



## **The Value of Micromorphology in Soil Studies: an interactive cd rom**

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Micromorphological studies of soil and associated materials in the past one hundred years have demonstrated that they have a conspicuous if not dominant role to play in categorising many natural features and elucidating the processes involved. This is especially true in the study of paleosols and buried soils that have been through more than one phase of formation and may show extremely contrasting features. For example the juxtaposition of clay coatings, microcrystalline calcite and opal show a progression from humid to arid conditions. Such situations cannot be seen in hand specimens and can only be determined with thin sections. This also impacts on soil classification where radical new ideas are needed to accommodate such diversity.