

Dissolution of Monte Fresco phosphate rock and their effects on phosphorus fractionation in Venezuelan soils

Disolución de la roca fosfórica Monte Fresco y sus efectos sobre las fracciones de fósforo en suelos venezolanos

Dissolução da rocha fosfórica de Monte Fresco e seus efeitos sobre frações de fosforo em solos venezolanos

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Abstract

Incubation tests analysed the reaction of Monte Fresco phosphoric rock (PR) with nine Venezuelan soils representative of different agro-ecological conditions, and contrasting physical-chemical and mineralogical characteristics linked to the PR dissolution process. The soils presented different capacities to dissolve the PR; response, generally associated with its intrinsic characteristics. The highest PR dissolution value (ΔP) was found in the soil Iguana (50 mg P.kg⁻¹soil), soil with appropriate properties to induce this process: acidic pH and low content of total and available P, followed with intermediate values (7-22 mg P.kg⁻¹soil) for Barinas and Casupal with acidic pH and moderate content of total P. The other soils had low dissolution rates (1.4-3.0 mg P.kg⁻¹soil) and higher P content. Finally, Veguitas and Bajo Seco soils with pH ≥ 5.6 , and high total and available P contents and exchangeable calcium, showed no PR dissolution. The process of dissolving the PR during incubation is complex, it is activated with the presence of hydrogen ions around the fertiliser but can be affected by enzymatic and microbiological events as PR interacts with the soil, so that the dynamics of PR dissolution fluctuate.

Resumen

Mediante ensayos de incubación se analizó la reacción de la roca fosfórica (RF) Monte Fresco con nueve suelos venezolanos representativos de diferentes condiciones agroecológicas y con contrastantes características fisicoquímicas y mineralógicas ligadas al proceso de disolución de la RF. Los suelos presentaron diferentes capacidades para disolver la RF; respuesta, en general, asociada a sus características intrínsecas. El mayor valor de disolución de la RF (ΔP) se encontró en el suelo Iguana (50 mg P.kg⁻¹suelo), caracterizado por tener pH ácido y bajo contenido de fósforo total (Pt) y aprovechable. Siguieron, con valores intermedios (7-22 mg P.kg⁻¹suelo) los suelos Barinas y Casupal con pH ácidos y contenidos moderados de P-total. Otro grupo de suelos, con mayor contenido de P presentaron bajos índices de disolución (1,4-3,0 mg P.kg⁻¹suelo); mientras que los suelos Veguitas y Bajo Seco con pH $\geq 5,6$ y altos contenidos de P total, disponible y calcio intercambiable, no mostraron disolución de la RF. El proceso de disolución de la RF durante la incubación es complejo, se activó con la presencia de los hidrogeniones alrededor del fertilizante, pero puede ser afectado por eventos enzimáticos y microbiológicos a medida que la RF interacciona con el suelo, de manera, que la dinámica de la disolución de la RF presenta fluctuaciones.

Palabras claves: Bray I, suelos ácidos, adsorción de P, solubilización

Resumo

Os testes de incubação analisaram a reação da rocha fosfórica (RF) de Monte Fresco com nove solos venezolanos representativos de diferentes condições agroecológicas, e de características físico-químicas e mineralógicas ligadas ao processo de dissolução de RF contrastando. Os solos apresentaram diferentes capacidades para dissolver o RF; resposta, geralmente associada com suas características intrínsecas. O maior valor de dissolução de RF (ΔP) foi encontrado no solo Iguana (50 mg P.kg⁻¹solo), solo com propriedades adequadas para induzir esse processo: pH ácido e baixo teor de P total e utilizável, seguidos de valores intermediários (7-22 mg P.kg⁻¹solo) dos solos Barinas e Casupal de pH ácido e teor moderado de P total. Os demais solos apresentaram baixas taxas de dissolução (1,4-3,0 mgP.kg⁻¹solo) e maior teor P. Por fim, os solos Veguitas e Bajo Seco com pH $\geq 5,6$, e alto teor total e disponível de P e cálcio intercambiável, não apresentaram dissolução de RF. O processo de dissolução da RF durante a incubação é complexo, ativado com a presença de hidrogenias ao redor do fertilizante, mas pode ser afetado por eventos enzimáticos e microbiológicos à medida que a RF interage com o solo, de modo que a dinâmica da dissolução de RF flutua.

