

Degree of decomposition and humification of peat

(POST, L. VON 1924. Sveriges Geologiska Undersöknings torvinventering och några av dess hittills vunna resultat. Svenska mosskulturföreningens tidskrift. 37, 1-27.

ROESCHMANN, G., GROSSE-BRAUKMANN, G., KUNTZE, H., BLANKENBURG, J. & TÜXEN, J. (1983): Vorschläge zur Erweiterung der Bodensystematik der Moore. – Geol. Jahrbuch, Reihe F, Heft 29, Hannover.

To determine the degree of decomposition and humification of peat with permanently wet formation conditions you have to squeeze a hen's egg-like part of peat inside your hand. You evaluate the color of percolating water and the features of the peat inside and outside your hand.

label	code	degree of decomposition and humification (von Post scale)	features (attributes) of peat with permanently wet formation conditions		
			proportion of macroscopically recognizable remains of dead plant biomass/litter	going outside your fingers by squeezing peat material in your hand	peat material, inside your hand after squeezing
fibric	H1	extreme low	distinctly and visibly	uncolored clear water	not slurry-like
	H2	very low		yellowish brown almost clear water	
	H3	low		brown dimmish water	
	H4	moderate		brown muddy water	
hemic	H5	medium		muddy water and somewhat of the peat material	somewhat slurry-like
	H6	medium to strong	dimly	up to 1/3 of the peat material	almost pulp-like
	H7	strong	in some degree recognizable	approximately 1/2 of the peat material	recognizable remains of dead plant well visible
humic, sapric	H8	very strong	almost slurred	approximately 2/3 of the peat material	only remains of plant fibres and wood recognizable
	H9	extreme strong	almost not recognizable	almost the complete peat material	
	H10	complete	not recognizable	complete peat material	no recognizable remains of dead plant