

Full Length Research Paper

Organic and inorganic carbon stocks and balance of Adana city soils in Turkey

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Carbon stocks are calculated between from 0 - 100 cm depths of Adana great soil groups (GSG). Total carbon stock is 567.19 Tg in 0 - 100 cm, 168.37 Tg of which is organic carbon (OC) and 398.83 Tg of which is inorganic carbon (IC). While 77.81% of soil organic carbon consists of alluvial, brown and non-calcareous brown forest soils, 59.77% of soil inorganic carbon (SIC) consists of alluvial, colluvial and brown forest soils. Organic carbon stocks are mostly seen in non-calcareous brown forest soils (53.75 Tg or 31.92% of OC stocks, 22.61% of all area). The least stock is determined in alluvial coast soils (0.02 Tg or 0.01% of OC stocks, 0.01% of all area). Inorganic carbon stocks are mostly found in alluvial soils (165.7 Tg or 41.65% of SIC stocks, 19.88% of all area) and it is least seen in alluvial coast soils (0.12 Tg or 0.03% of SIC stocks, 0.01% of all area). While soil organic carbon amount is between 6.01 - 13.78 kg C m⁻², soil inorganic carbon amount changes between 26.27-60.01 kg C m⁻². Generally, it is seen that soil organic carbon amount is low in the area where intense agriculture techniques are used and it is high in meadow and forest areas which form high areas.

Key words: Adana soils, soil organic carbon amounts and stocks, soil inorganic carbon amounts and stocks.

INTRODUCTION

Global carbon stocks and balances have become very important objects in recent years. The role of vegetation in the regulation of atmospheric CO₂ level is well known. Discovery of the increasing CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere and threat of global warming in the last two decades have encouraged scientists to find ways and means to control it.

Soil organic carbon is necessary for raising quality of soil, developing and maintaining quality of food

production, saving clean water and reducing the CO₂ which has been rising in atmosphere. Moreover, inorganic carbon restricts root growth, raises salinity and causes reduction of organic materials (Eswaran and Van den Berge, 1992; Pal et al., 1999).

Soils creates very important environment for storing carbon and balancing emission. Pedosphere (soil sphere), also plays an important role affecting gas changes in the atmosphere. Soil organic carbon and inorganic carbonates create two big carbon pools in pedosphere and it is stated that these are related to each other closely (Mermut and Eswaran, 2001).

World mineral soils have major carbon reserves so it is estimated that there are 1115 - 2200 Pg C, (Post et al., 1982; Eswaran et al., 1993; Batjes, 1996), 1500 Pg C (Schlesinger and Andrews, 2000), 1580 Pg C (Houghton, 2007) in 1 m soil profile. According to IPCC, it is estimated at this rate 1750±250 Pg C indicating that 835 Pg of which is inorganic carbon. It is predicted that there are 2500 Pg C (Amundson, 2001) in 2 m depth of soil. According to a research of Janzen (2004), much of carbon is found in inorganic form under 1 m depth. He

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Abbreviations: SOC, Soil organic carbon; SIC, soil inorganic carbon; IC, inorganic carbon; OC, organic carbon; GSG, great soil group; CO₂, carbon dioxide; GDSRW, General Directorate of State Hydraulic Workers; SAR, Southeast Anatolia Region; TSMS, Turkish State Meteorological Service; BD, bulk density; GDSR, General Directorate of Rural Service; MWEG, Member of the ecosystem working groups; IPCC, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