Palavras-chave: Bray I, solos ácidos, adsorção de P, solubilização

Introduction

In highly weathered environments, phosphorus (P) appears as a limiting element for plant and animal production because it is fixed by amorphous iron and aluminium oxides and hydroxides that abound in the soil profile (López-Hernández and Burnham, 1974; Brenner *et al.*, 2019). To counteract these low levels of available P, it is necessary to use appropriate doses of phosphorous fertilisers that are supplied,

either as soluble sources, of high cost, due to their pretreatment, or as insoluble phosphate rocks (PR), of lower value, mainly only applicable in the case of acid soils (Rajan *et al.*, 1996; Cicek *et al.*, 2020).

The reactivity of PRs increases with soil acidity (hydrogen ion concentration around the PR granule), generally associated with relatively high levels of exchangeable Al (high Al saturation); so that, in soils with a pH greater than 5.6, the PR practically do not supply available P to the crops. On the contrary, the low saturation of calcium and phosphates in solution, characteristic of acid soils, as well as a high content of organic matter in the soil, favour the solubilisation of PRs (Rajan *et al.*, 1996). On the other hand, a high phosphate retention capacity in the soil can also facilitate PR solubilisation, although this P, once released from the rock, can be quickly retained by the solid adsorbent matrix and do not enter in solution (López-Hernández, 1977; Rajan *et al.*, 1996; Romero and López-Hernández, 2018). Regarding total P levels, soils with medium phosphate levels are considered more suitable for the application of PR than soils extremely deficient in phosphates (Rajan *et al.*, 1996; Romero and López-Hernández, 2018).

PRs have been directly applied in many previous trials in different soils and for different crops in Venezuela (Sequera and Ramírez, 2013). None-the-less, that the agronomic and economic effectiveness of Venezuelan phosphate rocks has been well studied (López de R. *et al.*, 1994), there have been little research on the phosphate rock-soil interaction, an aspect of agronomic interest that would allow determining: in which soils, the application of phosphate rocks would be more efficient. An evaluation as this kind revise particular importance in the case of Venezuelan PR Monte Fresco (PRMF), due to its proven reserves, and its potential to be used, under adequate treatments, as source of soluble phosphorous fertiliser (Casanova, 2007).

The objective of this work is to study the reaction (dissolution) of the Monte Fresco phosphate rock in nine Venezuelan soils that present contrasting physicochemical and mineralogical characteristics, the chosen soils are representative, at the national level, of areas with different agroecological conditions (table 1). The experimentation includes incubation experiments where the reaction of the PR with the chosen soils is analysed.

Materials and methods

Nine contrasting soils in physicochemical characteristics linked to the phosphate rock dissolution process: pH, exchangeable aluminium and calcium, total and available phosphorus, organic carbon, P adsorption capacity and cation exchange capacity (CEC), were used. The soil samples come from uncultivated soils located in different areas of the country (table 1), and correspond to the surface horizon (0-15 cm) of composite samples formed from subsamples. For chemical determinations, the samples were air-dried and then sieved to obtain the fraction of soil less than 2 mm. The routine methodologies for soil characterisation correspond to those used at INIA, Maracay (Romero and López-Hernández, 2018; López-Hernández and Romero, 2019).

In the incubation experiments, the Monte Fresco phosphate rock, located in the state of Táchira, Venezuela, was used. MFPR has a total P content of 9.3% and a solubility in citric acid of 0.71%, this PR has an apatite content of 64% (Pérez and Smyth, 2005).

