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Phosphorus fractions and correlation with soil attributes in a chronosequence of agricultural under no-tillage

Frações de fósforo e correlação com atributos edáficos em uma cronosequência de agricultura sob plantio direto

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Maria do Carmo Lana⁵

Abstract

In no-tillage (NT) soils, changes in the quantity and quality of soil organic matter (SOM) have been observed over time. These changes can interfere with the dynamics of P in surface soil layers. Thus, the objectives of this study were: to evaluate the organic and inorganic fractions of P and their degree of lability (labile, moderately labile, and moderately recalcitrant) in an Oxisol under NT for 6 years (NT₆), 14 years (NT₁₄), and 22 years (NT₂₂) and cultivated with a succession of soybean and corn/wheat. The fractions were evaluated for 16 years of NT, with the last four years under integrated corn second crop and Brachiaria (NT_{16+B}). We also analyzed an area of native forest, as well as analyzing the correlations between the results of the P fractions of these areas with other attributes such as total carbon content, vegetable waste deposited on the ground, phosphorus and humic fractions remaining in SOM. From each of the areas, samples were collected at 0.00-0.05 m and 0.05-0.10 m. A completely randomized design with 5 replicates was used. Management of phosphorus fertilization and SOM following adoption of the NT of time (6 to 22 years) increased the levels of all fractions of inorganic P (0.0 to 0.10 m), as well as the fractions of labile (0.05-0.10 m), moderately labile (0.0-0.10 m), and moderately recalcitrant (0.05-0.10 m) organic phosphorus. The correlation matrix shows interactions between the evaluated soil attributes, especially between inorganic phosphorus fractions and fulvic and humic acids and between the moderately recalcitrant organic phosphorus and humin fraction.

Key words: Oxisol. Organic phosphorus. Phosphorus sorption. Soil organic matter.

Resumo

Em solos sob sistema de plantio direto (SPD) tem sido observado alterações na quantidade e qualidade da matéria orgânica do solo (MOS) ao longo do tempo, o que pode interferir na dinâmica do P nas camadas superficiais do solo. Dessa forma, os objetivos deste estudo foram: avaliar as frações inorgânicas e orgânicas de P e o grau de labilidade destas (lábil, moderadamente lábil e moderadamente resistente) de um Latossolo Vermelho eutroférico sob sistema de plantio direto (SPD) com 6 anos (SPD₆), 14

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anos (SPD₁₄) e 22 anos (SPD₂₂) na sucessão soja, milho/trigo; 16 anos de SPD, sendo nos últimos quatro anos com integração milho segunda safra e *Urochloa* (SPD_{16+B}) e uma área de mata nativa; e analisar correlações entre os resultados das frações de P dessas áreas com outros atributos, tais como, carbono total, resíduos vegetais depositados sobre o solo, fósforo remanescente e frações húmicas da MOS. Em cada uma das áreas foram coletadas amostras nas camadas de 0,00-0,05 m e 0,05-0,10 m. O delineamento utilizado foi inteiramente casualizado, com 5 repetições. O manejo da adubação fosfatada e da MOS em função do tempo de adoção do SPD (6 para 22 anos) aumentou os teores de todas as frações de P inorgânico (0,0-0,10 m), bem como, as frações de fósforo orgânico lábil (0,05-0,10 m), moderadamente lábil (0,0-0,10 m) e moderadamente resistente (0,05-0,10 m). Através da matriz de correlação podem-se verificar interações entre os atributos do solo avaliados, principalmente entre as frações de fósforo inorgânico e os ácidos fúlvicos e húmicos, e entre o fósforo orgânico moderadamente resistente e a fração humina.

Palavras-chave: Latossolo Vermelho. Fósforo orgânico. Adsorção de fósforo. Matéria orgânica do solo.

Introduction

The increase in soil organic matter (SOM) quantity and quality, with increasing years in which no-tillage (NT) is practiced, can affect soil phosphorus (P) availability and the dynamics of soil P fractions. Soluble organic compounds originating from SOM decomposition may compete with phosphates for adsorption sites, and/or form complexes with metal cations, such as iron and aluminum, removing them from the adsorption surface (GUPPY et al., 2005). In addition, sorption of SOM compounds may increase the negative charges at the soil surface, making phosphate adsorption more difficult.

Phosphorus fertilizers are frequently applied to the soil surface, resulting in P accumulation in superficial soil layers. The soil P fractionation may therefore be used to determine the influence of NT on P lability. P fractionation allows the separation of labile, moderately labile, and non-labile phosphorus forms, and further illustrates the dynamics of P availability (SANTOS et al., 2008).

