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## Effect of Vegetation Cover for Olive Trees Orchards in Optical Characteristics of Fadhli Region Soils in Nineveh Province/ Northern Iraq

### ABSTRACT

This study was held in Fadhli region, 22 km northeast of Mosul city, province center, and aims at knowing the effect of olive trees in soil optical properties, three sites of olive orchards were chosen with different ages and agricultural processes, the age of trees in first site is 200 years old, second site is 10 years old and third is 25 years old, three soil pedons were drilled under olive trees, and three others in uncultivated land, and several photographs for soil sites were taken using a digital camera to calculate RGB values, the color of the soil was then measured in field and laboratory using Munsell soil color charts, and use the Spectroradiometer in laboratory to draw the spectral reflectance curves of soil, the results obtained that RGB values were high in dry soils and decrease in moist state, and the percentage of spectral reflectance was lower than that of (47.3%) in the surface horizon soil of p5 under olive trees, hue, value and chroma were different between the layers of study sites in the field and laboratory for dry and moist state, and low values of the spectral reflectance were observed in surface horizons of most soil pedons at the wavelength (1750) nm .

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## INTRODUCTION

The vegetation cover of olive trees have a clear influence in soil optical properties as well as other soil characteristics, a soil color is one of the most obvious and intersable characteristics with other soil properties, (Liles et al ,2013) suggested that knowledge of soil optical properties and soil colors was important and useful in the soil survey and different classification systems , Tofigh and Vida (2010) in their study on forest soils (northern Iran) confirmed that the color of surface horizons soils ranged from 10YR3/3-10YR5/4 because of the high content of organic material (3.45%-6.6%) resulting from the degradation of leaves falling from trees and humus formation, Jubair and Jabbar (2017) they remarked to knowledge and recognition of soil color allows the detection of many morphological and pedogenic characteristics directly in the field, and the dark color of some horizons indicates that there are concentrations of clay or organic matter presence, and that knowledge of the properties of the soil spectral reflectance is considered to be Important technologies in the area of assessment of properties, soil variations accurately with rapid results, can be performed in laboratories or fields and that knowledge it from air and space by aircraft and satellites (Ben Dor et al., 2015), The aim of this study was to find out the effect of olive trees with different ages and agricultural processes in optical characteristics of Fadhli region soils , as well as the possibility of calculating the basic soil color (RGB) values by taking advantage of digital camera, Munsell color chard and some remote sensing techniques such as to use of spectroradiometer .

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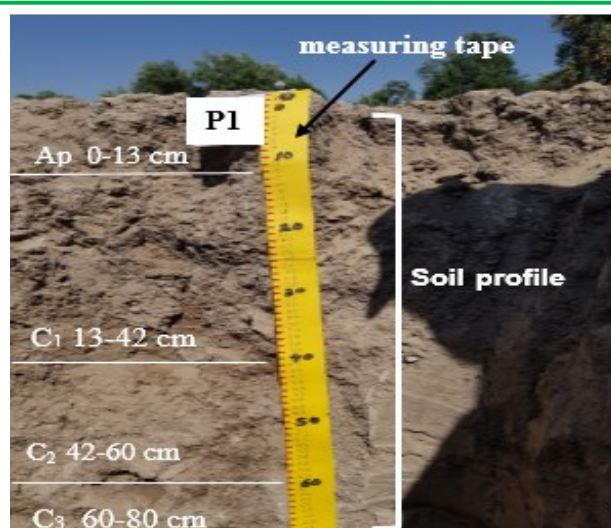
## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study area :