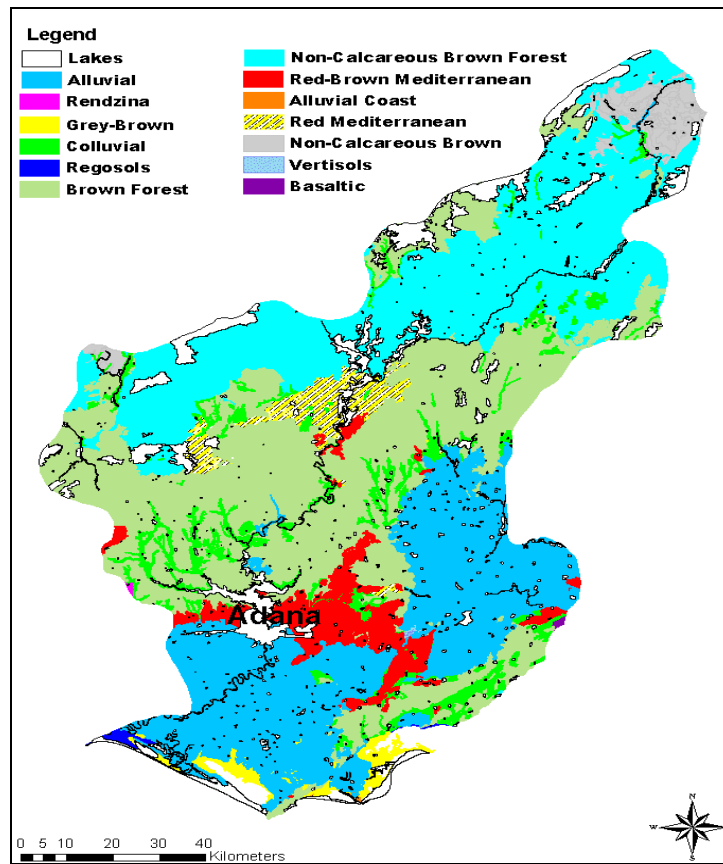


Figure 1. Adana City Great Soil Groups.

expressed that the most important upper-soil organic carbons are forests.

It is estimated that the carbon stock of Turkey is 6.30 - 6.90 Pg C (Sakin and Mermut, 2010) and 6.79 Pg C (Amthor et al., 1998) in 1 m soil profile. Sakin and Mermut (2010), according to their research, determined that in Southeast Anatolia Region (SAR), which constitutes 10% of Turkey, 0.63 Pg C is found in 1 m soil profile and they expressed that they estimated these findings with the help of SAR region carbon stock. However, there is no valid information on SOC and SIC in Turkey.

The information about carbon stocks and flux is rather limited in Turkey. The objective of this paper is to estimate organic and inorganic carbon amounts and stocks in Mediterranean regions of Adana.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

The study was carried out in Adana region, in Turkey. The land investigated in the research is located between longitudes 37° 30' and 33° 45' E and between latitudes 37° 45' and 36° 30' N and which has an area of about 17 252.67 km² and constitutes 2.21% of Turkey. There are 13 GSG in Adana. These are by order of their

area; Alluvial, Alluvial Coast soils, Rendzinas, Grey-Brown, Colluvial, Brown Forest, Non-calcareous Brown Forest, Red-brown Mediterranean, Red Mediterranean, Non-calcareous Brown, Vertisols and Basaltic soils (Figure 1), (GDRS, 1996). 15 soil series were classified and determined according to profiles by opening 15 soil profiles (Nuns, 1956; GDSH, 1962; Soil-Water, 1973). Among soil series, Misis, Dağcı, Adana and İnaplı series existed on travertine and conglomerate terraces on high land. İncirlik and Arkaca existed on delta basin which occurred on alluvial fans. Yenice, Çanakçı, Arıklı, Arpacı, Gemisüre and Oymaklı series existed on delta basin. Helvacı and Pekmez series occurred on hollows of delta basin. Baharlı occurred on sand materials (Mancı, 1977).

The climate of study area was influenced by Mediterranean condition. Mean annual air temperature changes between 16.7 and 18°C. Mean annual precipitation varied between 601.0 and 1156.6 mm. (TSMS, 1974). Flora of the research area generally consists of products like barley, wheat, cotton and corn. Highlands consist of meadows and forests (Tamcı, 1977).

Method

One profile of each GSG was examined. Samples were taken from each horizon and 73 samples, Walkely and Black (1934) method for organic carbon analysis, Scheibler's calcimeter for CaCO₃ (Hızalan, 1965) and volume weight method were used (Sakin et al., 2010). Soil inorganic carbon (SIC) was determined by measuring CO₂ gas which can be found at the end of interaction of CaCO₃ with the HCL acid. CaCO₃ equivalent was converted to inorganic carbon with the

Table 1. SOC and SIC amounts of Adana Great Soil Groups (kg C m⁻²).

