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SUMMARY

A new dynamic light penetrometer for the determination of geopedological characteristics in agricultural and forest soils.

The AA. shortly describe the evaluation of dynamic penetrometers and discuss some physical principles upon which the use of these instruments rests.

The design principles and the characteristics are illustrated of a prototype of a dynamic penetrometer.

It is reduced both in weight and size and is battery fed in order to be able to sound forest and agricultural soils even in inaccessible areas.

The experimental trials conducted with different soil conditions show the validity of the instruments to collect samples allowing to evaluate soil characteristic variability even for small areas.

Besides, the possibility is shown to assess some geomechanical soil properties even if the search for universally valid relations between dynamic resistance and other soil parameters seems hardly feasible.