



• **Anthropogenic soils evolution in a semiarid mediterranean environment**

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In the southern coast of Sicily there are tufaceous - calcareous formations called “Sciare” (from greek, arid land), covering more than 9000 Ha. Soils are unproductive being the rock outcrop prevalent. In the last thirty-five years the lands use changed through soil tillage and crushing of stones, then cultivated thanks to availability of irrigation water.

After the occurred transformation there are three different kind of substrata different by texture: first rich in lime, second when “terra rossa” prevails, the third a mixture.

In this paper the Authors compare chemical, physical and hydrological soils properties, with the data published by Raimondi and Lombardo (1991) related to the same soil profile. Our data show that the pedogenetic process is faster than we might expected from previous data, due to the accumulation of organic matter resulting in better soil properties and highest suitability for crops (Ronchetti, 1966).

Key word: organic matter, Anthropogenic soils, calcarenite, Mediterranean environment.