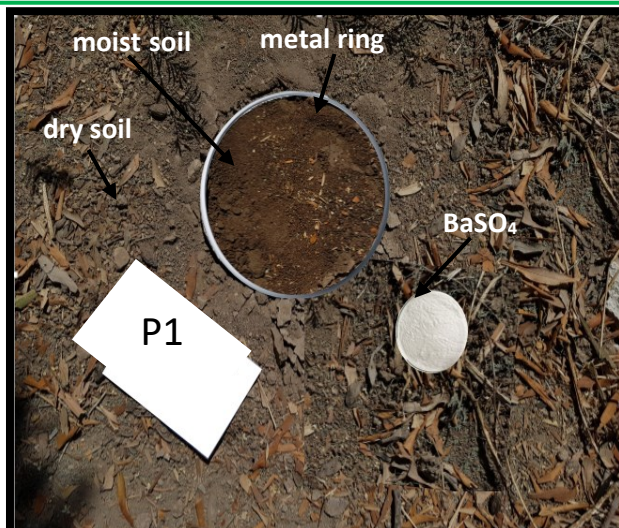
The Study Site was selected for its agricultural importance, with the oldest olive trees of hundreds of years (figure 1), Fadhliya region located in the coordinates (36°30'48") north and (43°16'09.1") east, its soil was classified under Inceptisols and the Calcixerpts according to USDA System (Muhaimed et al., 2014)., a semi dry climate with a rain depth rate of 300-550 mm/year, three different olive trees have been chosen at their age (200, 25, 10) years as well as different agricultural processes, and six soil pedons have been drilled face to direct sunlight (Figure 2), morphology pathophysics were described in the American Soil Survey Staff (1999), and several images of specific profiles were acquired using a digital camera to calculate the basic soil colors (RGB), Red, Green, and Blue and spectral reflectance by the soil color analysis programs and using a computer, a special metal ring for the soil to be moist was used to compare the RGB soil color values of both dry and moist state in a single image, and BaSO<sub>4</sub> was placed beside the ring as a standard reference (Figure 3), and then the amount of water (about 50 ml) was distributed, homogeneity on the soil, the camera is set 1 meter above the selected site, and many pictures were taken under the direct sunlight of all the sites according to globally standards, then measure the color field using Soil colors chard, after several soil models have acquired the Surface and subsurface horizons, these samples have dried in air and then it underwent a very fine grinding and passed through a sieve diameter of its holes (500 µm) because the soil smooth surface effect on the spectral reflectivity values, and the photo process was done as in the figure (4), after that was done the calculate RGB values using a computer and the Color Grab program for calculating basic soil values and the Color of soil sample is measured represented in the laboratory based on soil colors chard, and the spectral reflectance curves for soil samples were calculated of surface and subsurface layers in the soil dry state then the data has been processed and recorded in the computer and reflectivity values have been calculated in laboratory through RGB values .



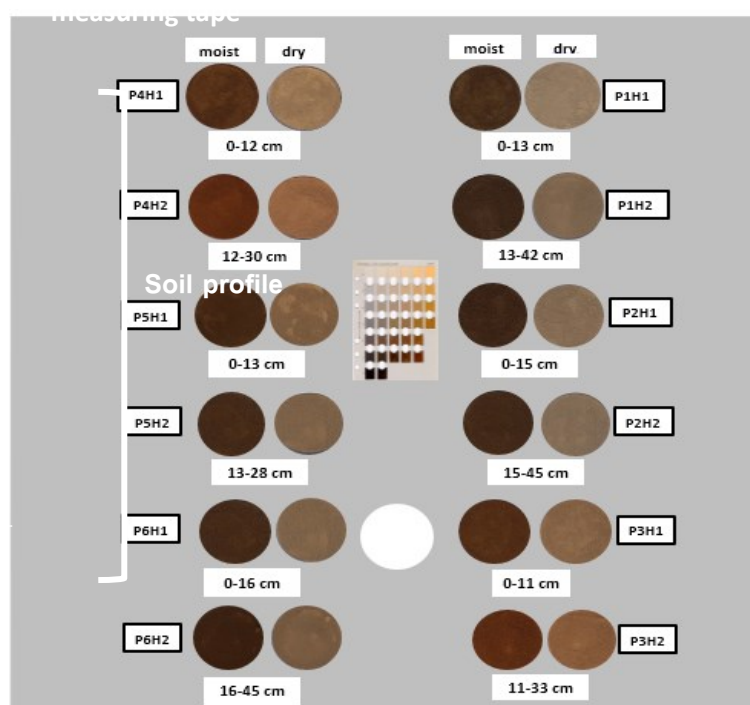
**Figure (1)** A map showing the locations the study area



**Figure(2)** The photos taken technique for soil pedon Interface



**Figure(3)** Use the metal ring for both dry and moist state of soil and calculated RGB values for all studied



P : soil pedons      H1 : surface layer      H2 : subsurface layer

**Figure (4 )** Shows how to take a photo and measuring soil color in the laboratory

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of chemical and physical analysis and measurements of the soil samples for surface and subsurface layers of studied pedons are observed in table (1) .