Table 1. Geographical location and classification of the soils studied.

Soils	Location	Classification
Bramón	Estación Experimental Bramón, Táchira	Typic Tropudult
Mantecal	Mantecal, Apure	Fluventic Ustropepts
Barinas	Pie de Monte, Barinas	Oxic Paleustalfs
Casupal	Norestes llanos de Monagas	Oxic Paleustults
Palmeras	Guárico	Typic Paleustults
Iguana II	Santa María Ipire, Guárico	Plinthic Paleustults
Iguana	Estación Experimental La Iguana, Guárico	Ustoxic Quartzipsamment
Veguitas	Guanare-Masparro, Portuguesa	Typic Ustropepts
Bajo Seco	Estación Experimental Bajo Seco, Miranda	Typic Humitropepts

Source: Author

Determination of the phosphate adsorption index (PAI)

The PAI was determined using the Bache and Williams method, which consists of determining a point of the adsorption isotherm (López-Hernández, 2016). This adsorption point was obtained by stirring 1 g of soil with a solution of 0.0025M KH_2PO_4 and 0.02M KCl for 18 h in a 1:20 ratio. At the end of the stirring period, the suspension was filtered or centrifuged, and the P content in the supernatant solution was analysed using the Murphy and Riley photocolometric method. Adsorption values (x) were expressed in mg P/100 g soil, and the final concentration of P in solution (C) in $\mu\text{mol P.L}^{-1}$. The Bache and Williams index was calculated as $x/\log C$.

The mineralogical analysis was performed using the X-ray diffraction technique on plates prepared with the clay fraction (Reynolds and Moore, 1989).

Incubation of soils with PR

Portions of approximately 500 g for each of the soils studied were fertilised with doses equivalent to 300 mg P.kg^{-1} of PRMF. Subsequently, 50 g of each fertilised soil were placed in seven glass jars and incubated at 100 % available humidity and at an approximate temperature of 25 °C. The incubation periods correspond to 1, 3, 7, 15, 30, 60 and 100 days. Control samples (without phosphate rock) were simultaneously incubated under the same conditions.

Extraction and determination of available P after incubation

At the end of the incubation period, available P extractions were carried out in triplicate (4 g of soil) using the Bray I method according to Romero and López-Hernández (2018). The P in solution was determined by the photocolometric method of Murphy and Riley reviewed by López-Hernández (2016). The difference, between the level of P extracted from the treated soil and the P extracted in the control, corresponds to the dissolved P (ΔP) of the PR. The P that exceeds the control in soils fertilised with PR comes from the dissolution of the rock, thus, ΔP can be considered as an indirect estimator of dissolution and allows inferences to be made about the degree of reaction of the PR (Rajan *et al.*, 1996).

Changes in available phosphorus fractions as a function of incubation time

Triplicate samples of two of the chosen soils (Iguana and Bramón) were fertilised with doses of 300 mg P.kg^{-1} of PR Monte Fresco and incubated in glass jars at 100% available humidity and at an approximate temperature of 25 °C for 3, 15 and 30 days. At the end of each incubation period, the soils underwent a partial P fractionation according to a modification of the Hedley method (López-Contreras

et al. 2007). The extracted phosphorus in the different fractions was measured by the classic method of Murphy and Riley.

Statistical analysis

The Statistical Analysis System (SANEST) was used, corresponding to nine independent samples (soils) where seven treatments (times) are compared. Analysis of variance and comparison of means were performed by Duncan's bilateral test with a probability value of $\text{P} \leq 0.05$. The relationship between PR dissolution values and other soil properties was established using Pearson's correlation coefficient.

