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The physical properties of coarse – textured soils in semiarid regions often deteriorate with use. We hypothesized that the changes in the physical properties of the soil were related to the cropping system employed. Surface samples of 52 Entic Haplustolls under three different uses (24 under continuous cultivation), 18 under rotation with grass leys (R), and 10 virgin soils (V) were analyzed for clay, silt, organic matter and water content, bulk density, compaction and aggregate stability. Data were analyzed statistically using principal components, canonical variables, and discriminant functions. A satisfactory segregation of the soils according to discriminant properties (coarse organic matter, aggregate stability, and susceptibility to compaction) was obtained. The model developed satisfactorily classified the soils under different uses (100% R, 83% C, and 88% V).

Principal component analysis also showed that bulk density, compaction, and wet aggregate stability are related to organic matter content. We conclude that, in the studied region, the lower the ratio of organic matter to clay + soil content, the more severe the physical deterioration of the soils.

Key words: Soil physical properties, discriminant analysis, semiarid soils, soil management.

## **Variaciones de los espectros polínicos de miel y carga corbicular en un colmenar de Santa Rosa- La Pampa**

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In order to study the behavior between the hives in one apiary, the pollen spectra of pollen basket and honey samples were analysed. The samples were taken at the same time from five similar hives during 2 months. A total of 30 pollen types were identified, 5 of them were found exclusively in pollen basket samples, 11 taxa in honey samples and 14 pollen types were common in both. At both activities the colonies showed high selectivity and the bees preferred a few species called primary source (percentage higher than 10). The taxonomic richness, higher in honey than in pollen basket, was due to pollution from different airborne pollen grains. The high values of correlation between pollen spectra of corbicular and honeys, removed at the same time from different hives, suggest a similar behavior in the exploitation of vegetable resource. This uniformity shows that a few colonies may be used to provide a good representation of both activities in the whole apiary.