekranosol destroyed by plant roots (photo C. Kabała)



Fig. 6. Urbisol (urbisol próchniczny) developed from the construction debris with humus-rich topsoil created intentionally during site reclamation (photo C. Kabała)

ty (Greinert, 2003, 2015; Greinert et al., 2013a) or simply the longterm human activity connected with surface up-building (Krupski et al., 2017; Mazurek et al., 2016) led to inclusion of diagnostic artefacts. Urbisols are in particular common in the centres of larger Polish towns (Warszawa, Wrocław, Gdańsk, etc.), demolished by bombardments at the end of WW2 (Konecka-Betley et al., 1984; Czerwiński and Pracz, 1990; Charzyński et al., 2013a). Many Urbisols exist in the parks or other sport/recreation sites created on formerly residential areas (Licznar et al., 2007; Kabała et al., 2010; Musielok et al., 2018). Thus, the common feature of the urbisols is the high content of skeleton (crushed construction rubble) and carbonates (Greinert et al., 2013a; Charzyński et al., 2013b). Moreover, urbisols commonly have thick and dark humus horizon, rich in organic matter (due to reclamation), thus the subtype "humic (próchniczne)" is often added as a second subtype. Such urbisols are often featured with high fertility, in particular high content of phosphorus (Greinert, 2003; Charzyński and Hulisz, 2017; Kabala et al., 2018). Urbisols (in terms of SGP6) are similarly defined to Urbic Technosols of WRB classification; however, may contain less artefacts if reactive.

Industriosols (industriosole) contain ≥10%/≥20% of reactive/ normal (respectively) artefacts down to the depth of 100 cm (or to continuous rock/technic hard layer), which consist mainly of mining or industrial wastes. Industriosols are typical soils of the heaps and landfills associated with hard/solid rock, coal (Fig. 7a), lignite, sulphur, metal ore mining and processing sites (Fig. 7b) (Znamirowska-Karaś, 2001; Greinert et al., 2013b; Pietrzykowski et al., 2011; Pietrzykowski and Likus-Cieślik, 2018; Uzarowicz, 2011), landfills/heaps of ash and slag from coal/lignite burning (Maciak, 1978; Weber et al., 2015; Uzarowicz et al., 2017,

2018; Gilewska et al., 2020) and landfills of variable industrial wastes (Sutkowska et al., 2015; Zielińska et al., 2017). Also, soils of former factories may contain layers or dispersed admixtures of the industrial wastes (Fig. 7c), sometimes toxic (Charzyński et al., 2013a, 2013b; Kusza et al., 2016). Industriosols may greatly differ in morphological features, texture, physicochemical properties, fertility and toxicity depending on the stored source material. Industriosols are relatively young soils, thus typically their profiles are poorly differentiated into diagnostic horizons (Skawina, 1958b; Strzyszcz, 1978). However, if reclaimed, industriosols may have dark, humus-rich and fertile topsoil horizon (Gołębiowska and Bender, 1983; Woś et al., 2014). Moreover, on the very old heaps associated with metal ore mining and smelting, industriosols may have a well-developed cambic horizon (Karczewska et al., 2005). Industriosols (in terms of SGP6) are similarly defined to Spolic Technosols of WRB classification; however, may contain less artefacts if reactive.

Edifisols (Lat. aedificio – building) are soils existing on the buildings (on the roofs, in the wall cracks, gutters, etc.) where the constructed part of building (or other construction) form a technogenic hard layer, present no deeper than 30 cm from the soil surface (Fig. 8). Thin soil profile is built of the building remnants – construction rubble (as on ruins) or consists of the allogenic material transported by wind and water, including the organic matter from throughfall (e.g. decomposed leaves). Thus, edifisols may occur as mineral or organic soils, and may greatly differ in physicochemical properties (Charzyński et al., 2015). Mineral edifisols typically contain carbonates and have high pH values. Edifisols often are enriched with organic matter, including specific kind of humus, called techno-humus (Markiewicz et

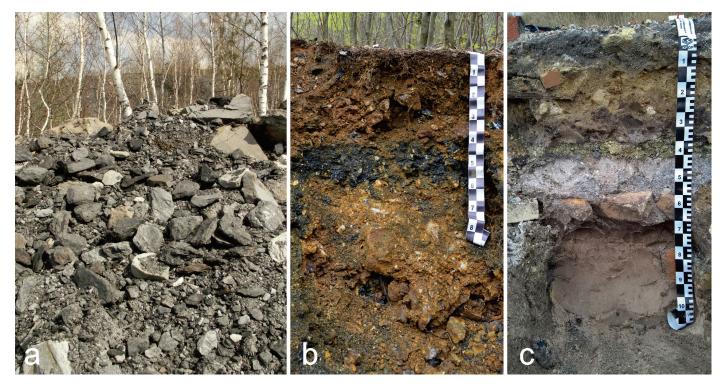


Fig. 7. Industriosols: (a) developed from the dumped coal mining wastes (photo: C. Kabala), (b) developed from the mixed ore mining and smelting wastes (photo: C. Kabala), and (c) stratified industriosol with admixed reactive artefacts (industrial wastes) and construction debris (photo: A. Greinert)



Fig. 8. Edifisols: (a) thin edifisol on the roof of abandoned power substation (photo P. Charzyński), and (b) a vegetation-covered edifisol on the ruined building (photo C. Kabała)

al., 2018). Due to little profile thickness, most of edifisols have low water capacity and experience droughts in summer. Discontinuous cover of edifisols is non-mappable on most scales. Edifisols (in terms of SGP6) may be correlated with shallow (thinner than 30 cm) Isolatic Technosols of WRB classification.

