
Preface

About 3 years ago, I was approached by Springer to write a book on Spanish soils that could become part of the international book series of Prof. Alfred Hartemink, *The World Soils Book Series*. I gave it a lot of thought, as involved a lot of time and effort, especially since I was (and still do) frequently travel to Latin American countries. In order to have the most complete and interesting content possible for this book, I decided to ask other experts in Spanish soils to participate in the project. After three long years of intensive discussions, writing, revising, and rewriting, the book is finally finished.

The Soils of Spain gives a comprehensive overview of Spain's soils and, in addition, of the status quo of soil science in Spain; the book also reveals the distribution of soils in the various regions of Spain and their properties. Therefore, this book is, in essence, a basic documentation of the soils of Spain, written by soil experts and scientists with much experience in soil research—all of whom are looking for a better understanding of Spanish soil resources. All topics included are up-to-date and allow the use of the material included. In addition, an abundant bibliography is included in each chapter.

Therefore, *The Soils of Spain* is of interest not only to soil scientists, but also to geographers, territory planners, agronomists, food producers, foresters, and environmentalists, among others.

A regional structure was chosen in this book because Spain, in addition to being a vast country, is comprised of very dissimilar areas in which climatological and geological soil factors diverge, causing distinct effects and determining various soil units.

This book is divided into six chapters:

- An introduction to the soils of Spain.
- In the second chapter, the classification and distribution of the soils of Spain are reviewed.
- The third chapter discusses the soils of the humid northern Iberia.
- The fourth provides a picture of the soils in the arid southern and Northeastern Spain.
- In the fifth, the Mediterranean soils, dominated by red colors, are exposed, using the presence of olive trees as an indicator to distinguish whether these soils are *climax* or just *paleosols*.
- And lastly, the sixth chapter addresses the main challenges and future scenarios related to the soils of Spain for the coming years.

I hope this structure can help readers understand the diversity of soils in Spain because of the very different climatic and geological features (soil factors) found there.

This is our personal contribution to the International Year of Soil (2015).



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