

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	International Journal of Plant & Soil Science
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_129541
Title of the Manuscript:	Characterization and classification of soils in semiarid region of Varathuru watershed area of Andhra Pradesh
Type of the Article	

PART 1: Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>This manuscript is significant for the scientific community as it provides a comprehensive characterization and classification of soils in a semi-arid region, contributing to the understanding of soil properties and their variability in these ecosystems. The detailed analysis of soil morphology, physical, and chemical characteristics, including bulk density, cation exchange capacity, and organic carbon, offers valuable insights for sustainable land management, agricultural productivity, and watershed management in semi-arid regions. Moreover, the classification of soils into Typic Haplustepts and Ultic Haplustalfs underlines the role of environmental factors like moisture and temperature regimes in soil formation, which is essential for developing region-specific strategies for soil conservation. This study also serves as a baseline for further research on the impacts of climate change and land-use practices on soil health in similar regions.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>The title of the article, "Characterization and classification of soils in semiarid region of Varathuru watershed area of Andhra Pradesh," is fairly descriptive but could be refined for clarity and impact. It is somewhat lengthy and could be more concise while still conveying the key focus.</p> <p>Suggested Alternative Titles: "Soil Characterization and Classification in the Semi-Arid Varathuru Watershed, Andhra Pradesh" "Morphological and Chemical Analysis of Soils in the Varathuru Watershed, Andhra Pradesh" "Soil Properties and Classification in Semi-Arid Regions: A Case Study of Varathuru Watershed" "Evaluating Soil Characteristics in the Semi-Arid Varathuru Watershed, Andhra Pradesh" These alternatives retain the essential focus while enhancing readability and appeal to a broader audience. The shorter and more precise wording makes them easier to understand while still being scientifically accurate.</p>	

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<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>The abstract is informative but could be improved for clarity and comprehensiveness. Here are the suggestions:</p> <p>Additions: Objective: Clearly state the research objective or the problem being addressed upfront. Methods: Briefly mention the methodologies or techniques used for soil characterization. Implications: Include a sentence on the broader implications of the findings for soil management, agriculture, or environmental studies.</p> <p>Deletions: Repetition: Avoid repetitive mentions of locations (e.g., pedon sites) without adding value. Over-technical Details: Some excessive details, like exact ranges for every parameter, can be summarized to improve readability.</p> <p>Overall: Organize the abstract into a logical flow: introduction, methods, key findings, and implications. Simplify technical language to make it accessible to a wider audience.</p>	
<p>Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.</p>	<p>the manuscript appears to be scientifically correct in its approach to soil characterization and classification. The study presents a thorough analysis of soil properties, including physical, chemical, and morphological attributes, using standard soil science metrics like bulk density, organic carbon, cation exchange capacity (CEC), and base saturation. These are relevant and well-accepted parameters for soil classification and assessment.</p> <p>The use of soil taxonomy (e.g., Typic Haplustepts, Ultic Haplustalfs) and consideration of environmental factors such as the ustic soil moisture regime and isohyperthermic temperature regime align with recognized scientific methodologies. However, a full determination of scientific accuracy would require reviewing the detailed methods, data analysis, and classification criteria within the main manuscript.</p> <p>Suggestions: Ensure that methods and tools used for measuring soil parameters are explicitly detailed and follow standard protocols. Verify whether the classification into Typic Haplustepts and Ultic Haplustalfs aligns with the USDA Soil Taxonomy or other relevant systems. Include any necessary statistical validation or comparison with previous studies to strengthen the findings. If these aspects are appropriately addressed, the manuscript can be considered scientifically robust.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p>	<p>Include at least one review article or meta-analysis on soil classification in semi-arid ecosystems for broader context. If the references are outdated, replacing older citations with recent studies will significantly enhance the manuscript's credibility.</p>	
<p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>Technical Terminology: The use of terms like "pedons," "cation exchange capacity," and "bulk density" demonstrates scientific rigor and appropriateness for the subject. Detailed Information: The abstract includes relevant and precise scientific data, enhancing its credibility.</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>		

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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

Reviewer Details:

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