Great soil groups	0 - 100 cm	
	SOC	SIC
Alluvial	9.84	48.32
Red-Brown Mediterranean	9.85	-
Grey-Brown	11.29	54.56
Colluvial	12.17	60.01
Regosols	6.01	35.43
Brown Forest	8.34	26.27
Non-calcareous Brown Forest	13.78	-
Rendzina	8.34	30.00
Alluvial Coast	9.90	48.32
Red Mediterranean	9.65	-
Non-calcareous Brown	9.01	-
Vertisols	7.07	36.00
Basaltic	8.50	-
Mean	9.52	42.36

0.12 coefficient (as one molecule includes 12 g C) (Schlesinger, 1982). Mean organic and inorganic carbon amount (kg C m⁻²) was computed according to each horizon taken from 13 GSG and between 0 - 100 cm soil depth.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

In GSGs of Adana, between 0 - 100 cm soil depth, storage of organic carbon amounts are high to low as presented in Table 1. Brown Forest 18.55, Non-calcareous Brown Forest 13.78, Colluvial 12.17, Grey-Brown 11.29, Alluvial Coast 9.90, Red-Brown Mediterranean 9.85, Alluvial 9.84, Red Mediterranean 9.65, Non-calcareous Brown 9.01, Basaltic 8.50, Rendzina 8.34, Vertisols 7.07 and 6.66 kg C m⁻² in Regosol soils (Table 1). Soil inorganic carbon amounts are high to low as presented in Table 1. Colluvial 60.01, Grey-Brown 54.56, Alluvial ve Alluvial Coast 48.32, Vertisols 36.00, Regosols 35.43, Rendzinas 30.00 and Brown Forest soils 26.27 kg C m⁻², however, it can not be measured in Red-Brown, Non-calcareous Brown Forest, Red Mediterranean, Non-calcareous Brown and Basaltic wide soil groups. SOC and SIC amounts in the research conducted in Adana region are close to results of Sakin and Mermut (2010). In Regosol and Vertisol GSGs, SOC amount is lower than result of Brahim et al., (2009). According to researches of Neufeldt (2005), Grabe et al. (2003), average SOC amount is lower. However, the same result can be seen in areas where the precipitation is lower.

SOC amounts are examined in 3 categories in this region (Figure 2). According to this categorization, (i) between 6.00 - 9.00 kg C m⁻² there are Regosol, Rendzina, Vertisols and Basaltic SGS, (ii) between 9.01 -

12.30 kg C m⁻² there are Alluvial, Alluvial Coast, Grey-Brown, Colluvial, Red Mediterranean and Non-calcareous Brown wide soil groups and (iii) between 12.31 - 18.55 kg C m⁻² there are Brown Forest and Non-calcareous Brown Forest GSG (Figure 2). The SIC amount of soils are examined in 3 categories. These are (i) between 0.00 - 0.00 kg C m⁻² Red-Brown Mediterranean, Non-calcareous Brown Forest, Red Mediterranean, Non-calcareous Brown and Basaltic GSG, (ii) between 26.00 - 35.50 kg C m⁻² Regosol, Brown Forest and Rendzina wide soil groups, (iii) between 35.51 - 60.01 kg C m⁻² Alluvial, Grey-Brown, Colluvial, Alluvial Coast and Vertisol GSGs (Figure 3). Sakin and Mermut (2010) have used the similar categorizations for SOC and SIC in Southeast Anatolia Region (SAR).

