

Unit 2 Part 2 - Microbes as a Component of Terrestrial Environments

Terrestrial Environments

Among all the microbial environments, terrestrial environments are one of the richest and most complex

Soil constitutes the major habitat of terrestrial microorganisms and is very favorable for growth and activities of microbes

All soils contain rich diversity of active microorganisms

Various Zones of Soil

1. Surface Soil
2. Unsaturated or Vadose Zone
3. Saturated Zone or underground aquifers

Each zone comprises a combination of

Solid phase (mineral phase)

Liquid phase (solution phase)

Gas phase (atmosphere)

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- Municipal waste material
- Plastic wastes

Microbial Status in Vadose Zone

Vadose zone: the unsaturated oligotrophic environment lying between the surface and soil and saturated zone

This zone contains less organic matter (less than 0.1%) hence very poor from nutrition point of view

- Hence very low microbial population
- Some gram positive and gram negative bacteria may be found

Saturated Zone

It is the groundwater zone

The microbial status is described within the aquatic environments section