The use of the Bowman and Cole (1978) and Bowman (1989) methods for extraction of inorganic (Pi) and organic phosphorus (Po) has been proposed by several authors (PARTELLI et al., 2009; BEUTLER, 2012; DUDA et al., 2013; OLIVEIRA et al., 2014; BEUTLER et al., 2015; BEZERRA et al., 2015). These methods allow the extraction of labile, moderately labile, moderately

recalcitrant, and recalcitrant P fractions, using different extractors (NaHCO₃, NaOH, and H₂SO₄), therefore separating soil P into fractions of different plant availability. Po fractions are calculated as the difference between Pi and the total phosphorus, resulting from an extraction using all extractors (BEUTLER, 2012). NaHCO₃ extracts labile Pi and Po fractions, which have higher availability to plants (GATIBONI et al., 2007; GONÇALVES; MEURER, 2009). P fractions obtained through acid extraction (1.79 mol L⁻¹ H₂SO₄) are considered moderately labile (BOWMAN; COLE, 1978), and through alkaline extraction (NaOH), moderately recalcitrant (BOWMAN; COLE, 1978).

Some studies have investigated P fractionation in highly weathered soils under NT (SILVA et al., 2003; GALVANI et al., 2008; OLIBONE; ROSOLEM, 2010; CARNEIRO et al., 2011; BEUTLER, 2012). However, the results are conflicting. Studies of the effect of different P sources, and modes of application in NT areas, have observed that P application (independent of the source and mode of application) increased soil Po concentrations (GALVANI et al., 2008; OLIBONE; ROSOLEM, 2010). However, when soils under NT and native Cerrado were compared, P fertilization was observed to result in decreased Po and increased Pi concentrations in NT areas when compared to untreated soils from Cerrado (SILVA et al., 2003; CARNEIRO et al., 2011; BEUTLER, 2012; RODRIGUES, 2013).

Recently, there has been an increase in studies of soil phosphorus dynamics in NT areas with crop-livestock integration (CLI) (BEUTLER et al., 2015; BEZERRA et al., 2015). These studies showed higher availability of the Pi and Po fractions in NT with and without CLI (BEZERRA et al., 2015). The authors attributed this to higher input of plant material in CLI systems due to the planting of *Urochloa*, cattle manure left randomly throughout the area, and the application of fertilizers. Similarly, Beutler et al. (2015) compared soil P fractionation in areas of CLI, pasture, and native Cerrado, and observed higher labile, moderately labile, and moderately recalcitrant P fractions in CLI than in the remaining studied areas.

This indicates possible correlations between SOM and its fractions, phosphorus fertilization management, and soil phosphorus dynamics, in

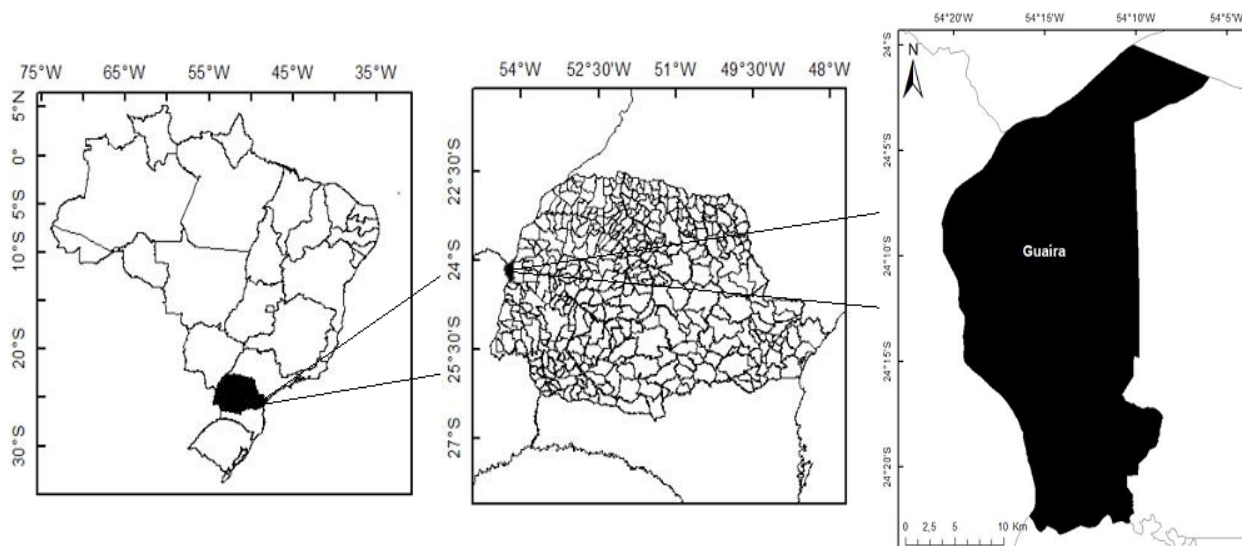
areas under conservationist systems. However, further studies are needed to understand the P availability variations with different types of NT and lengths of time in which it is implicated.

