



Origin and character of loesslike silt in the southern Qinghai-Xizang (Tibet) Plateau, China: USGS Professional Paper 1549

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Retransported, tan, loesslike silt is widespread in the southern Qinghai-Xizang (Tibet) Plateau. The silt occurs mainly in the lowlands and lower slopes and is absent on steep slopes and active flood plains. The silt covers most alluvial fans and is interbedded with the sand and gravel of the fans. It is well exposed in the agricultural fields on low terraces in the valleys and in the steep-walled scarps of dissected valley fill. The silt is primary loess on the low hill tops however, the poorly to well-stratified loesslike silt on the lower slopes and in valley bottoms of the major river valleys is retransported loess. It probably was originally deposited by winds blowing across broad vegetation-free flood plains.

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