

# The Dynamics of the Influence of Slope Exposition on the Algae in Eroded Soils

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**Abstract** South-facing slopes (SFS) may receive six times higher solar radiation than north-facing slopes (NFS). Although located only a few hundred meters apart, the microclimatic conditions on the slopes vary dramatically, affecting the biology of organisms at all levels (M.Auslander et.al. 2003). Non-uniform conditions for the development of plants are created on slopes with different exposures. For example, due to the non-uniform temperature regime on the northern and southern slopes, heating is less on the northern slopes. In spring, snow melts faster on southern slopes, which directly accelerates erosion. Insufficient moisture on the southern slopes of the soil causes discomfort for the development of tall plants, which ultimately leads to summer erosion of the soil. The processes occurring on the eastern slopes occupy an intermediate position. In addition, since the complex of geomorphological and soil processes on the slopes is not at the same level, microzones are formed on the slopes and their agrochemical indicators are different. In this research work, the dynamics of algae development on the slopes are presented.

**Keywords** Algae, Exposition, Green algae, Bacillariophyta, Cyanobacteria, Microzone, Erosion

## 1. Introduction

The rate of water erosion occurring on the slopes of different exposures also affects the condition of algal flora in the soil.

There are also a number of scientific studies focused on the algae of the slopes (E.A. Shtina, 1959; Gollerbach, 1964; K.Y. Musaev, 1967; Sh.J. Tojiboev, 1973; E.I. Troiskaya, 1961; Patova, 1998). In these studies, there is almost no information on the vegetation cover, including the taxonomy of algae, on factors such as the length of the slope, the slope. Many authors did not pay attention to erosion processes on slopes in their research. There are few such works and they were also created by E.I. Dubovik (Dubovik, 1998) works. Based on the data of E. Dubovik, he focused on the algal flora of eroded soils and algal evaluation of soil protection measures. In order to determine the effect of exposure of the slope on the condition of algal flora, we believe that it is appropriate to carry out the research in one climatic region on a soil suitable for one type. It is better that algal floras have the same appearance, slope, and continuity of the investigated slopes as much as possible. In this regard, it is good that the edificators of the phytocenoses in it are not greatly differentiated.

Algal flora of four exposures of slope edificators were studied on the hill slopes of the first field of dry land in the uneven terrain with kare limestone with positive and negative differences. The researches were conducted in the eroded soils of the Fergana Valley and in the eroded slopes of Andijan, Namangan, and Fergana regions.

## 2. Materials and Methods

**Taking soil-algological samples.** Soil sampling Soil-algological samples were taken using the methods of Gollerbach and Shtina (1969). The sampling site was taken from the eroded soils of the slopes of the Fergana Valley. To determine the location of the GPS species from the database of the Global Biodiversity Information Service ([www.gbif.org/](http://www.gbif.org/)), samples of Algology collections of the Institute of Botany of the RFA were used and the database data included in them. The geographic coordinates were obtained using the Google Earth Pro 7.1 (<https://www.google.com/earth/>) program and filled with data collected as a result of field research in the Fergana Valley (Central Asia) and the slope Algae distribution maps are shown in the figures. The WGS 84 international geological coordinate system (World Geodetic System 1984) was used to create the maps. The obtained soil-algological samples were taken from three layers of slope soils. That is, A, B, C are horizons. From a depth of 0-5 cm to 50 cm. The obtained samples were placed in special bags and immediately air-dried in laboratory conditions. We also

