

# **Regulation of Humusprofiles by Ca-, Fe- and Al-Chemistry in Mollic Haplaquents. (S05-hoosbeek021112-Poster)**

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## **Abstract:**

Drainage and acidification changed the humus profile of Mollic Haplaquents from a base-rich Mull to an acidic Mor type. Decreasing base saturation caused a decrease of soil faunal activity which hampered mixing of litter into the soil and slowed down litter decomposition and mineralization of plant nutrients. As a result plant species diversity decreases dramatically (degradation of *Cirsio-Molinietum* vegetation communities). Restoration measures (increasing discharge by decreasing infiltration of rainwater) have had no effect after nine years. The loss of s hypothesized to obstruct restoration of the base saturation. In that situation reduction of iron oxides no longer strips protons from the exchange sites allowing Ca ions to be adsorbed. At  $\text{pH} < 4$  Al may irreversibly be adsorbed by SOM, causing the apparent CEC at higher pH (during restoration) to be lower.

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