**Table (1)** Some chemical and physical characteristics of surface and subsurface layers of studied pedons.

| Pedons | Horizon        | Dep. cm | pH   | EC ds. m <sup>-1</sup> | CaCO <sub>3</sub>  | O.M.  | Bulk density Mg.m <sup>-3</sup> | size distribution g.kg <sup>-1</sup> |      |      | texture         |
|--------|----------------|---------|------|------------------------|--------------------|-------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|------|-----------------|
|        |                |         |      |                        | g.kg <sup>-1</sup> |       |                                 | sand                                 | Silt | clay |                 |
| P1     | Ap             | 13-0    | 6.80 | 6.35                   | 355.0              | 27.45 | 326                             | 412                                  | 262  | 326  | Loam            |
|        | C <sub>1</sub> | 42-13   | 7.00 | 5.72                   | 430.0              | 18.90 | 374                             | 454                                  | 172  | 374  | Loam            |
| P2     | Ap             | 15-0    | 7.70 | 1.2                    | 320.0              | 12.73 | 341                             | 354                                  | 305  | 341  | Loam            |
|        | C <sub>1</sub> | 45-15   | 7.50 | 1.0                    | 400.0              | 10.60 | 352                             | 381                                  | 267  | 352  | Loam            |
| P3     | Ap             | 11-0    | 7.12 | 2.23                   | 425.4              | 23.05 | 252                             | 405                                  | 343  | 252  | Clay loam       |
|        | C <sub>1</sub> | 33-11   | 7.29 | 2.42                   | 400.5              | 11.50 | 260                             | 438                                  | 302  | 260  | Loam            |
| P4     | Ap             | 12-0    | 7.75 | 1.26                   | 418.4              | 17.68 | 252                             | 395                                  | 353  | 252  | Clay loam       |
|        | C <sub>1</sub> | 30-12   | 7.70 | 1.33                   | 445.5              | 8.14  | 226                             | 380                                  | 394  | 226  | Clay loam       |
| P5     | Ap             | 13-0    | 7.00 | 1.1                    | 200.2              | 25.70 | 137                             | 523                                  | 340  | 137  | Silty clay loam |
|        | C <sub>1</sub> | 28-13   | 7.12 | 1.4                    | 251.0              | 18.55 | 135                             | 500                                  | 365  | 135  | Clay loam       |
| P6     | Ap             | 16-0    | 7.60 | 1.26                   | 265.7              | 10.32 | 175                             | 411                                  | 414  | 175  | Clay loam       |
|        | C <sub>1</sub> | 45-16   | 7.50 | 1.27                   | 215.0              | 11.75 | 170                             | 421                                  | 409  | 170  | Clay loam       |

### The optical characteristics of Study soils :

Table 2 results show that the optical properties of camera results computed in laboratory for surface and subsurface horizons were mixed with clear differences between colors (RGB) with variations in spectral reflectance values (R%) and presence Differences between Hue (H), value (V), and Chroma (S) values, and that the RGB soil color values and spectral reflectance values were high when the soil dried in contrast to moist and for all layers to studied horizons, This shows the effect of the explicit moist content on soil color values and their reflectance, as indicated by person (2005) as well as Karavanova and others (2000) who stressed that moisture makes soil color more topical, and red values when soil dried ranged from 144 to 196. In humidity between 72 and 125, the green values of dry color are among 119 to 172, a moist conditions is about 40 to 64, and the color of blue ranged from 93 to 147, and for the moist was between 19 and 41, and these values are related to organic content, texture, minerals, and soil salts, which was ALaskary(2019) and Attiyah(2017) found, hue and value It were high in dry state and showed a clear reduction in moist state, but the chroma were high in moist conditions compared to a dry, which indicates the effect of water present Especially in soft soil texture on a dark color and increased values of Chroma (Shields et al, 1968) , Figure 5 refers to the reflex ratio of dry surface horizons that showed a disparity between the studied soil pedons, which was 47.3% lower in the soil of the surface horizon of the P5 where the pedon is located under 25-year-old olive trees. The reason for the decrease in reflectivity for this site is due to the high organic content due to the accumulation of plant residues over time, which is consistent with Stoner and Bumgardner (1982), and the pedons P1, P3, P5, refer to the soil under trees and the P6, P4 to the sites of the waste lands, and the spectral reflectance value for drought is 67% In the surface horizon soil of the pedon P1 despite the high organic content of the horizon soil, which represents a very old olive orchard, can be caused by the salt water , CaCO<sub>3</sub> quantity and the loam texture of the site, which is the soil spectral reflectance, and the "organic" matter, as indicated by Muhaimeed and Za'in (2013), the spectral reflectance values of the near subsurface horizons when the soil is dry were different among the pedons. and Surface and subsurface of the moist state sites has been characterized by a decrease compared to the dry condition as in figures 7&8 , due to the moist content of the soil which increases darkness color, (Lobell and Asner, 2002), the lowest value of the soil spectral reflectance for moist soil was the surface horizon of the P5 under the 25 year old olive trees, which