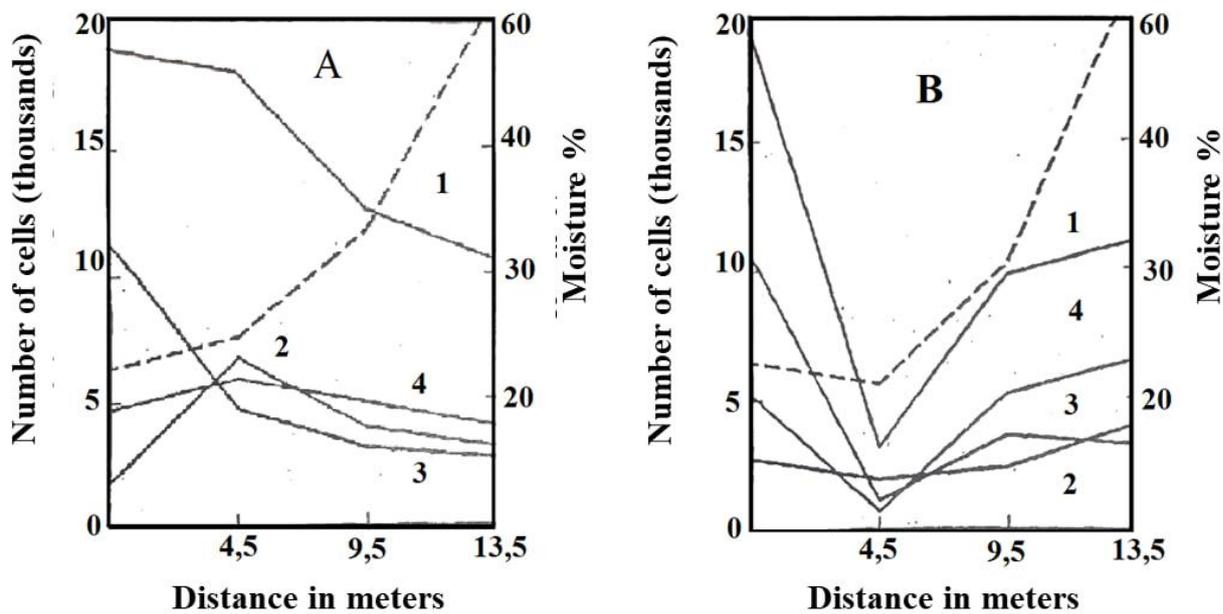
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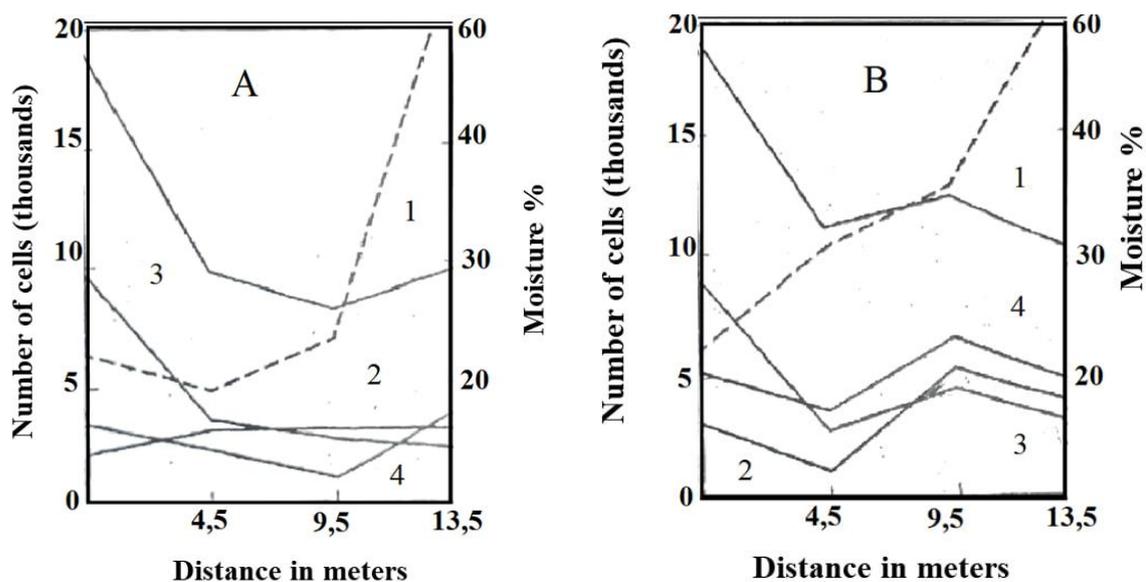
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**Figure 2.** North (A) and south (B) slopes distribution of algae in expositions. 1-total number of cells; 2-cyanobacteria; 3-green and yellow-green algae; 4- diatom algae; The dotted line represents soil moisture



**Figure 3.** Western (A) and southern (B) slopes distribution of algae in expositions. 1-total number of cells; 2-cyanobacteria; 3-green and yellow green algae; 4- diatom algae; The dotted line represents soil moisture

The alga flora identified from the western and eastern slopes took an intermediate position with algae from the northern and southern slopes. Unicellular green and yellow-green algae were found on these slopes. For the eastern slope, *Botrydiopsis eriensis*, and for the western slope, *Characium bulbosum* were considered specific species. The obtained data are shown in Figures 2 and 3.

