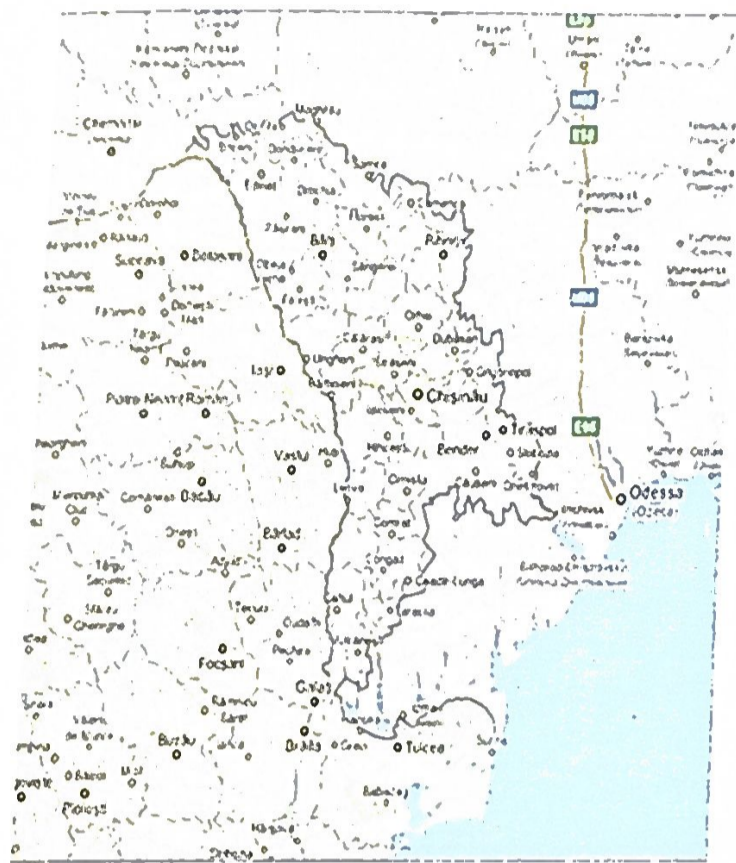


**TYPICAL CHERNOZEM
OF THE BALTI STEPPE,
MOLDOVA**

2024 World Soil of the Year

Centennial Celebration of the International
Union of Soil Science

Florence, Italy, May 19-21, 2024



The Republic of Moldova is situated in south-east Europe, north-east of the Balkans, between Romania and Ukraine.

Area 33 835 km²

Population 3 572 700

The country's greatest asset, recognized since antiquity, is the black earth or *Chernozem*, revealed to science by the father of soil science, Vasili Dokuchaev, in his seminal work *Russian Chernozem* (1879).

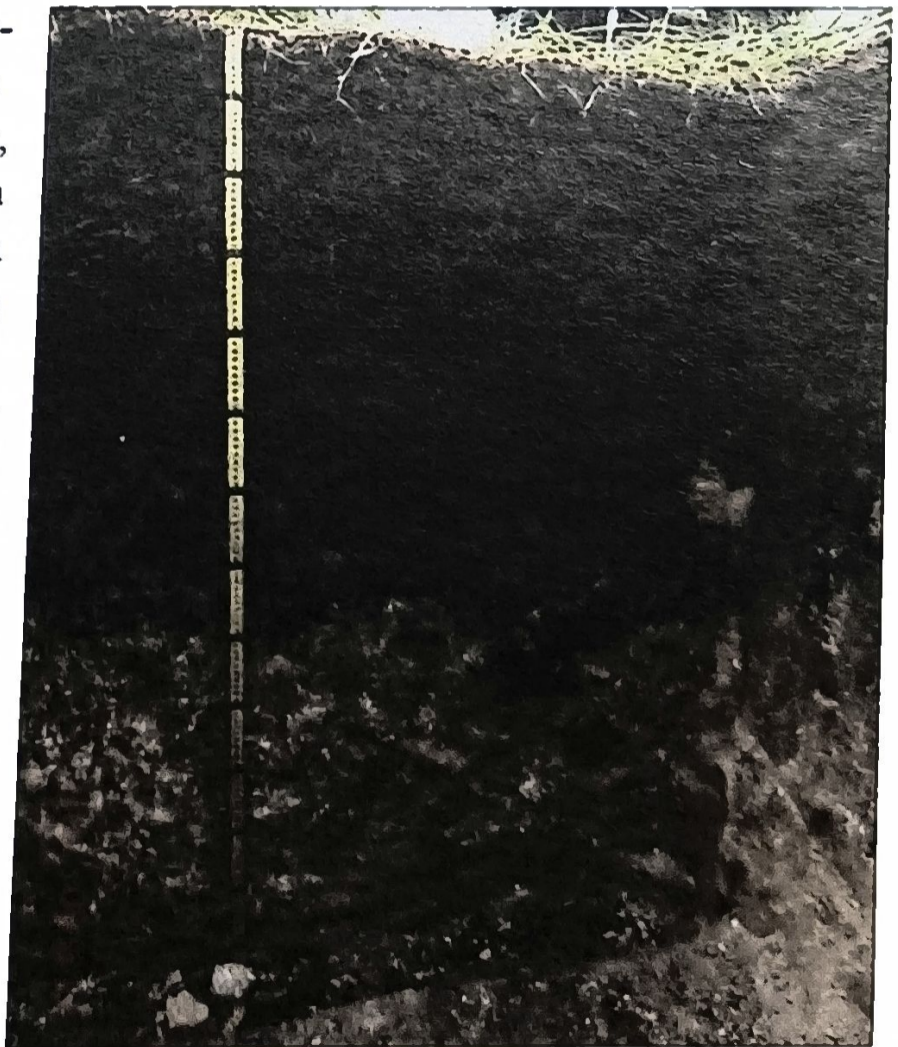
He described and sampled the Balti Chernozem in 1873, calling it 'The king of soils'. It featured in the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, and the great Paris Exhibitions in 1889 and 1900.

Typical thick Chernozem under steppe vegetation

Thick (90cm) black, humus-rich topsoil with a granular structure and, in summer, deep shrinkage cracks; no free carbonates

At depth, a strongly mixed layer with many worm burrows and crotovinas filled with topsoil and subsoil materials; carbonate pseudomycelia extend to 130cm

On weathered loess. Roots and secondary carbonates extend to 250-270cm



D) of the multifactorial experiment

Years	Head of department	Years	Scientists in charge
1994-1995	Boincean B.P.	1994	Deduşkin N.A.
		1995	Rusnac G.F.
		1997-2006	Rusnac G.F. Țăranu V.V.
		2007-2016	Rusnac G.F. Pasat D.I.
		2017-	Rusnac G.F. Cuzeac V.N.

Years	Technical workers	Years	Workers
1995	Bulat L.I.	1996-2000	Selțnev A. Gordaș A.
1995	Camennaia L.P.		
1995-1996	Iebratii L.	1995-1996	Gordiță L.
2000-2013	Cristian T.	1996-2012	Fărâmbă I.
2009-2011	Sicora I.	2008-2010	Frasiniuc L.
2011-2015	Ilușca M.	2009-2011	
2019-	Curicer D.		
2020-	Zaharco D.		

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