

# THE DIVERGENCE OF THE SYSTEM OF ASSOCIATION HORIZON NOTATION OF SOILS WIDESPREAD IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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## Abstract

The World Reference Base (WRB) is the international standard for the soil classification system approved by the International Union of Soil Sciences. As far as possible, diagnostic criteria are matched with those of existing systems so that correlation with national and previous international systems is as simple as possible. The WRB is not intended to replace national soil classification systems, but to be a tool for better correlation between national systems. The aim of this work is to identify and highlight the divergence of the system of notation of the association horizons of soils with similar properties or attributes spread over the territory of the Republic of Moldova. Some of which, characterized by a combination of attributes reflecting common, widespread results of soil formation processes, are thus, identified and found in the fourth edition of the WRB which was launched in 2022. Ambiguities in the notation of association horizons for soils of the Republic of Moldova, need to be correlated in a more concise way and closer to the WRB being officially recognized also by the public authorities of the country. As diagnostic materials will serve the factors that significantly influence soil formation processes based on their distinctive characteristics. This paper provides an overview of the nationally diagnosed association horizons compared to those in the world, which could be useful for students of agriculture, forestry and engineering. In this case, the proper identification and linking of diagnostic association horizons to the new World Reference Base will facilitate the national soil classification system in naming and describing soils, as well as the creation of legends for specific land use soil maps. It is hoped, that this publication will contribute to the awareness and understanding of the role of the universal soil science system for the general public and the scientific community.

**Key words:** Association Horizon, divergence, soil diagnostics, Republic of Moldova, World Reference Base