

Very Fine Colluvial Fabric

(Sample MC 2013/44) (Fig. 12)

Inclusions

15%. eq sa-sr. < 3 mm. Double- to open-spaced. Very well-sorted. Unimodal grain size distribution

Coarse fraction

15-25%. 3-1 mm.

Common-Few: Sanidine feldspar; a-sa. < 1.5 mm.

Few-absent: Clinopyroxene; eq a-sa. < 1 mm

Rare-absent: Weathered igneous rock inclusion; eq sa-sr. < 3 mm. Consisting of plagioclase feldspar, biotite and pyroxene in a groundmass that is rich in feldspar.

Rare-absent: Microcline; < 1 mm.

Fine fraction

75-85%

Common-Few: Feldspar

Common-Few: Biotite

Matrix

80%. Deep red in XP, and brown in PPL. Very homogeneous. Optically inactive

Voids

5%. Consisting mainly of micro-vughs, with some meso-vughs. Show a very strong alignment to the margins.

Comments

The sample in this fabric is defined by a red firing clay with fine feldspar and biotite inclusions. Occasionally, sanidine, augite and coarse weathered igneous rock inclusions can be identified. The extremely fine nature of the inclusions suggests that the clay has been well-prepared before use. The sample is fired at a high temperature and in oxidising atmosphere. It comprises an amphora, which has been found in the settlement area of Forum Appii.

The clay of this fabric bears similarities to the red colluvial clay of the Fine Clay Mixing Fabric in that it is red firing and comprises fine biotite inclusions. However, the clay in this fabric is more homogeneous and appears to have been better prepared.

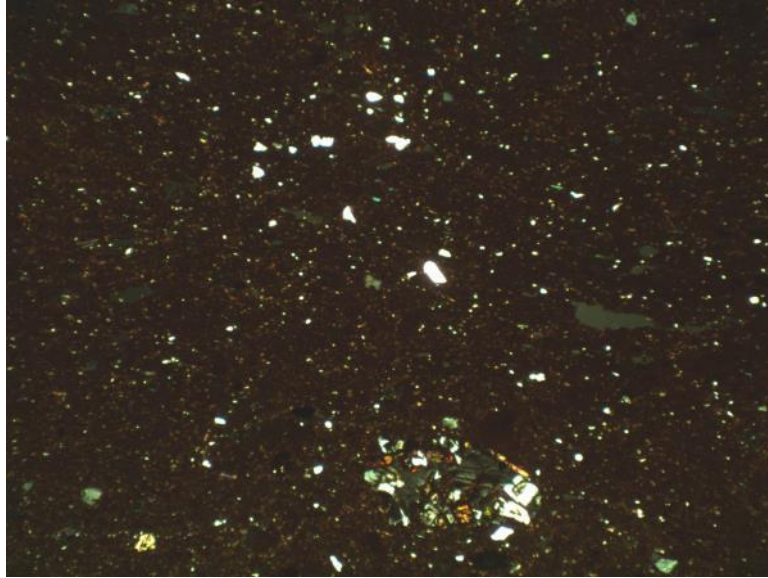


Fig. 12: Very Fine Colluvial Fabric in XP. Width of image = 5.8 mm.