The aim of this study was: i) to analyze the residual P and inorganic and organic P fractions and their degree of lability (labile, moderately labile, and moderately recalcitrant) in a eutropheric Red Latosol in an NT chronosequence, and ii) to analyze the correlations between P fractions and total carbon, surface plant residue on the soil (SPR), and SOM humic fractions for the studied areas.

Material and Methods

The study was performed in five areas within a rural property of the municipality of Guaíra, Western state of Paraná, Brazil (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Location of the municipality of Guaíra-PR. **Source:** Elaborated by the authors.



The region's climate is subtropical (Cfa) according to the Köppen climate classification. A detailed Paraná soil survey (BHERING; SANTOS, 2008) states that the soil at the study areas is a typical eutropheric Red Latosol, with a very clay-like texture (EMBRAPA, 2013).

Four areas under agricultural management, and a reference area (Native Forest; NF) without anthropic action, were evaluated, for a total of five different systems. The four managed areas were as follows: NT for 6 years (transition phase; NT₆), 14 years (consolidation phase; NT₁₄), or 22 years

(maintenance phase; NT₂₂), with a soya (summer) and corn/wheat (winter) crop succession, and NT for 16 years, of which 12 years had the same crop succession and 4 years included corn

intercropping with *Brachiaria ruziziensis* as winter crops (consolidation phase; NT_{16+B}). A detailed description of the areas is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. History, description, and location of study areas.

Management system	Description
NT ₆	20 ha; 270 m altitude, 24°09'092" South (S) and 54°13'368" West (W). Transition phase, with six years of NT.
NT ₁₄	17 ha; 298 m altitude, 24°09'938" S and 54°14'190" W. Consolidation phase, with 14 years of NT.
NT ₂₂	77 ha; 297 m altitude, 24°15'454" S and 54°10'361" W. Maintenance phase, with 22 years of NT.
NT _{16+B}	20 ha; 281 m altitude, 24°09'136" S and 54°13'676" W. Consolidation phase, with 16 years of NT. First 12 years of NT with soya/corn-wheat succession, followed by four years of corn intercropping with <i>Brachiaria ruziziensis</i> in winter crops.
NF	2 ha; Native vegetation area (Atlantic Forest -Semideciduous Stational Forest), 295 m altitude, 24°11'029" S and 54°11'898" W, used as reference.

Following conversion from the conventional system (CS) to NT, all areas were cultivated with a soya (summer) and corn/wheat (winter) crop rotation, except for NT_{16+B}, in which corn intercropping with *Brachiaria ruziziensis* was introduced in the last four years to increase straw production (essential to be considered NT) for the following soya crop. In all NT areas, the fertilizations applied during the last five years of soya/corn-wheat crop succession consisted of 270 kg ha⁻¹ of 02-20-18, and inoculation with *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* (150 mL of inoculant liquid per 50 kg seeds) for the soya crop, and 270 kg ha⁻¹ of 10-15-15 for the corn-wheat crop. Additionally, 1.7 Mg ha⁻¹ lime was applied every four years, except in NT₁₄, which received no soil corrections following the conversion from CS to NT (1998).

In August 2012, a representative plot with 2000 m² was delimited in each area, and soil samples were collected randomly from the soil layers 0-0.05

and 0.05-0.10 m, using a spade with a straight cutting edge. In NT areas, 75% of the samples were collected between, and 25% within, planting rows. Five composite deformed soil samples were obtained (composed of 10 individual samples). The soil samples were air dried, the clods were crushed, and the samples were sieved through a 2 mm mesh, to obtain fine, air-dried soil (ADFS). This was then used for the soil chemical and particle size analysis, according to Embrapa (1997) (Table 2), and soil P fractionation. A completely randomized experimental design was used, with five replicates for each area.