The SOC and SIC stocks of Adana GSG are given in Table 2. According to this, by the order of: Non-calcareous Brown Forest 53.75, Brown Forest 49.91, Alluvial 33.75, Colluvial 10.93, Red Brown Mediterranean 6.78, Red Mediterranean 5.05, Grey-Brown 3.94, Non-calcareous Brown 3.62, Basaltic 0.26, Regosol 0.21, Rendzina 0.08, Vertisol 0.06 and Alluvial Coast GSGs 0.02 Tg C include SOC stocks. Total SOC stocks are 168.37 Tg (1 Tg = 10¹² g) or 0.168 Pg (1 Pg = 10¹⁵ g) C. SIC stocks of soils are; Alluvial 165.72, Brown Forest 157.22, Colluvial 53.89, Grey-Brown 19.05, Regosol 1.24, Vertisol 0.32, Rendzina 0.27 and Alluvial Coast GSGs 0.12 Tg C. Total SIC stocks are 398.82 Tg C or 0.399 Pg C. According to research of Sakin and Mermut (2010), SOC and SIC stocks in SAR region cities are found as: Adiyaman (720 788.36 ha) 46.07, Antep (674 772.42 ha) 48.10, Batman (451 913.30 ha) 30.84, Diyarbakir (1 526 931.66 ha) 133.74, Kilis (142 230.73 ha) 11.38, Mardin (862 571.83 ha) 73.92, Siirt (562 706.82 ha) 47.70, Sırnak (712 073.24 ha) 59.61, Urfa (1 925 816.84 ha) 144.10 Tg C and SIC stocks are; 123.64,

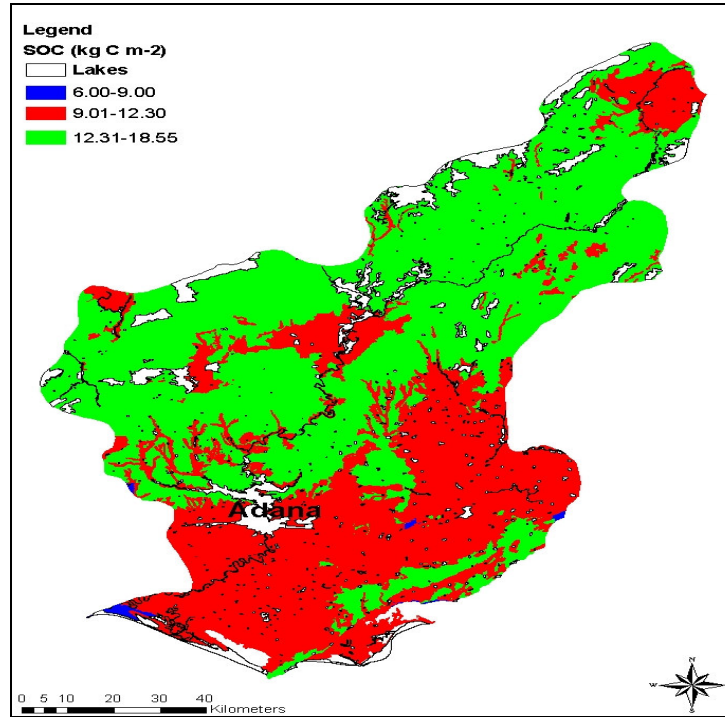


Figure 2. Soil organic carbon amounts of Adana Great Soil Groups.

