Hydromorphology of Mid-Atlantic Piedmont Floodplain Soils. (S10-rabenhorst173243-Poster)

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Abstract:

Significant development pressures in the eastern Piedmont of the US make it essential to accurately delineate wetlands in this area. Soil hydromorphology is generally thought to reflect the long-term soil hydrological conditions. Although anecdotal observations indicate many of these soils are hydric, and an abundance of redox concentrations are observed, current field indicators of hydric soils often fail to confirm that such soils are hydric. The objectives of this study are to document hydrology and biogeochemistry of Piedmont floodplain soils and to gain a better understanding of the hydrological significance of redoximorphic features in these alluvial soils. To do this, field morphology will be compared with the soil hydrology and redox status. Present field indicators will be evaluated to determine their adequacy for soils of the Piedmont floodplain, and if necessary, new or alternate indicators will be proposed for identifying hydric soils in this setting. This research should enable soil scientists to more accurately identify and delineate hydric soils in Piedmont floodplains.

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