Results and discussion

As can be seen in tables 2 and 3, the soils presented very different physicochemical characteristics. In general, medium textures predominate, although there are three soils (Casupal, Iguana and Iguana II) with sandy textures (table 2). The Bramón and Mantecal soils presented the lowest pH (4.1 and 4.2, respectively); another group had a pH of 4.6-5.5, while the samples from Veguitas and Bajo Seco had a pH of 5.8 and 6.1, respectively. The organic carbon (CO) content was highly variable (0.30-6.54%): the Iguana and Casupal soils presented very low CO values (0.30-0.33%), with low values were Iguana II (0.75%), Palmeras (0.78 %) and Mantecal (1.04%), while Barinas, Veguitas and Bramón presented an intermediate CO content (1.27-1.85%); a high content of CO (6.54%) was only presented by Bajo Seco (table 2).

Veguitas, Bajo Seco and Bramón soils are characterised by high levels of total and available P (Bray I), while Iguana, Iguana II and Casupal presented low values of total and available P, the rest of the soils maintain intermediate values (table 2). The highest P adsorption indices were recorded in Bramón, Mantecal, Bajo Seco and Palmeras, the rest presented low values (table 2).

Table 2. Main chemical characteristics of the soils analysed.

Soils	pH	%OC	P total (mg.kg ⁻¹)	P Bray (mg.kg ⁻¹)	Adsorption Index (x/ log C)*	Texture
Bramón	4.1	1.85	468	15.2	23.6	FA
Mantecal	4.2	1.04	328	4.6	13.6	F
Barinas	4.6	1.27	266	4.5	8.0	FAa
Casupal	4.7	0.33	211	5.7	6.6	aF
Palmeras	4.7	0.78	275	2.5	11.8	F
Iguana II	5.3	0.75	190	1.5	4.6	Fa
Iguana	5.5	0.30	163	1.8	5.7	a
Veguitas	5.8	1.34	955	23.7	5.7	F
Bajo Seco	6.1	6.54	601	31.8	10.6	FAa

* $x = \text{mg.P.100g}^{-1}$ soil; $C = \mu\text{mol.P.L}^{-1}$. Source: Author

The CEC were high in Bajo Seco and Veguitas soils, very low in Iguana and Casupal, the rest of the soils analysed presented intermediate values (table 3). Bajo Seco and Veguitas registered high values of exchangeable Ca and Mg, as did the Bramón soil (despite its low pH), the rest of the soils presented low levels of exchangeable Ca, as expected, since they are well weathered soils (tables 1 and 3).

Bramón, Mantecal and Barinas presented the highest contents of exchangeable Al and total acidity, while Casupal, Palmera and Iguana II maintained intermediate values, and the lowest values of these chemical parameters were found in Iguana, Veguitas and Bajo Seco, this information is in agreement with the highest pH values associated with these soils (table 2).

Table 3. Exchangeable bases, total acidity and cation exchange capacity (CEC) of the soils analysed.

Soils	Ca ⁺	Mg ⁺	Na ⁺	K ⁺	H ⁺	Al ³⁺	CEC	Total acidity
cmol.kg ⁻¹								
Bramón	2.50	1.22	0.33	0.23	0.9	0.8	6.6	1.7
Mantecal	1.50	1.48	0.65	0.85	0.4	1.1	6.0	1.5
Barinas	0.50	0.48	0.06	1.00	0.5	1.1	5.0	1.6
Casupal	0.75	0.48	0.05	0.69	0.2	0.3	2.4	0.5
Palmeras	0.75	1.72	0.39	0.54	0.3	0.7	3.9	1.0
Iguana II	1.25	1.48	0.46	0.69	0.3	0.5	3.8	0.8
Iguana	0.25	0.22	0.19	0.23	0.1	0.1	1.2	0.2
Veguitas	4.25	2.98	0.19	4.08	0.1	0.1	8.9	0.2
Bajo Seco	10.50	3.48	0.11	5.77	0.1	0.2	19.8	0.3

Source: Author

The mineralogical composition of the soils (table 4) evidenced the dominance of kaolinite as the main phyllosilicate, except for Bramón, where vermiculite predominates, and Veguitas and Bajo Seco, where micas dominate.