Constructosols (konstruktosole) have a technogenic hard layer or geomembrane starting at the depth of (i) 5–100 cm from the soil surface, or (ii) 30–100 cm from the soil surface if *THL* is a part of building/construction. As evidenced from their definition, constructosols have an impermeable barrier for living organisms, roots, water and nutrients, but located at larger depth as compared to ekranosols or edifisols (Fig. 9). Most commonly, constructosols are situated on the fortifications (Jankowski et al., 2013; Pardela et al., 2020), underground garages, parkings and tunnels, on green roofs, road flyovers (e.g. wildlife passages), etc. Due to drainage requirements, most commonly they have sandy texture, which implies unfavourable physical and chemical properties, excluding constructosols intentionally formed as



Fig. 9. Sand(gravelly-)-textured Constructosol covering the concrete military fortification (a fortress bunker) (photo C. Kabała)

fertile (roof)garden soils. Constructosols are relatively common soils in the modern cities, but the papers reporting their properties are still very few in Poland (Charzyński et al., 2013a). Other case are constructosols existing on landfills and other earthen mounds or embankments, where *geomembrane* was applied as isolating layer to suppress water and gas cycling. Constructosols (in terms of SGP6) may be correlated with thicker Isolatic Technosols (on the buildings/constructions) or Linic Technosols (when underlain with *geomembrane*).

Aggerosols (Lat. agger – rampart, dike, embankment) are developed from thick heap material and do not have technic hard layer or geomembrane down to the depth of 100 cm. Typically, these are soils of above-ground artificial landforms, such as dams, road and railway embankments, military earthen fortifications, etc. Alternatively, they occur as infillings of the former excavations or levelling earthen covers surrounding the buildings (Fig. 10a) and industrial constructions (Konecka-Betley et al., 1984). Aggerosols are common soils in the urbanized areas and in transportation channels (railway and highway embankments, Fig. 3). Moreover, the heaps, associated with sand/loam mines and lignite mines, consisting mainly of transported earthen materials and relatively poor in artefacts are common parent material for aggerosols (Fig. 10b). The crucial difference from previously mentioned technogenic soils is a little content of artefacts (< 10%/< 20% of reactive/normal artefacts, respectively) and lack of impermeable barrier within soil profile (down to the depth of 100 cm). Aggerosols, depending on the reason of their construction, may consist of materials of various texture. Sand-textured aggerosols prevail on road embankments, while the aggerosols in other locations have a texture of neighbouring surface sediments, used to their construction. Common feature of the aggerosols in the levelled residential areas is the large thickness of topsoil humus horizon. According to WRB, aggerosols do not belong to Technosols (due to insufficient content of artefacts), but to the Transportic Regosols.

Turbisols (turbisole) are featured by deep mixing, contain < 10%/< 20% of reactive/normal artefacts (respectively), do not consist of thick heap material, and do not have technic hard layer or geomembrane down to the depth of 100 cm. Mixing/disrupting of the soil horizons, typical for these soils, is an associated result of construction works in urbanized, industrial or transportation areas, that was not intentionally oriented on the improvement of soil fertility/productivity, typical for Rigosols. Turbisols may be formed from nearly all natural soil types and may greatly vary in texture and physico-chemical properties (Charzyński et al., 2013a). Compared to the other technogenic soils, they have relatively little admixture of allogenic materials, both earthen materials (sometimes rich in humus) and artefacts. Turbisols are considered common soils in urban and industrial areas; however, it seems they were omitted in most of previous studies as soils lacking spectacular anthropogenic features (Dobrzański et al., 1975a, 1975b; Czerwiński and Pracz, 1990). According to WRB, Turbisols do not belong to Technosols (due to insufficient content of artefacts), but to the Relocatic Regosols.