Total organic and inorganic soil P fractions were determined according to Bowman (1989). Labile P fractions (extraction with 0.5 mol L⁻¹ sodium bicarbonate, pH 8.5) were determined according to Bowman and Cole (1978) as modified by Duda (2000). Briefly, P fractionation was performed through sequential P extraction, using the same soil sample. Samples of 1 g ADFS were used. The first

extraction was performed using 0.5 mol L⁻¹ sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO₃), pH 8.5, for extraction of labile P. Labile P was quantified using a spectrophotometer (EMBRAPA, 1997). The second extraction was performed using concentrated sulfuric acid (1.79 mol L⁻¹ H₂SO₄), for extraction of moderately labile P. The third extraction was performed using 0.5 mol L⁻¹ sodium hydroxide (NaOH), for extraction of moderately recalcitrant P.

Po concentrations in soil samples were calculated as the difference between the total P and inorganic P recovered in each extract. Total P (Pt) was determined in aliquots of the soil samples subjected to perchloric acid digestion, and Pi was determined in non-digested extracts. The organic P fraction of each extract is therefore calculated by subtracting the P content of non-digested extracts from the P content of digested extracts (BOWMAN, 1989).

Table 2. Soil chemical properties and particle size analysis for the study areas.

*Areas	pH CaCl ₂	Ca	Mg	K	Al	H+Al	T	V	Clay	Silt	Sand
		----- cmol _c kg ⁻¹ -----						--%--	----- g kg ⁻¹ -----		
0-0.05 m											
NT ₆	5.8	5.5	1.8	0.5	0.0	2.9	10.7	72.9	614	216	170
NT ₁₄	5.1	3.1	1.0	0.3	0.1	4.3	8.7	50.6	669	186	145
NT ^{16+B}	6.0	5.6	1.1	0.5	0.0	2.6	9.8	73.5	618	209	173
NT ₂₂	6.0	6.3	1.3	0.6	0.0	3.2	11.4	71.9	623	276	101
NF	6.4	8.6	1.0	0.4	0.0	2.7	12.7	78.7	617	265	118
0.05-0.10 m											
NT ₆	5.5	4.2	1.2	0.3	0.0	3.7	9.4	60.6	613	220	167
NT ₁₄	4.8	2.2	0.6	0.2	0.5	5.4	8.4	35.7	698	157	145
NT _{16+B}	5.5	5.2	0.7	0.3	0.0	3.1	9.3	66.7	619	210	170
NT ₂₂	5.5	5.3	1.1	0.4	0.0	4.3	11.1	61.3	628	271	101
NF	6.3	7.9	0.9	0.3	0.0	2.2	11.3	80.5	620	256	125

* no tillage system (NT) for 6 years (NT₆), 14 years (NT₁₄), 22 years (NT₂₂), or 16 years of which four included corn intercropping with *Brachiaria* used in interim harvest (NT_{16+B}); and one native forest area (NF).

Source: Rosset (2015) and Rosset et al. (2014).

Correlations between the different P fractions and the amount of plant residues deposited on the soil (SPR), total carbon concentration (C), residual P, and SOM humic fractions, were analyzed using the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient.

The SPR, total C, residual phosphorus, and SOM humic fractions data were obtained from Rosset (2015) and Rosset et al. (2014), determined for the same areas, season, and edaphoclimatic conditions during the study. Averages of these parameters are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Total carbon (C), surface plant residue on the soil (SPR), fulvic acid (FA), humic acid (HA), humin (HU), and residual phosphorus (Pres) in the study areas. Values are averages.

Areas	SPR	C	FA	HA	HU	Pres
	Mg ha ⁻¹	----- g kg ⁻¹ -----				mg kg ⁻¹
	0-0.05 m					
NT ₆	3.24	18.78	2.83	2.82	11.13	13.37
NT ₁₄	4.15	20.94	2.36	2.12	12.37	14.62
NT _{16+B}	4.73	18.96	3.21	2.59	12.52	14.63
NT ₂₂	3.83	24.02	4.24	3.72	15.15	13.11
NF	14.11	40.78	3.88	4.15	28.13	17.37
0.05-0.10 m						
NT ₆	3.24	15.90	2.60	2.55	8.82	13.42
NT ₁₄	4.15	16.76	1.95	1.68	9.83	13.39
NT _{16+B}	4.73	18.24	2.97	2.34	10.00	13.45
NT ₂₂	3.83	19.60	4.02	3.01	10.55	13.13
NF	14.11	17.32	2.84	2.21	18.78	14.65

* no tillage system (NT) for 6 years (NT₆), 14 years (NT₁₄), 22 years (NT₂₂), or 16 years of which four included corn intercropping with Brachiaria used in interim harvest (NT_{16+B}); and one native forest area (NF).