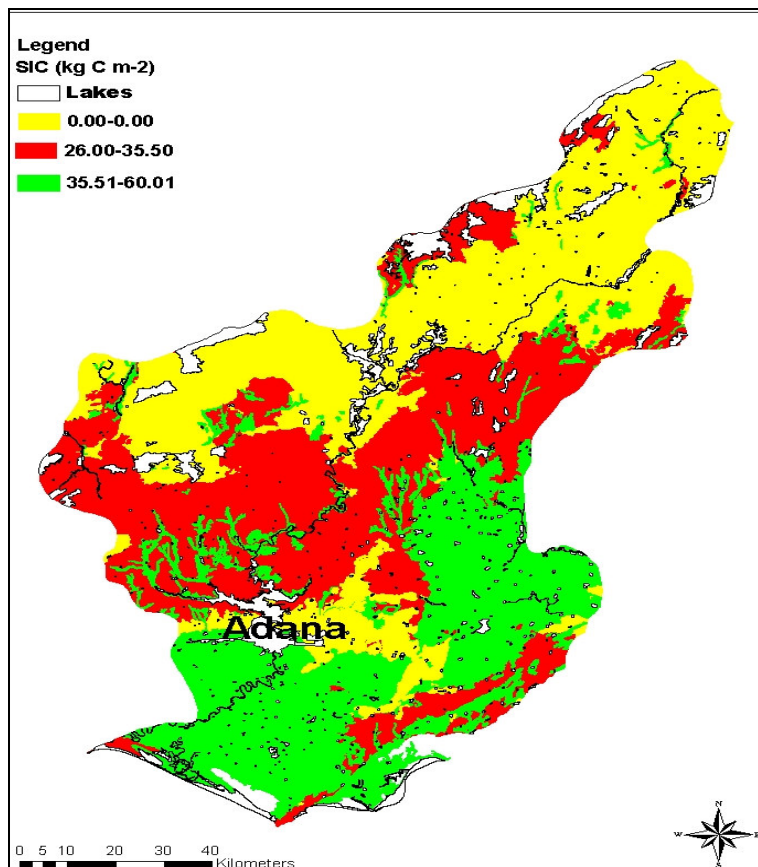


Figure 3. Soil inorganic carbon amounts of Adana Great Soil Groups.

Table 2. Carbon stocks of Adana Great Soil Groups (1 Tg C = 10¹² g C).

Great soil groups	Area (ha)	Area (%)	0 - 100 cm	
			SOC	SIC
Alluvial	342 959	19.88	33.75	165.72
Red-brown mediterranean	68 868	3.99	6.78	
Grey-brown	34 919	2.02	3.94	19.05
Colluvial	89 794	5.20	10.93	53.89
Regosols	3 494	0.20	0.21	1.24
Brown forest	598 471	34.69	49.91	157.22
Non- calcareous brown forest	390	0.72	22.61	53.75
Rendzina	906	0.05	0.08	0.27
Alluvial coast	243	0.01	0.02	0.12
Red mediterranean	52 315	3.03	5.05	-
Non-calcareous brown	40 196	2.33	3.62	-
Vertisols	881	0.05	0.06	0.32
Basaltic	3 075	0.18	0.26	
Other Areas	-	-	-	-
Hydromorphic alluvial	17 236	1.00	-	-
Coast Dune	9 679	0.56	-	-
Rocks and Dunes	67 568	3.92	-	-
Rivers	4 591	0.27	-	-
Total	1 725 267	100.00	168.37	397.82

146.78, 165.21, 135.59, 67.84, 191.43, 123.61, 146.50 and 144.41 Tg C.

Soil organic carbon stock is found as 168.37 Tg C. While Alluvial, Brown Forest and Non-calcareous Brown Forest soils form 77.18% of Adana city, they constitute 81.6% (137.41 Tg C) of TOC stocks (Table 2). SIC stock is 398.82 Tg C and it consists of Alluvial, Colluvial and Brown Forest soils which constitute 59.77% of all area. Moreover, these three GSG are equal to 94.5% of (376.83 Tg C) SIC stocks (Table 2). Total carbon stocks of Adana soils are 567.19 Tg C or 0.567 Pg C.

Approximately 36.5% (207.13 Pg C) of total carbon stock of region consists of Brown Forest soils, 35.15% (199.47 Pg C) of them consists of Alluvial soils. These two GSG constitute 71.66% (406.60 Pg C) of carbon stocks. The rest percentage of them consists of other groups (Table 2).

DISCUSSION

Reasons for variation in organic carbon amounts and stocks

The reasons for high SOC amounts of Brown Forest wide soil groups (GDRS, 1996) which existed on main material including high amount of calcareous and Non-calcareous Brown Forest wide soil groups on which the effects of calcareous washing, organic material saving, oxidation, clay, the washing of Fe-Al oxides from A horizon to B during the occurrence can be explained with factors like

high precipitation, altitude, upper biomass entrance and low temperature. Moreover, despite its clay content is not high like Vertisol, Alluvial soils and clay cause Fe-Al oxides and hydroxides. The disruption of organic material which is compounded with sand particles is faster than organic material which is compounded with clay. The effect of temperature is very important on disruption. Bruke et al. (1989) states that, clay combines with organic material and creates a compound which saves carbon against disruption.

