

Colluvial Fabric with Sanidine

(Samples MC 2013/70, 98, 99, 143, 144, 145, 146, 174) (Fig. 9)

Inclusions

20-25%. el & eq. a-sa. < 4.5 mm. Double- to open- spaced. Well-sorted. Unimodal grain size distribution.

Coarse fraction
30%. 4.5-1 mm

Predominant: Sanidine; eq. a-sa. Occurs in two sizes: (1) 1 mm (samples MC 2013/70, 99, 145), and (2) 6 mm (samples MC 2013/98, 143, 144, 146). Sometimes with undulose extinction, and may comprise fine-grained inclusions, showing evidence for weathering. Sometimes simply twinned (sample MC 2013/145)

Common: Clinopyroxene; eq. sa-sr. < 1 mm. Cleavage. Second-order birefringence. Augite.

Common: Argillaceous inclusions: r. < 2 mm. Reddish-brown. Might contain feldspar and biotite inclusions. Clay pellets (samples MC 2013/70, 98, 145).

Common-Few: Pyroclastic rock; el r. < 4.5 mm. Light-coloured and with vesicles. Clasts derived from magma. Pumice (samples MC 2013/98, 99, 144, 145, 146).

Common-Few: Weathered igneous rock inclusion; sr-r. < 4.5 mm. Consisting of plagioclase feldspar and augite in a brown groundmass (samples MC 2013/98, 99, 145, 146). Could be basalt?

Common-Few: Calcite; el. r. < 1 mm. Occurs as micritic inclusions in pore-fill (samples MC 2013/98, 143, 145).

Few-Absent: Biotite; eq. a. < 2 mm. Brown and speckled in XP. Perfect cleavage (samples MC 2013/98, 99, 145, 146).

Fine fraction
70% < 1 mm

Dominant Feldspar
Common: Biotite

Matrix

60-70%. Most samples are orange-brown in PPL and red-brown in XP. Very homogeneous clay matrix. Optically moderately to inactive (samples MC 2013/70, 98, 99, 145).

Voids

10-15%. Consisting mainly of macro-vughs and channels (samples MC 2013/98, 145). Weak alignment to margins.

Comments

The samples in this fabric group are characterized by the presence of occasional sand-sized sanidine feldspar, augite, biotite, pumice, zeolite and weathered igneous rock inclusions (possibly basalt), set in a red base-clay with red clay pellets. The coarse inclusions are moderately to well-sorted. A tempered variant (or sub-fabric) has also been identified among the samples (samples MC 2013/98, 143, 144, 146): they are characterised by coarse angular sanidine and augite inclusions. Nevertheless, all the samples are characterised by red clay with clay pellets and micritic calcite, which is dispersed throughout the clay. Most, if not all, samples were fired in oxidising atmosphere and at a high temperature. This fabric comprises tiles and cover tiles, and it was found on a wide range of consumption sites. The samples comprise ceramic building material, including tiles and cover tiles, and storage jars: the tiles and cover tiles occur in both fabrics (the tempered and the untempered variant), whereas the dolia occur exclusively in the tempered variant of this fabric. They were found on a wide range of consumption sites in the Pontine region.

This fabric is similar to the Colluvial Fabric Group, given that they are both red-firing and comprise biotite inclusions. The difference lies in the fact that the clay in this fabric is more homogeneous and comprises mainly sand-sized sanidine inclusions and clay pellets, whereas the Colluvial Fabric Group is characterised by the presence of a range of sand-sized igneous inclusions in a heterogeneous clay matrix.

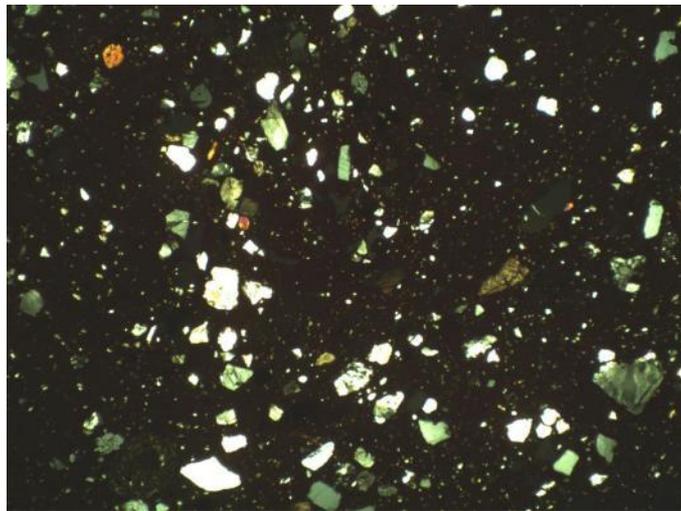


Fig. 9: Colluvial Fabric with coarse sanidine inclusions in XP. Width of image = 5.8 mm.