Source: Rosset (2015) and Rosset et al. (2014).

The data were subjected to variance analysis using the F test, and averages were compared using the Student's t-test, at $p < 0.05$. In all cases, preliminary analyses were performed to ensure no violation of the assumptions of normality (Lilliefors test) and homogeneity of variances (Cochran's C and Bartlett's tests). All tests were performed using the ASSISTAT software (SILVA; AZEVEDO, 2002).

Results and Discussion

The correlation matrix for the data is presented in Table 4. Significant correlations ($p < 5\%$) were observed, especially between sodium hydroxide extractable Pi (Pi-OH) and Po (Po-OH) and humic substances. This confirms the interaction between SOM and soil P dynamics (Table 4).

Table 4. Correlation matrix for the variables analyzed.

Variables	Pi-bic	Pt-bic	Po-bic	Pi-H	Pt-H	Po-H	Pi-OH	Pt-OH	Po-OH
0-0.05 m									
¹ SPR	-0.039	-0.593	-0.978	-0.356	-0.259	0.003	-0.124	0.880*	0.973*
C	-0.014	-0.516	-0.890	-0.195	-0.175	-0.068	0.066	0.936*	0.924*
FA	0.722*	0.421	-0.302	0.699*	0.646*	0.282	0.841*	0.763*	0.311
HA	0.378	0.013	-0.554	0.369	0.244	-0.054	0.609*	0.871*	0.551
HU	0.048	-0.482	-0.913*	-0.180	-0.134	-0.006	0.072	0.949*	0.934*
Pres	-0.158	-0.706	-0.979*	-0.577	-0.370	0.106	-0.405	0.731*	0.978*
0.05 - 0.10 m									
SPR	-0.5050	-0.5619	-0.6813	-0.7096	-0.3056	0.4607	0.5393	0.3988	0.3656
C	0.8850*	0.8461*	0.6477*	0.3964	0.7050	0.7453	0.7167*	0.8192*	0.8331*
FA	0.7468*	0.6602*	0.3343	0.5204*	0.8683*	0.8709	0.6759*	0.8477*	0.8759*
HA	0.5955	0.5040	0.1779	0.6237	0.8504	0.6870	0.6463*	0.6063*	0.3891
HU	-0.4222	-0.4846	-0.6280*	-0.6168	-0.1879	0.5464	0.4687	0.6390*	0.5022*
Pres	-0.6698	-0.7199*	-0.804*	-0.7951	-0.4590	0.2975	0.3485	0.2053	0.1732

* Significant at $p < 0.05$. ¹ Total carbon (C), surface plant residue on the soil (SPR), fulvic acid (FA), humic acid (HA), humin (HU), and residual phosphorus (Pres).

The areas where NT had been adopted for longer periods (NT_{16+B} and NT₂₂) presented similar (0-0.05 m) or higher (0-0.10 m) concentrations of sodium bicarbonate extractable Pt (Pt-bic), and Pi (Pi-bic), than the remaining NT areas, and NF (Table 5). Labile Pi concentrations were higher for some NT areas (NT_{16+B} and NT₂₂ for the 0-0.05m soil layer, and all NT areas for the 0.05-0.10 m soil layer), than for NF. This was due to the P fertilization performed in NT areas. Successive applications of P fertilizers result in increased phosphorus lability, due to the gradual occupation of high-affinity P adsorption sites, and the increase in more labile P fractions due to successive fertilizations (BRAVO et al., 2007). Rodrigues (2013) and Bezerra et al. (2015) also observed higher labile phosphorus concentrations in NT areas when compared to a Red Latosol under native Cerrado vegetation.

The Pt-bic and Pi-bic fractions increased with increasing time of NT, being higher for NT_{16+B} (0.0-0.05 m) and NT₂₂ (0.05-0.10 m) than for NT₆. This is correlated with an increase in the fulvic acid fraction (Table 4), and a possible decrease in soil adsorption capacity (GUPPY et al., 2005). The competition between phosphorus and organic acids for soil adsorption sites results in increased P concentrations in the soil solution. In addition, organic acids such as fulvic and humic acids may also form complexes with metal cations, such as Fe and Al, decreasing the number of available adsorption sites and increasing P availability to plants (GUPPY et al., 2005). Because fulvic acids are more labile than other humic acids, the increase in the fulvic acid fraction with increasing time of NT (Table 3), and its subsequent mineralization, may make inorganic phosphorus available in the soil.

