



## Topology and its characteristics

Daniela Dimovska\*

Department of Agriculture Science and Food

\*Corresponding author: Daniela Dimovska, Department of Agriculture Science and Food, University Mother Teresa, Macedonia, E-mail: danyktdim@hotmail.com

### Editorial

The configuration of the land's surface is referred to as topography. Thus, topography is important from a pedologic standpoint because it has a significant effect on the distribution of energy and matter encountered by soils in the landscape. The relief (relative variations in elevation), aspect (position with respect to compass coordinates), and general shape and connectivity of land surfaces make up an area's topography.

Tectonic uplift, fluvial erosion and deposition, mass wasting, volcanic activity, and glaciation are examples of geologic processes that generate topography. The landscape formed by these processes serves as a blank canvas on which topographically related processes paint soil patterns. These processes leave distinctive pedogenic imprints on various parts of the landscape over time, altering the original parent materials and differentiating the physical, chemical, and biological composition of soils based on topographic location.

Soil formation is highly affected by topography. Because of erosional losses, soils on the sides of hills appear to be shallow. Due to downward leaching losses, soils on the tops of hills appear to be deep but lighter in colour. The soils in valleys are typically thicker, darker, and have more horizons. This is attributed to increased material deposition from hillside erosion, material accumulation from downward leaching from hilltops, and increased water collection in low-lying areas. In Shanxi Pingshuo Antaibao opencast coal mine dumps, 50 reclamation sample plots were investigated for soil, topography, and vegetation. Quantitative knowledge of

the factors and interactions affecting yield is essential for site-specific crop management. One of the factors that frequently affects yield is topography. The vertical path of air in a location, and thus the relative humidity and air circulation, can be influenced by topography. Air climbing a mountain, for example, loses pressure and sometimes releases moisture in the form of rain or snow. The air is compressed and heated as it flows down the leeward side of the mountain, resulting in drier, hotter conditions. A comprehensive map of the land's surface features is known as topography.

Topography portrays a geographic region in great detail, including both natural and man-made features such as hills, valleys, paths, and lakes. An objective of topography is to determine the position of any feature or more generally any point in terms of both a horizontal coordinate system such as latitude, longitude, and altitude. The area also involves distinguishing (naming) features and recognising traditional landform patterns.

Topography is a branch of geology and planetary science concerned with local detail in general, covering not only relief but also natural and man-made features, as well as local history and culture. In the United States, where topographic maps with elevation contours have made topography synonymous with relief, this meaning is less common. The recording of relief or terrain, the three-dimensional quality of the surface, and the identification of specific landforms are all part of topography in a narrow sense. Geomorphometry is another name for this.

A topographic survey can be carried out for a range of reasons: Military planning and geological exploration have been the primary drivers of survey programme development, but detailed information about terrain and surface features is required for the planning and construction of any major civil engineering, public works, or reclamation project. Topography began to be used to describe surface description in other fields where mapping in a broader sense is used in the twentieth century, particularly in medical fields such as neurology.

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