Beside the above mentioned principal subtypes, the following supplementary subtypes of technogenic soils were distinguished: (i) humus (próchniczne), (ii) gleyed (gruntowo-gle-

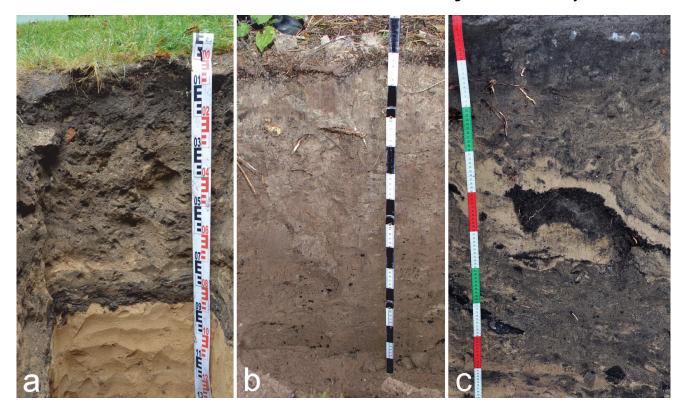


Fig. 10. Aggerosols and Turbisols: (a) sand-textured Aggerosol with little admixture of artefacts (construction rubble) in a residential area (photo C. Kabala), (b) loam-textured Aggerosol with admixture of artefacts (coal fragments) on the heap at a coal mine (photo A. Greinert), and (c) sand-textured Turbisol (photo P. Charzyński).

jowe), and (iii) stagno-gleyed (opadowo-glejowe). These subtypes do not occur separately, but are combined with any of principal subtypes, if respective properties are recognised (e.g. Urbisol próchniczny or Turbisol gruntowo-glejowy).

Classification of anthropogenic salt-affected soils has been discussed many times and various attempts were undertaken in previous Polish Soil Classifications to solve the problem (Systematyka Gleb Polski, 1989, 2011). The primary reason of troubles is the lack of indicators of anthropogenic salinization, different from indicators diagnostic for naturally salt-affected soils (Hulisz, 2007). Moreover, in most reported cases of soils affected by soda industry or coal and metal ore mining/processing, mostly the chemical properties of soils were transformed, while soil morphology, texture and physical properties were less affected or left unchanged, i.e. were similar to respective un-affected soils present in the neighbourhood (Pokojska et al., 1998; Kaszubkiewicz et al., 2003; Ochman et al., 2003; Hulisz et al., 2015). Nevertheless, an appropriate indication of salinization in the soil name/classification seems necessary, as the change in soil chemistry is reflected in the fauna/flora variability (both on a micro, meso- and macroscales) and in the limitations for land use (Czaban et al., 2007; Piernik et al., 2015; Hulisz et al., 2018b; Szymańska et al., 2018). In the 6th edition of Polish Soil Classification (Kabała et al., 2019), salinization and sodification are identified at the level of soil variety, which allows the correct classification of salt-affected soils regardless of the origin of native soil and contamination source. It seems the above approach is the most universal and effective.

Apart from salinization/sodification, numerous other soil features of anthropogenic origin, less intensively marked or less important for soil classification, are listed among soil varieties, the lowest non-hierarchical level of soil classification (Systematyka Gleb Polski, 2019). The varieties may be added to any of soil types/subtypes, if defined criteria are met. Drained (odwodnione) or artificially waterlogged (zawodnione) variety may be applied, if the artificially changed soil water regime influences the soil profile morphology, habitat conditions and land use. Disturbed (zaburzone) and heaped (nasypowe) are analogues of Turbisols and Aggerosols, but the depth of mixing or thickness of heaped material is lower than 50 cm. These varieties are typically displayed in non-technogenic soils. Reclaimed (zrekultywowane) variety refers to various technogenic soils, in particular the industriosols, which have a thick topsoil humus horizon, formed in course of intentional technical or biological reclamation. Soils with well-developed hortik or anthrik horizon, not enough thick to classify the soil to Culturozems (30–50 cm thick), may be recognised as culturozemic (kulturoziemne) variety. Specific soils developed locally in sites of former charcoal production, and thus highly enriched in charcoal and blackcoloured, are marked as charcoal-pile (pomielerzowe) variety. Contaminated/toxic (skażone/toksyczne) are soils containing such a high content of xenobiotics that their negative effects are recognisable in the field. Anthropo-carbonic, -sulphidic, and sulphatic are varieties of technogenic soils featured by the presence of coal/lignite, sulphides or sulphates, respectively, from anthropogenic sources.

### **Closing remarks**

Among the strongly human-transformed or human-constructed soils, the soils of urbanised agglomerations gained recently a spectacular attention, that allowed developing the complex characterisation and classification schemes for soils of urbanised, industrial, mining and traffic areas. Newly introduced soil units and names reflect diversity in origin and properties of the human-affected soils, and commonly refer to their functions in anthropized environments (ecosystem services), which has large importance for spatial planning and sustainable land use. Polish Soil Classification has extended in 2019 the soil definition to allow the classification of soils on buildings and other constructions, and has introduced a number of soil units on a subtype and variety levels to allow naming of variable technogenic soils and anthropogenic transformations in the natural soils. However, the level of recognition of the distinguished subtypes and varieties differs greatly; thus, the further studies are necessary to substantiate their properties, functions and transformations under continuous human impacts. The extended investigations should also support the discussion on new directions and goals of pedology, changes in an understanding and definition of soil, as well as further development of classification of technogenic soils.

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