PRMF dissolution values and their relationship with soil properties

The PR dissolution values (ΔP) at 100 days of incubation corresponded to three categories (table 5). A group with the highest PR dissolution capacity (DC) represented by Iguana, Casupal and Barinas; the highest DC value was found in Iguana (50.0 mg.P.kg⁻¹), a soil that showed appropriate properties to induce this process: acidic pH and low content of total and available P. Barinas and

Table 4. Mineralogical composition of the soils studied.

Soils	Kaolinite	Quartz	Mica	Vermiculite	Feldspars	Others
Bramón	++	++	+	++++	nd	G
Mantecal	++++	++++	++	++	0.25+	nd
Barinas	++++	0.3 +	0.3+	+	Nd	G(+)
Casupal	++++ 0.5H	++++	Tr	nd	0.1+	G, Esm.
Palmeras	++++	+	+	+	0.25+	G,P,Cl
Iguana II	++++	+++	0.5+	nd	nd	Esm.
Iguana	+++ H	++++	0.5+	+	0.25+	nd
Veguitas	+++	+++	++++	nd	+	G,P,Cl
Bajo Seco	++	0.5+	+++	nd	nd	G,Pa,Gi

H= Halloysite; P= Pyrophyllite; Cl= Chlorite; Pa= Paragonite; G= Goethite; Gi= Gibbsite; Esm= Smectite; Tr= Traces; nd= no determined.

Table 5. Values of phosphorus extracted with the Bray I solution (mg P.kg-1) in unfertilized soils (without RF) and treated with PR (with RF).

Soils	Without PR	With PR	P Bray with PR- P Bray without PR (ΔP)*
Iguana	2.5	52.5	50.0
Casupal	8.0	30.0	22.0
Barinas	2.5	9.5	7.0
Palmeras	2.2	4.2	2.0
Bramón	2.0	2.2	2.0
Mantecal	4.5	7.5	3.0
Iguana II	1.6	3.0	1.4
Veguitas	3.8	2.5	-1.3
Bajo Seco	2.0	1.8	-2.0

*The difference between the level of P extracted from the treated soil and the control corresponds to the dissolved P (ΔP) of the PR. Source: Author

Casupal with lower DC than Iguana (7 and 22 mg.kg⁻¹, respectively) presented also acidic pH, but intermediate contents of total and available P. Another group of soils (Palmeras, Bramón, Mantecal and Iguana II) with low DC indices (1.4-3.0 mg.kg⁻¹) and different physicochemical properties, occupied a second category, while soils with pH higher than 5.6 (Veguitas and Bajo Seco) were located in a third DC category, represented by negative ΔP values, which indicated that in that incubation period, the Bray I reagent extracted a higher proportion of available P from the control soil. The high proportion of P extracted from the control soil is in agreement with the high levels of P in these soils (table 2).

However, It is important to highlight the low dissolution values of Bramón, Iguana II and Mantecal soils, since they are soils characterised by having acid pHs and significant levels of total acidity (0.8-1.7 cmol.kg⁻¹, table 3), therefore, with potential to dissolve PR. Any potential dissolution of the rock would be counteracted in Bramón and Mantecal by the high levels of total and available P. However, the Iguana II soil had a marginal PR dissolution, which is surprising, since its physicochemical characteristics are very similar to those of Iguana, the soil that recorded the highest ΔP value (table 5). The only difference found between both soils was the presence of halloysite and traces of vermiculite in the mineralogical component of the Iguana soil (Table 4), and a slightly higher natural fertility in the Iguana II soil (table 3). The Veguitas and Bajo Seco soils presented pH above 5.6, high contents of total P, available P and exchangeable calcium, so it was not expected, in these soils, greater PR dissolution (Romero and López-Hernández, 2018; Rajan *et al.*, 1996).