Table 5. Concentrations of sodium bicarbonate extractable (bic), total phosphorus (Pt), inorganic phosphorus (Pi), and organic phosphorus (Po), in different soil layers and soil management systems.

Soil layer (m)	System ¹					CV(%)
	NT ₆	NT ₁₄	NT _{16+B}	NT ₂₂	NF	
Pt-bic (mg kg ⁻¹)						
0.0-0.05	30.85b	25.89bc	38.06a	42.47a	23.14c	12.49
0.05-0.10	30.74d	43.84c	57.69b	74.00a	24.04d	13.10
Pi-bic (mg kg ⁻¹)						
0.0-0.05	9.40c	7.07c	20.43a	20.51a	13.06b	15.84
0.05-0.10	15.99d	22.42c	35.82b	50.01a	12.02e	10.75
Po-bic (mg kg ⁻¹)						
0.0-0.05	21.44a	20.20a	18.44a	21.95a	10.85b	15.11
0.05-0.10	14.75a	21.43a	21.86a	23.99a	12.01b	21.77

* Values followed by the same lower case letter within the same line are not significantly different between different soil management systems, according to the Student's t-test, at $p < 0.05$. ¹ no tillage system (NT) for 6 years (NT₆), 14 years (NT₁₄), 22 years (NT₂₂), or 16 years of which four included corn intercropping with *Brachiaria* used in interim harvest (NT_{16+B}); and one native forest area (NF). Values are averages.

Another interesting aspect are the similar Pt-bic and Pi-bic concentrations in the soil layer 0.0-0.05 m observed for NT_{16+B} and NT₂₂ (Table 5). This suggests that the 4 years of CLI for NT_{16+B}

may be accelerating the accumulation of Pt-bic and Pi-bic in this soil layer. This may result from a combination of increased SPR (Table 3), the contribution of the abundant root systems, and

higher rhizodeposition of root exudates due to the presence of *Brachiaria*, maintaining the organic matter concentrations (CARNEIRO et al., 2009; SILVA JÚNIOR et al., 2009, LOSS et al., 2012), and consequently the production of humic and fulvic acids (BEZERRA et al., 2013), thereby decreasing adsorption and increasing Pi-bic.

The higher Po-bic observed more in NT areas than NF (Table 5) and resulted from the soil management over years, which increased the SOM quantity, quality, and mineralization, and increased P incorporation into the organic compartment. This is consistent with Santos et al. (2012), who analyzed P fractions in a dystrophic Red Latosol from areas that had been cultivated for several years, and adjacent non-cultivated areas (native Cerrado); results indicated a higher Po-bic for cultivated areas. This may also be related to decomposition of the different root systems of the adopted crops during NT establishment. Olibone and Rosolem (2010) analyzed different P fractions following phosphate application to soya crops in a system incorporating five years of NT, and also observed increased Po concentrations following the soya harvest. The authors related this to root decomposition.

A strong significant negative correlation was observed between residual phosphorus (Pres) and the Po-bic fraction for both soil layers (Table 4). This indicates that the increase in Pres decreases the Po-bic fraction, i.e., in NT areas the mineralization of the Po-bic fraction contributes to the increase in P availability. However, this result must be interpreted with caution, since the increase in Pres availability will depend on the type of adsorption and organic acid to which the P becomes bonded. P bonded to low molecular weight organic acids becomes more readily available, due to higher mineralization rates, whereas mineralization of high molecular weight organic acids is slower, resulting in lower P availability (PAVINATO; ROSOLEM, 2008;

GUPPY et al., 2005). This is shown by the positive significant correlation between Pres and Po-OH observed for the soil layer 0-0.05 m, indicating that the increase in Pres increased P in the Po-OH fraction (Table 4).

Concentrations of sulfuric acid extractable Pt (Pt-H) were higher for areas with a longer NT duration (NT_{16+B} and NT₂₂ for layer 0-0.05 m, and NT₂₂ for layer 0.05-0.10 m) when compared to the remaining study areas (Table 6). Beutler et al. (2015) also observed higher concentrations of Pt-H for an NT area with CLI than for native Cerradão (transitional tropical forest). This may be attributed to the annual application of P fertilization, which initially resulted in increased labile inorganic P fractions, and then in increased moderately labile P fractions over time, as a result of P adsorption to iron and aluminum oxides through inner-sphere complex formation (SOUZA, 2008).

