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*Investigating the Effects of Tissue Decay on the Underlying Soil Chemistry*

Soil chemistry is concerned with the chemical reactions involving these phases: soil solution-solid phase equilibria, sorption phenomena on soils, ion exchange processes, redox chemistry of soil, and the chemistry of soil acidity. The sequence of postmortem changes in soft tissues usually gives an idea of how long an individual has been dead. However, modification of the decomposition process can considerably alter the estimate of the time of death. The affect of tissue decay on soil chemistry was tested in this experiment. It was hypothesized that the underlying soil chemistry will be affected due to tissue decay. The longer the tissue decays, the further the soil chemistry will be affected. Underlying soil samples were collected and tested for calcium and magnesium, pH levels, potassium, nitrogen, and phosphorus. It was found that tissue decay affected the underlying soils by changing what was tested for. The experiment supports the hypothesis.