Previous analysis of the use of PR Monte Fresco carried out by López et al. (1994) for the Palmeras soil, noted a slight increase in the P and Ca content of the soil after treatment with PR, and a good residual effect on the yield of *Andropogon gayanus* after the third year of application, which indicated a moderate dissolution of PR Monte Fresco in this soil. Likewise, Pérez (1995) presented a comparison of various extraction methods of available P in PRs with different solubilities using also Palmeras soil. From Pérez's results it was inferred that, unlike, what was reported in this study, there was a greater dissolution of PR Monte Fresco compared to other soils located in the region, none-the-less, the levels of available Ca in the Palmeras sample used by Pérez (1995) were lower than the value reported here.

Dynamics of PR dissolution in soils

In table 6, the average ΔP values were recorded over an incubation period of 1-100 days. Although the information did not show a clear behaviour pattern, a tendency was observed for the ΔP values to increase from 1-15 days of incubation for the Bramón, Casupal, Palmeras, Iguana and Veguitas soils, which then slightly decreased from 30-60 days, but with strong increases at 100 d in Iguana and Casupal. In the case of the Mantecal, Barinas and Iguana II soils, the averages were quite close along the experimental period, with few significant differences during incubation. Finally, the Bajo Seco and Veguitas soils showed large fluctuations in the levels of P from dissolved from the PR throughout the incubation period, with some negative values during incubation.

The PR dissolution process is complex and it is activated by the presence of hydrogen ions around the fertiliser granules, which contribute to the solubilisation of insoluble apatites (Morillo *et al.*, 2007). This process, essentially chemical may also involve enzymatic and microbiological events that occur as PR interacts with the soil in an appropriately humid environment. Such is the case of the release of hydrogen ions or organic acids due to the activity of P-solubilising bacteria (PSB), which could induce greater PR solubilisation (Mora *et al.*, 2017; 2019; Hunt *et al.*, 2007). Thus, as the incubation process occurred in the tested soils, there was a redistribution of P in the different fractions affected by these chemical and microbial dissolution-immobilisation events.

A more rigorous analysis of the changes in the most available P fractions was carried out by means of PR fertilisation (300 mgP.kg⁻¹) of the Iguana and Bramón soils (figures 1 and 2, respectively) and observing the changes in P-fractions throughout the incubation period. During incubation, changes in the levels of P-resin, P-bicarbonate, P-microbial, Pi and Po-NaOH were observed.

Table 6. ΔP values (mgP.kg⁻¹) extracted with the Bray I solution t different incubation times.

Soils	ΔP (mgP.kg ⁻¹) during incubation time						
	1d	3d	7d	15d	30d	60d	100d
Iguana	1.8a*	9.0b	10.0b	25.0c	20.0c	10.0b	50.0d
Casupal	6.0a	11.5b	9.0ab	25.0c	5.5a	11.0b	22.0c
Barinas	8.3b	6.8b	3.8a	10.0b	8.3b	11.3b	7.0b
Palmeras	3.0a	3.8a	2.8a	7.8b	6.8b	4.3a	2.0a
Bramón	2.0b	4.0b	3.0b	10.0d	-2.0a	5.5c	2.0b
Mantecal	0.5b	1.8b	-3.0a	2.8b	3.3b	1.0b	3.0b
Iguana II	1.8a	1.3a	0.0a	1.5a	0.7a	3.5a	1.4a
Veguitas	-1.5b	-1.5b	-1.5b	6.0d	2.0c	3.0c	-1.30b
Bajo Seco	10.0d	-2.0b	9.0d	-11.0a	0.0b	3.0c	-2.0b

*Means followed by different letters between different times differ significantly at 5% by Duncan's two-sided test. Source: Author