The sulfuric acid extractable Pi (Pi-H) fraction increased with increasing NT duration, in that the two oldest NT areas presented higher Pi-H fractions than NF for the two soil layers evaluated (Table 6). This indicates that with increasing time of NT, phosphorus fertilization may saturate the adsorption sites available to the labile Pi fraction (Pi-bic), and increase Pi accumulation in the moderately labile fraction (Pi-H), when NT reaches the maintenance phase. Rotta (2012) observed similar results for areas with 7, 11, and 16 years of NT in Cerrado regions, and considered that the increase in labile and moderately labile Pi fractions with increasing NT durations may help decrease applications of phosphorus fertilization, since over time the soil will begin a continuous process of natural depletion, resulting in better fertilizer retention and efficiency. The lower Pi-H observed for NF than for the older NT areas may also be related to the absence of phosphorus fertilization in NF, since the moderately labile P may act as P source in NF, meeting the forest P needs (NOVAIS et al., 2007).

Table 6. Concentrations of extractable sulfuric acid (H), total phosphorus (Pt), inorganic phosphorus (Pi), and organic phosphorus (Po), in different soil layers and soil management systems.

Soil layer (m)	System ¹					CV(%)
	NT ₆	NT ₁₄	NT _{16+B}	NT ₂₂	NF	
Pt-H (mg kg ⁻¹)						
0.0-0.05	679.30b	695.04b	868.61a	937.83a	714.60b	7.26
0.05-0.10	574.46b	531.43b	542.43b	712.08a	544.94b	6.21
Pi-H (mg kg ⁻¹)						
0.0-0.05	491.88bc	437.13d	525.75b	653.64a	459.94cd	6.44
0.05-0.10	407.02b	385.24b	351.08c	470.65a	317.25d	5.76
Po-H (mg kg ⁻¹)						
0.0-0.05	187.42c	257.91bc	342.86a	284.19ab	254.66bc	20.95
0.05-0.10	167.45c	146.18c	191.35bc	241.42a	227.68ab	18.51

* Values followed by the same lower case letter within the same line are not significantly different between different soil management systems, according to the Student's t-test, at $p < 0.05$. ¹ no tillage system (NT) for 6 years (NT₆), 14 years (NT₁₄), 22 years (NT₂₂), or 16 years of which four included corn intercropping with *Brachiaria* used in interim harvest (NT_{16+B}); and one native forest area (NF). Values are averages.

Similarly to Pi-bic, Pi-H and Pt-H were also significantly positively ($p < 5\%$) correlated with the fulvic acid fraction for the two soil layers evaluated (Table 4). This shows the important contribution of this SOM humic fraction to the availability of inorganic phosphorus in the soil of the studied areas.

Higher sulfuric acid extractable Po (Po-H) fractions were observed for NT_{16+B} (0-0.05 m) and NT₂₂ (0.05-0.10 m) than for NT₆, and for areas with longer NT duration (NT_{16+B} and NT₂₂) than for NF (0-0.05 m) (Table 6). The Po-H fraction therefore increased with increasing time of NT, indicating that NT areas accumulate more recalcitrant organic material over time (Table 3), such as humic acids, which are more difficult to degrade by soil microorganisms. Soil P therefore becomes adsorbed to humic acids, and is accumulated at the Po-H fraction (GONÇALVES; MEURER, 2009).

Sodium hydroxide extractable Pt (Pt-OH) increased with increasing NT duration. However, the Pt-OH fraction was higher for NF than for all NT areas for the 0-0.05 m soil layer, and higher than for NT₆, NT₁₄, and NT_{16+B} for the 0.05-0.10 m soil layer (Table 7). The increase in the Pt-OH fraction with increasing NT duration was due to the older NT areas having received more phosphorus fertilization over time, increasing the Pi specific adsorption to Fe and Al oxides (ROTTA, 2012). The higher Pt-OH fraction for NF, when compared to NT areas for the two soil layers, may be explained by the high positive significant correlations between this fraction and the C, humic acid, and humin concentrations (Table 4). This indicates that a large part of P in the forest soil was adsorbed to more recalcitrant organic fractions, which was confirmed by the higher Po than Pi concentrations observed for NF.