When analyzing the number of species, the largest number of algae species was found in the flat part. Alga flora of the exposure of the northern slope took second place with 34

species. There are no significant differences in the number of alga flora species of the exposure of the south-western and eastern slopes. There is a favorable hydrothermal condition for the development of algae groups in this place, which is characteristic of the exposure of the northern slope, where there is a lot of biodiversity (E.I. Dubovik, 1998).

Information about the taxonomic structure of the alga flora and the spectrum of ecobioforms of the slope exposure is presented in Table 1 below.

**Table 1.** The effect of slope exposure on the taxonomic composition of algoflora and the spectrum of ecobioforms

Algae Groups	Flatness		North		South		Western		Eastern	
	Number	percent								
Cyanophyta	4	11,1 %	4	11,7 %	4	22,2%	-	0%	1	4,7%
Chlorophyta	23	63,8 %	20	58,8 %	11	61,1%	17	77,3%	13	61,9%
Xanthophyta	5	13,8 %	5	14,7 %	1	5,5%	2	9,1%	3	14,2%
Bacillariophyta	4	11,1 %	5	14,7 %	2	11,1%	3	13,6%	4	19,0%
<b>Total types</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<i>Ch-forma</i>	12		11		8		7		8	
<i>X-</i>	6		5		-		5		3	
<i>H-</i>	6		6		-		3		2	
<i>C-</i>	4		4		4		4		4	
<i>CF-</i>	1		1		-		-		-	
<i>P-</i>	3		3		4		-		1	
<i>B-</i>	4		5		2		3		4	

**Table 2.** Algae species distribution depending on exposure

Types of algae	Match points on the fields				
	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Phormidium autumnale</i> (Agardh)	3	3	3	2	2
<i>Hantzschia Amphioxys</i> (Ehrenberg)	3	2	3	1	2
<i>Chorella minutissima</i> (Fott et Novakova)	3	2	2	1	1
<i>Navicula mutica</i> (Kutzing)	3	1	3	1	1
<i>Plectonema boryanum</i> (Gomont)	3	1	1	1	1
<i>Phormidium lividium</i> (Forti)	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Microcoleus vaginatus</i> (Gomont)	2	2	1	-	3
<i>Chlorella vulgaris</i> (Bejeink)	2	1	2	-	3
<i>Phormidium foveolarum</i> (Gomont)	2	2	1	-	1
<i>Ph. Molle</i> (Kutzing)	1	-	-	-	1
<i>Navicula dicephala</i> (Ehrenberg)	1	1	1	1	-
<i>Navicula mutica</i> (Kutzing)	3	2	-	1	-
<i>Chlorococcum hypnosporum</i> (Starr)	1	1	2	-	-
<i>Macrochloris dissecta</i> (Korshikov)	1	-	1	-	-
<i>Heterothrix exilis</i> ((Klebs) Pascher)	1	-	1	-	-
<i>Navicula mutica var cohnii</i> (Kutzing)	1	1	-	-	-
<i>Chlorhormidium flaccidum var nitens</i> (Kutzing)	3	-	-	-	-
<i>Pinnularia borealis</i> (Ehrenberg)	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Pleuchloris magna</i> (Boye-Pet)	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Bracteacoccus bullatus</i> (Fucikova)	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Myrmecia incise</i> (Reisigl)	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Tetracystis aggregate</i> (Brown et Bold)	-	1	1		1
<i>Dispora Speciosa</i> (Korsch)	-	-	3	3	2
<i>Nostoc punctiforme</i> (Hariot)	-	-	3	2	2
<i>Chlamydomonas gloeogama</i> (Krosch)	-	-	3	2	1
<i>Spongiochloris spongiosa</i> (Starr)	-	-	3	1	2
<i>Chlamydomonas atactogama</i> (Krosch)	-	-	2	2	-
<i>Nostoc punctiforme f. populorum</i> ((Geitler) Hollerbach)	-	-	1	1	-
<i>Phormidium ambiguum</i> (Gomont)	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Heteropedia plana</i> (Pascher)	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Cylindrospemum majus</i> (Kutzing)	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Dictyococcus varians</i> (Gerneck)	-	-	-	3	-
<i>Tetraspora</i> (Link)	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Total types</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>