In the Iguana soil, the most available fractions of P (P-resin and P-NaHCO₃) had a significant increase in the first 15 days of incubation, while the P-microbial and Pi-NaOH did not undergo greater modification, on the contrary, Po-NaOH decreased significantly in that period (figure 1). For the Bramón soil, in general, there was a tendency to increase P values throughout the incubation period (3-30 days) in the P-resin, Pi and Po-NaOH and P-microbial fraction (figure 2). This last fraction presented quite high values at 30d (70 mg P.kg⁻¹), very possibly related to an intense microbial activity associated with the high content of organic carbon (Ravindran and Yang, 2015), and the adequate availability of nutrients (Ca and Mg) existing in that soil (table 3). Thus, the conjunction of all these processes throughout the incubation helped to explain the fluctuations in the dissolution values.

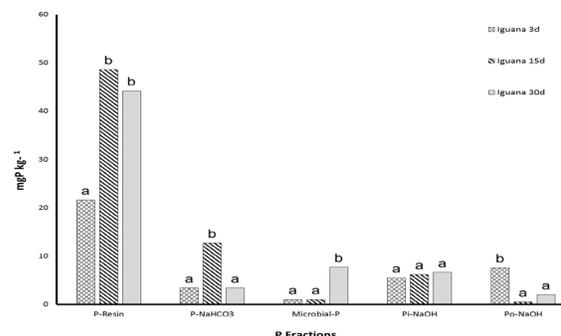


Figure 1. Changes in available P fractions during incubation, Iguana soil. Means followed by different letters differ significantly.

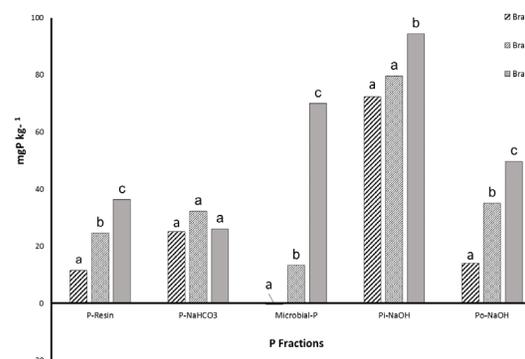


Figure 2. Changes in available P fractions during incubation, Bramón soil. Means followed by different letters differ significantly.

A correlation analysis of the dissolution value (ΔP) at 100 days of incubation with the different properties of the analysed soils showed, in general, low correlation coefficients for the soil characteristics and PR dissolution (table 7). All the parameters analysed, except P adsorption, tend to negatively affect the dissolution, however, only the total P content reached significance ($P < 0.10$); the CEC and the P Bray I approached, although without reaching the level of significance. Undoubtedly, the small number of soils analysed due to logistical reasons affected the significance of these results. Herrera and Casanova (1997), in tests with several PR, point out that it was not possible to detect a single characteristic of the rocks that explains the differences between the amounts of phosphorus extracted with Bray, it is noteworthy that they also worked with a reduced number of soils (5).

Table 7. Pearson correlation coefficient between the PR dissolution index (ΔP) and the different soil properties; ns and *, non-significant and significant at 0.1%, respectively.

pH	Exchangeable Al	Exchangeable Ca	% C	P total	P Bray I	CEC	IBW
Pearson correlation coefficient							
-0.001 ^{ns}	-0.255 ^{ns}	-0.444 ^{ns}	-0.372 ^{ns}	-0.645*	-0.506 ^{ns}	-0.531 ^{ns}	0.250 ^{ns}

Source : Author

Conclusions

The soils of the selected agro-ecological zones presented different behaviours regarding the ability to dissolve the Monte Fresco phosphate rock. In general, this response was associated with the intrinsic characteristics of the soil, such as: pH, content of total and available P and exchangeable calcium, although a significant statistical association was only found with the content of total P. The Iguana soil, with a high capacity to dissolve PR due to its acidity and low P content, generates a good PR dissolution, while the Bajo Seco and Veguitas soils, less acidic and with high contents of total and available P, induce a poor or no dissolution of the rock.

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