Table 7. Concentrations of extractable sodium hydroxide (OH), total phosphorus (Pt), inorganic phosphorus (Pi), and organic phosphorus (Po), in different soil layers and soil management systems.

Soil layer (m)	System ¹					CV(%)
	NT ₆	NT ₁₄	NT _{16+B}	NT ₂₂	NF	
Pt-OH (mg kg ⁻¹)						
0.0-0.05	56.65c	60.62c	64.35bc	71.79b	84.96a	11.20
0.05-0.10	33.84d	35.47d	46.08c	75.06a	63.39b	3.68
Pi-OH (mg kg ⁻¹)						
0.0-0.05	32.95bc	28.01c	33.02b	44.55a	33.24b	10.92
0.05-0.10	21.89b	23.81b	23.87b	29.07a	28.40a	6.45
Po-OH (mg kg ⁻¹)						
0.0-0.05	23.69b	32.61b	31.33b	27.23b	51.72a	25.49
0.05-0.10	11.94d	11.66d	22.20c	45.99a	34.99b	11.27

* Values followed by the same lower case letter within the same line are not significantly different between different soil management systems, according to the Student's t-test, at $p < 0.05$. ¹ no tillage system (NT) for 6 years (NT₆), 14 years (NT₁₄), 22 years (NT₂₂), or 16 years of which four included corn intercropping with *Brachiaria* used in interim harvest (NT_{16+B}); and one native forest area (NF). Values are averages.

Pi-OH also increased with increasing time of NT, with NT₂₂ presenting higher (0-0.05 m) or similar (0.05-0.10 m) Pi-OH than NF (Table 7). As discussed above, this may be due to the accumulated fertilization in older NT areas, which temporarily stabilizes the electrical charges of iron and aluminum oxides at the soil surface, increasing the Pi fraction (BEUTLER et al., 2015). Significant positive correlations were also observed between the Pi-OH fraction and fulvic and humic acids, indicating that these humic fractions may act both as a soil P source and sink. Bezerra et al. (2015) also reported significant correlations between the Pi-OH fraction and fulvic acids.

Po-OH concentrations were higher for NF than for all NT areas for the 0-0.05 m soil layer, and for NT₆, NT₁₄, and NT_{16+B} for the 0.05-0.10 m soil layer (Table 7). This is also clearly indicated by the strong correlations of this fraction with SPR, C, and humin (Table 4), indicating that the higher SPR accumulation due to litter deposition in NF results in increased soil C concentration. This is especially true for the humin fraction, which results in increased Po-OH fractions, since part of the soil

P in NF is adsorbed to, and accumulated in, the most recalcitrant fraction of SOM.

It should also be noted that most of the total P in soil of NT areas was moderately labile (soil layer 0-0.05 m: 88.59 % for NT₆, 88.93 % for NT₁₄, 89.45 % for NT_{16+B}, and 89.14% for NT₂₂; soil layer 0.05-0.10 m: 89.89 % for NT₆, 87.01 % for NT₁₄, 83.94 % for NT_{16+B}, and 82.69% for NT₂₂), and inorganic (soil layer 0-0.05 m: 64.15 % for NT₆, 55.93 % for NT₁₄, 54.14 % for NT_{16+B}, and 62.13% for NT₂₂; soil layer 0.05-0.10 m: 53.08 % for NT₆, 49.29 % for NT₁₄, 36.16 % for NT_{16+B}, and 44.73% for NT₂₂). This is due to the annual application of phosphorus fertilizers, with P first becoming preferentially associated with the inorganic labile fraction, and over time becoming adsorbed to iron and aluminum oxides through an inner-sphere complex formation, increasing the moderately labile inorganic fraction (SOUZA, 2008). This is consistent with Beutler et al. (2015), who evaluated a CLI area with Red Latosol, in Montividiu state of Goiás, and also observed predominance of the moderately labile P fraction (70 % Pt) and inorganic P (95 %).

Conclusions

The management of phosphorus fertilization and soil organic matter in NT results in increased concentration of all inorganic P fractions (0-0.10 m), as well as labile (0.05-0.10 m), moderately labile (0-0.10 m), and moderately recalcitrant (0.05-0.10 m) organic phosphorus fractions, with increasing time of NT (6 to 22 years).

Interactions were observed between the soil properties evaluated, especially between the inorganic phosphorus fractions and fulvic and humic acids, and between moderately recalcitrant organic phosphorus and the humin fraction.

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