Note: 1-north; 2nd South; 3rd slope bottom; 4-west; 5th east

**Table 3.** The influence of slope exposure on the number dynamics of algae species

Fields	Slope	Projective cover of plants %	Erosion	The dynamics of the number of species during the months of the year					
				IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	Jami
1.	Western 15° 18m	70%	not eroded	28	25	25	19	26	57
				49,1%	43,8%	43,8	33,3%	45,6%	100%
2.	Western 15° 18m	15%	Strongly eroded	14	12	10	18	16	24
				58,3%	50%	41,6%	75%	66,6%	100
3.	Eastern 10° 25m	10%	Strongly eroded	15	14	14	15	17	29
				55,2%	48,2%	48,2%	51,7%	58,6%	100%
4.	Eastern 10° 25m	55%	not eroded	33	26	24	22	26	63
				52,4%	41,3%	38,1%	34,9%	41,3%	100%

*Phormidium autumnale*, *Ph. lividum*, *Plectonema boryanum*, *Chlorella minutissima*, *Hantzchia amphioxys* and *Navicula mutica var cohnii* were found in all areas. *Microcoleus vaginatus*, *Chlorella vulgaris*, *Phormidium foveolarum*, *Navicula pelliculosa* were recorded in 4 areas. It turned out that 7 types are distributed in 3 areas. The remaining species were found in the soils of the 1st and 2nd fields.

Cyanophyta *Phormidium autumnale* was the first, *Hantzchia amphioxys* was the second, *Chlorella vulgaris* and *Navicula mutica* were in the third place in terms of the number of habitats in the samples. The next places were occupied by *Microcoleus vaginatus* and *Dispora speciosa*.

Comparing the algoflora of the studied sites in pairs, the similarity of the lower relief of the hill with other elements was high ( $K > 50\%$ ), which, in our opinion, was caused by the water of the swamps coming from above. We have seen that the biodiversity of algae in this place is the highest because the humidity of this place is higher than other places. The presence of plant cover in this place (about 90%) was explained by the competitive situation of algae (E.A. Shtina, M.M. Gollerbach, 1976).

The influence of slope exposure on the seasonal dynamics of algae, species composition, number and biomass of cells, was studied on dry land without water erosion and on eroded land. The obtained results showed that there are favorable conditions for the moderate development of algae on the eastern slopes (Table 3).

Algae development dynamics are different in soils of eroded and unwashed slopes. In the first and fourth plots where erosion did not occur, the number of algae cells and their biomass was maximum in April and August. It was found that the difference in algoflora in the areas where erosion did not occur is related to the differences in tall plants and soil cover.

Due to the fact that the cover of these plants is thicker in the first plot, the development of algae was not allowed in this place compared to the fourth plot. One maximum was determined in the cells and biomass of the slopes where erosion occurred. In the soils of the eastern slopes, all indicators of algoflora became maximally important.

The data presented that the number and biomass of algae in the eroded areas increased after the rain. Cyanobacteria were rarely found in the summer months, diatoms, green and yellow-green algae were recorded on the slopes after rain.

The number of species and dynamics of algae in algoflora correspond to quantitative indicators. The effect of slope exposure on the dynamics of the number of algae species is presented in Table 3.

It turned out that the number of algae species detected in the first and fourth sections of the slope exposure is more than doubled. The number of algae determined from the plots with a strong degree of erosion showed a similar indicator. In the third area, the lack of projective cover of plants and the lack of competition showed an effect on the number of species in the algoflora in the soil. It turned out that the types of algae found on the eastern slope are 5 more than those on the western slope.

## 4. Conclusions

Thus, exposure of the slopes was proved on the basis of the obtained data on the number, biomass and taxonomic composition of algal flora cells. Due to the fact that the exposure of the slope cannot retain the water factor, this situation has a negative effect on the development of soil algoflora. The effect of this factor was more pronounced in eroded soils, therefore, we believe that it is necessary to take this situation into consideration in the rules of further algological research.

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