

CLAY MINERALOGY OF SOILS FORMED IN DIFFERENT
DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENTS OF SRI LANKA

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Soil samples from some modern fluvial, lagoonal, lacustrine and probable ancient glacial environments were examined for their clay mineralogy using the Differential Thermal Analyser (DTA).

In the fluvial and lagoonal samples from the wet zone regions of Colombo and Negombo, kaolinite and minor amounts of montmorillonite were noted. The dry zone fluvial and lacustrine samples from Kurunegala, Dambulla, Puttalam and Kandalawa, were rich in montmorillonite and poor in kaolinite. In the wet zone lacustrine samples from Nuwara Eliya and Polgolla, montmorillonite was dominant with indications of some hallosite and accessory kaolinite. In the ancient glacial sediments from Weuda, the prominent clay mineral was montmorillonite with minor amounts of kaolinite. It is interesting to note that a similar mineralogy was noted in the Red Earth deposits of Puttalam.