reached 19.1%, and the highest proportion was the sub-surface soil of the P3 under 10 year old olive trees, which reached 32.3%.

**Table (2):** Basic soil color values RGB and chromatic evidence (value, Hue, Chroma) and spectroscopic reflex ratios for surface horizons and laboratory surface subsurface.

| Sample | Dry state   |     |     |    |    |    |    | Moist state |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------|-------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|        | Basic color |     |     | R% | H  | S  | V  | Basic color |    |    | R% | H  | S  | V  |
|        | R           | G   | B   |    |    |    |    | R           | G  | B  |    |    |    |    |
| P1H1   | 191         | 172 | 147 | 67 | 34 | 23 | 75 | 92          | 64 | 41 | 27 | 27 | 55 | 36 |
| P1H2   | 169         | 145 | 119 | 57 | 31 | 30 | 67 | 82          | 55 | 36 | 24 | 25 | 56 | 32 |
| P2H1   | 171         | 147 | 121 | 58 | 31 | 29 | 67 | 80          | 52 | 33 | 23 | 24 | 59 | 31 |
| P2H2   | 176         | 155 | 131 | 60 | 32 | 26 | 69 | 83          | 54 | 32 | 24 | 26 | 61 | 33 |
| P3H1   | 152         | 130 | 97  | 50 | 27 | 33 | 65 | 78          | 51 | 26 | 22 | 21 | 65 | 35 |
| P3H2   | 176         | 134 | 101 | 55 | 26 | 43 | 69 | 125         | 64 | 26 | 32 | 23 | 79 | 49 |
| P4H1   | 196         | 165 | 126 | 65 | 33 | 36 | 77 | 107         | 63 | 32 | 29 | 25 | 70 | 42 |
| P4H2   | 193         | 148 | 109 | 60 | 28 | 44 | 76 | 120         | 57 | 22 | 31 | 21 | 82 | 47 |
| P5H1   | 144         | 119 | 93  | 47 | 26 | 35 | 63 | 72          | 40 | 19 | 19 | 24 | 74 | 28 |
| P5H2   | 161         | 130 | 103 | 52 | 28 | 36 | 63 | 80          | 47 | 26 | 22 | 20 | 66 | 34 |
| P6H1   | 166         | 139 | 113 | 55 | 29 | 32 | 65 | 80          | 50 | 29 | 22 | 25 | 64 | 31 |
| P6H2   | 170         | 137 | 104 | 55 | 30 | 39 | 67 | 83          | 47 | 23 | 22 | 24 | 72 | 33 |

