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SOIL TAXOMETRICS: RESULTS FROM A WEST-GERMAN DATA BANK

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The terms of general soil classification systems serve within soil information systems not only as main criteria for storing and cross referencing data. The classes or taxons of soil classification may also be checked and improved by taxometric evaluations on data of the information system itself.

By means of a soil data bank of about 2000 profiles and 10,000 horizons, which were collected from West-German institutions of soil survey, results were evaluated by various taxometric methods. Examples are presented for the following topics:

- quantitative description of the total variability of single soil attributes, including transformation problems,
- detection and estimation of error variation caused by data transfer, sampling and measurement within and between survey institutions,
- geno- and morphometrics on the depth function problems of soils,
- correction of taxon differentia by uni- and multivariate analyses of discrimination and relocation.