

AMORPHOUS SOIL CONSTITUENTS - AN INTRODUCTION

G. PEDRO ⁽¹⁾

(Science du Sol 1983/3-4)

This introduction is focused chiefly on the following three basic points :

- general characteristics of amorphous soil constituents - chemical composition - size and shape - structural constitution (fig. 5-6) ;
- problems raised by the regular occurrence of amorphous compounds in soils related to their formation and evolution ;
- origin of their physicochemical reactivity.

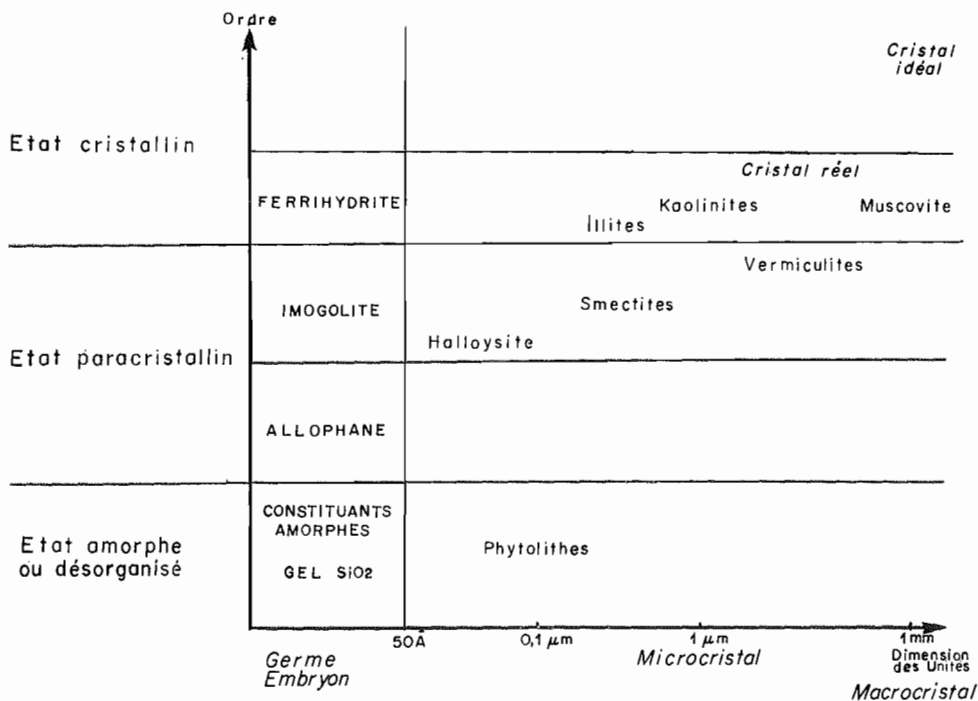


Figure 6 : Position of the secondary soil constituents as function of their crystallinity and particle size. Schematic diagram.

1) Station de Science du Sol - CNRA - 78000 Versailles.

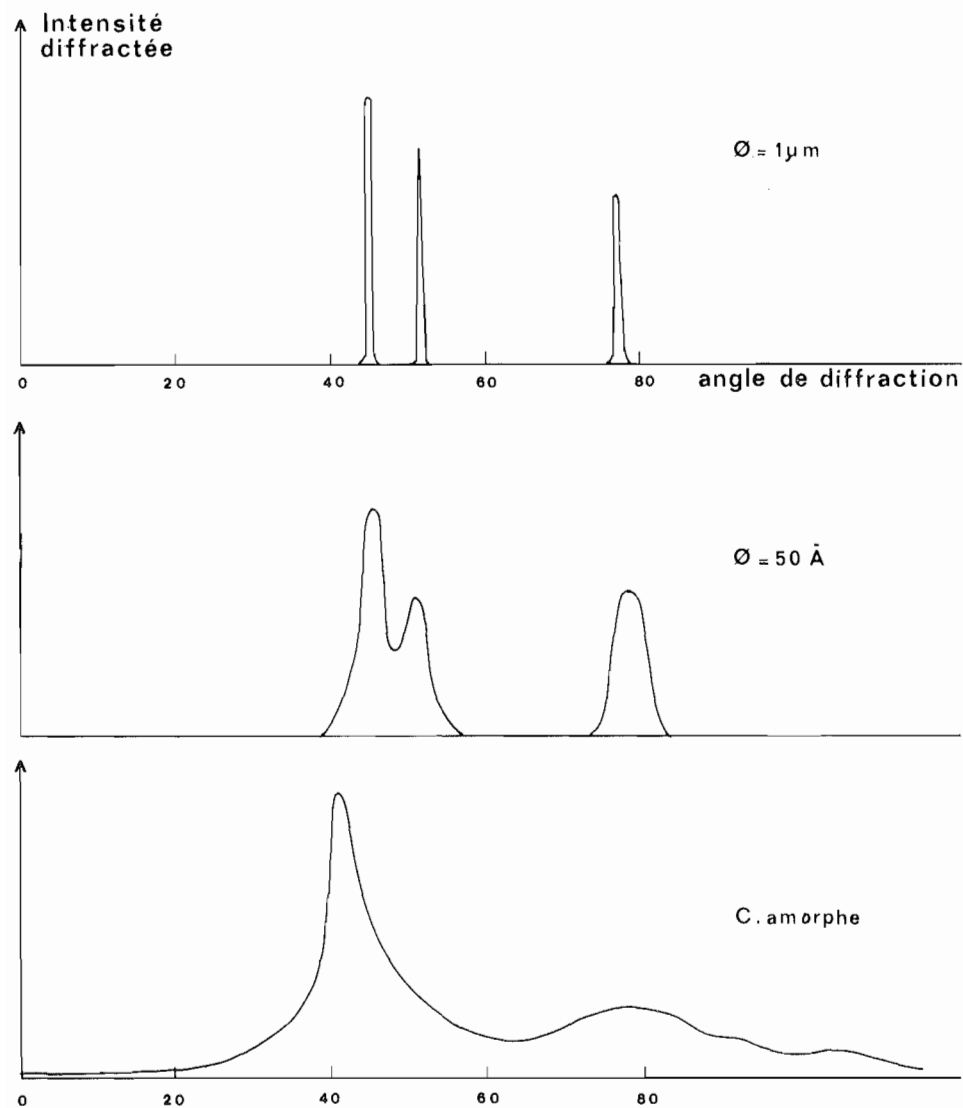


Figure 5 : Comparison between diffraction diagrams of crystallized compounds into small crystals and amorphous solids. From top to bottoms : crystal size 1μ , then 50 Å, finally the solid in amorphous state (A. Guinier, 1980 ,p. 212).