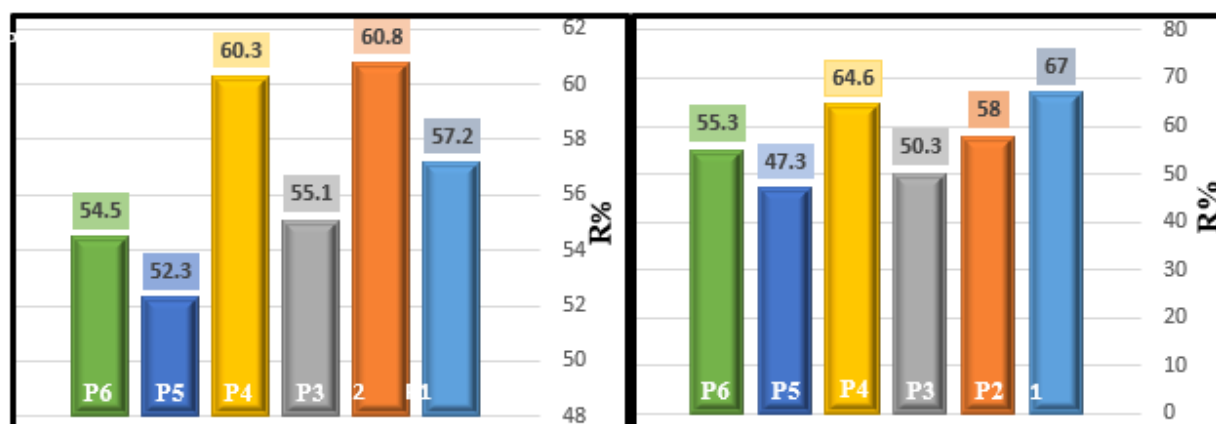
P : soil pedons

H1 : surface layer

H2 : subsurface layer

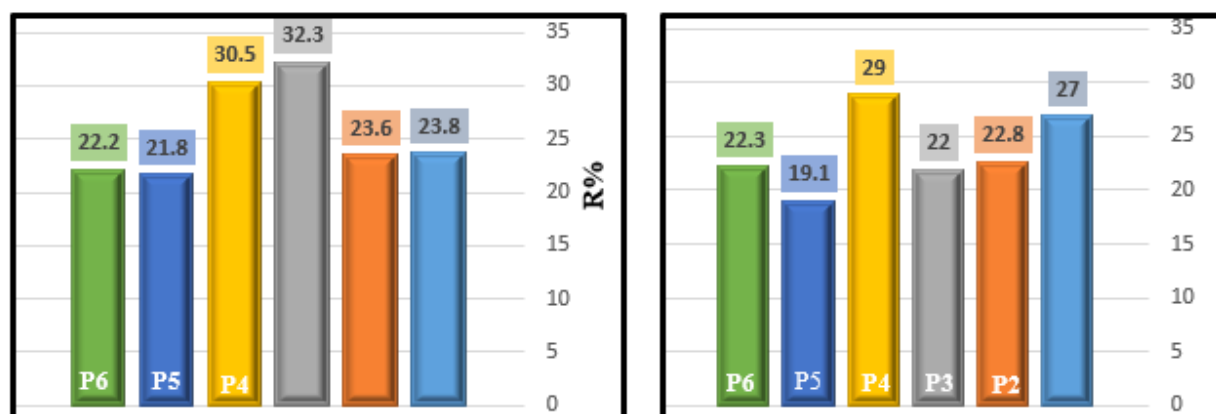
Table 3 results refer to RGB and (Chroma,Hue,Value) and R% spectral reflectance that are field-calculated for the soil surface at each study pedons, It was noted that these values showed a slight decrease compared to laboratory and the same studied practice sites because the surface of the soil within the field is characterized by its roughness compared to the very smooth (500  $\mu\text{m}$ ) in laboratory conditions, thus increasing the soil's spectral reflectance values. As noted by Herodowicz and Piekarczyk (2018), spectroradiometer spectral reflectance properties that measured by Spectroradiometer: Shows the shape(9) of the spectral reflectance curves of the surface horizons of the studied pedons of the dry condition dry state measured by Spectroradiometer, The path taken by the curves was consistent with the results of the spectral reflectance of R% shown in figure (5) and the curves indicate differences in the hydrological population packets at wavelength (1940) of the m, for the spectral reflectance values at this range, The surface horizon soil of P5 below the olive trees it has contains O.M. (Table1), which increases soil capacity for water retention, as well as the high content of silt in this horizon (523) g.kg-1, which helps to reduce color values, (Mohamed et al., 2018) and (Al-Dullaimi,2007) The first surface horizon was 0.75% more reflective in 2000 - 2250 nm , because of the salt in the soil of this pedon, especially dry surface horizons, and the least reflectance ratio of 0.56% in the soil of the P5 surface horizon for the same wavelengths due to the organic content of the surface layer that affects the soil's spectral reflectance values, Figure (10) refers to the spectra reflectance curves of the surface and subsurface soil of the studied site pedons calculated using the Spectroradiometer, surface layer reflectance of P5 located under the 25-year-old olive trees, was 0.57% in wavelength (1750) nm, because the content of organic matter in subsurface layer for this soil pedon (Table1), which led to the decrease in the reflectance values ,Researchers Cierniewski and Kuśnierek (2010) have indicated that the effect of organic matter on the reflectance of spectral soil by its degree of degradation and the percentage of plant residues in a soil sector as well as the activity of its decomposed organisms. The highest reflectance ratio is 0.68% for the sub-surface soils

of the Pedon P2 during the wavelength (1750) of the Pedon, which may be caused by high  $\text{CaCO}_3$  that affect the soil spectral reflectance values (Clark, 1999) .