Kögel-Knaber et al. (2008) expresses that clay, Fe-Al oxide and hydroxides compounding with carbon in soil create organo-mineral complexes and this save the carbon against the oxidation. Singh et al. (2003a, b) says that this relation between clay and carbon is not seen every time. If this situation was permanent, the SOC amount of Vertisol GSGs would be higher than other GSGs. As seen in Table 1, the least SOC amount is found on the Vertisol than Regosol soils. Velayutham et al. (2002) states that, the positive effects of 2:1 type clay minerals on Vertisol soils decrease because of excessive cultivation.

They say that carbon amounts are low on farming area such as Vertisols because of intense cultivation systems (Jolivet et al., 1997; Walker et al., 2000; Shepherd et al., 2001; Murty et al., 2002; Keeny et al., 2002). As was seen in the research studies in Adana region, the organic carbon amounts of meadows and forests are high. These reflect how farming techniques affect the carbon stocks in the soil. Sakin and Mermut (2010) in their research show that farming activities cause 57% decline on carbon

stocks rate. Ardo and Olsson (2003), Li et al. (2007), mention disadvantages of intense farming systems on the SOC stocks.

According to Batjes (2006) and Guo and Gifford (2002), when meadows are converted to forests, stocks will raise much more. According to Bradley (2005) and Tarnocai and Lal (1996), rain raises related to becoming forested. Tomlinson and Milne (2006) explain that 75% of carbon is stored in forest areas. SOC amounts and stocks of Brown Forest and Non-Calcareous Brown Forest soils are pretty high which are generally in forests and meadows and on which farming activities are not done.

The other factors affecting the carbon stocks and amounts are volume weight, horizon thickness and region area which are parameters used during calculation. Although C% context of Colluvial Great Soil Groups are high, as it covers restricted area, SOC stocks are lower than Brown Forest and Non-Calcareous Brown Forest Great Soil Groups. Singh et al. (2007) confirms these ideas. Despite the low carbon content of Haplusteps, their SOC is similar to Torripsamments. This is related to volume weight. They express that if the carbon percentage is low and volume weight is high, carbon density is high.

Reasons for variation of inorganic carbon amounts and stocks

It is stated that as parting CaCO_3 comes together on solum as washed after raining, Aridisols include more SIC than the other soil orders (Singh et al., 2003a, b). In dry regions, low organic ion activities and repeated aridity increase calcium saving processes. In the region, main material calcareous increases SIC amounts and stocks of Alluvial, Colluvial, Regosol, Brown Forest, Vertisol and Grey Brown Great Soil Groups. However, inorganic carbon amount is high in Colluvial soils; SIC stocks are lower than Alluvial and Brown Forest soils because of small area. Furthermore, SIC amounts of Brown Forest soils are low but as it has big area, SIC stocks are much more than other huge soil groups except alluvial soils. The factors affecting inorganic carbon stocks are volume weight, area and horizon thickness.

Conclusion

Like effects of precipitation, clay content, the usage of land, temperature on the carbon amount and stocks, calcareous situation of the main material on which soil existed affect organic carbon amounts and stocks. In farming areas, intensive farming techniques and not using conservative farming cause reduction on carbon stocks and CO_2 release. Although factors like cultivation, temperature, rain don't affect inorganic carbon amounts and stocks, these factors highly affect organic carbon

amounts and stocks in Adana region soils.

The main factors which affect carbon amounts are climate, clay and calcareous in soil and slope. The effect of precipitation on the carbon amount is very important. If precipitation increases, biomass raise and upon this situation organic carbon increases. The other parameter of climate is heat and it cause to disrupt of organic materials faster. Despite high precipitation in the region, the reason of low carbon amount is high temperature in the region. When climate factors are permanent and clay and calcareous amounts are taken into consideration, the effects of this parameter on carbon stocks are pretty important. The other factor seen in this study is slope. Especially, when the carbon amounts of the profiles taken from the same GSG are compared, it is seen that carbon is lower in the more sloped areas. A detailed research is needed to define all factors affecting carbon stocks.

The soil organic carbon decline is a global issue. Related to this decline, land degradation begins. For this reason, minimum soil cultivation, conservative farming, increase of biomass and saving plant waste and adding them to soil are necessary. It is stated that if organic carbon is raised, the effects of a lot of physical factors such as soil structure, jam, cracking and the most importantly erosion will decrease.

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