**Figure (6)** Shows the spectral reflectance values for study pedons subsurface layers in dry condition

**Figure (5)** Shows the spectral reflectance values for study pedons surface layers in dry condition

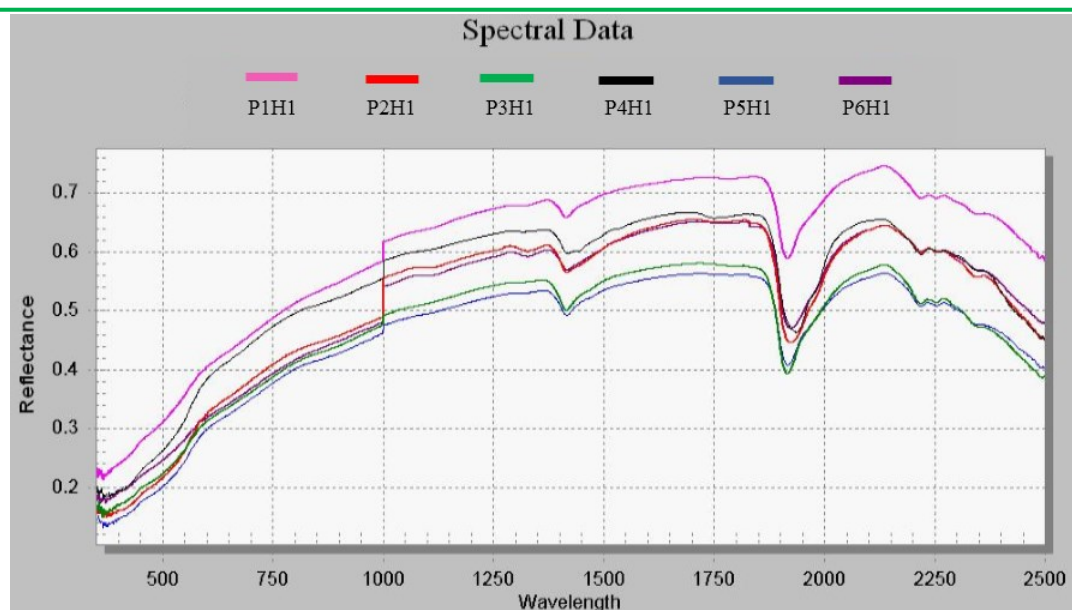


**Figure (8)** Shows the spectral reflectance values for study pedons subsurface layers in moist condition

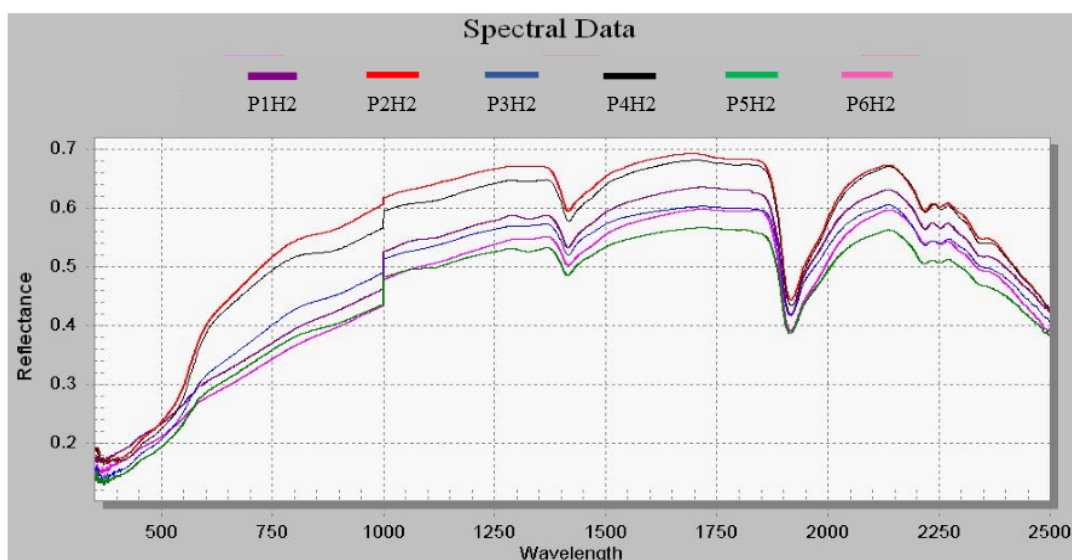
**Figure (7)** Shows the spectral reflectance values for study pedons surface layers in moist condition

**Table: (3)** the basic colors of soil (RGB ) and (Hue,Value ,Chroma ) values

| pedon | Dry state   |     |     |    |    |    |    | Moist state |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|-------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|       | Basic color |     |     | R% | H  | S  | V  | Basic color |    |    | R% | H  | S  | V  |
|       | R           | G   | B   |    |    |    |    | R           | G  | B  |    |    |    |    |
| P1    | 165         | 144 | 121 | 57 | 32 | 33 | 60 | 85          | 55 | 36 | 24 | 25 | 58 | 35 |
| P2    | 147         | 128 | 119 | 52 | 29 | 23 | 47 | 70          | 47 | 33 | 21 | 22 | 55 | 23 |
| P3    | 135         | 118 | 96  | 46 | 33 | 29 | 49 | 89          | 69 | 53 | 28 | 24 | 41 | 27 |
| P4    | 167         | 133 | 89  | 52 | 34 | 44 | 68 | 118         | 84 | 47 | 35 | 31 | 48 | 47 |
| P5    | 135         | 111 | 86  | 44 | 31 | 36 | 53 | 79          | 50 | 52 | 24 | 25 | 57 | 34 |
| P6    | 161         | 131 | 95  | 52 | 34 | 42 | 65 | 87          | 57 | 36 | 25 | 33 | 45 | 67 |



**Figure (9)** the spectral reflectance curves of soil surface layer in dry state



**Figure (10)** the spectral reflectance curves of soil subsurface layer in dry state

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## تأثير الغطاء النباتي لبساتين أشجار الزيتون في الخواص البصرية لترب منطقة الفاضلية في محافظة نينوى/شمالى العراق

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## المستخلص

أُجري هذا البحث في منطقة الفاضلية ( 22 كم شمالي شرقي الموصل مركز محافظة نينوى) ويهدف إلى معرفة تأثير أشجار الزيتون في صفات التربة البصرية ، اختيرت ثلاثة مواقع لبساتين أشجار الزيتون بأعمار وعمليات خدمة مختلفة ، الأول عمر أشجاره 200 عاماً والثاني 10 أعوام ، والثالث 25 عاماً، وتم حفر ثلاث ببيدونات للتربة (soil pedons) تحت أشجار الزيتون ، وثلاث أخرى في الأراضي الجرداء (الغير مزروعة) ، وتم إتقاط عدة الصور لواجهة الببيدونات وإطار مساحة الترطيب لمواقع الترب باستعمال آلة التصوير الرقمية وذلك لحساب قيم RGB ، بعدها أُجري قياس لون التربة حقلًا ومختبريًا باستعمال أطلس مونسيل (Munsell Soil Color charts) ، فضلاً عن إستعمال جهاز قياس الانعكاسية الطيفية (Spectroradiometer) لرسم منحنيات انعكاسية التربة الطيفية ، وتوصلت النتائج إلى أن قيم RGB كانت مرتفعة في حالة التربة الجافة ، وأبدت انخفاضاً في الحالة الرطبة، وبلغت نسبة الانعكاسية أقل ما يكون (47.3%) في تربة الأفق السطحي للببيدون P5 الواقع تحت أشجار الزيتون، وكانت قيم الهيو والغاليو والكروما متباينة بين ترب مواقع الدراسة المحسوبة حقلًا ومختبريًا وبين الحالتين الجافة والرطبة للتربة ، ولوحظ إنخفاض في قيم الانعكاسية الطيفية لترب الآفاق السطحية لمعظم الببيدونات عند الطول الموجي (1750 nm) .

الكلمات المفتاحية: الغطاء النباتي، أشجار الزيتون، الخواص البصرية، الراديوميتر، الفاضلية.