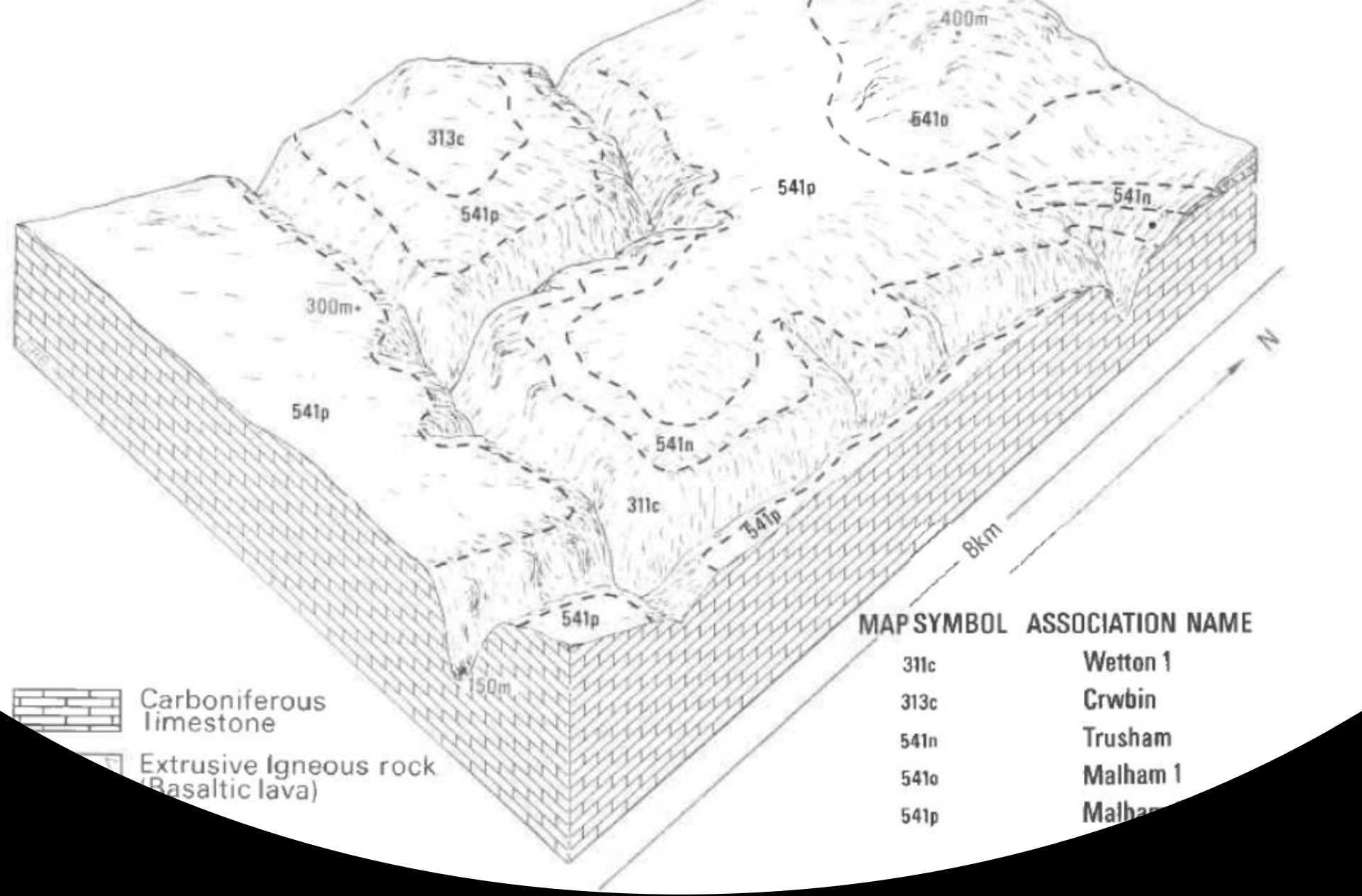
Soils of the White Peak

Carboniferous Period 360 to 299 million years ago.

Carboniferous aeolian drift

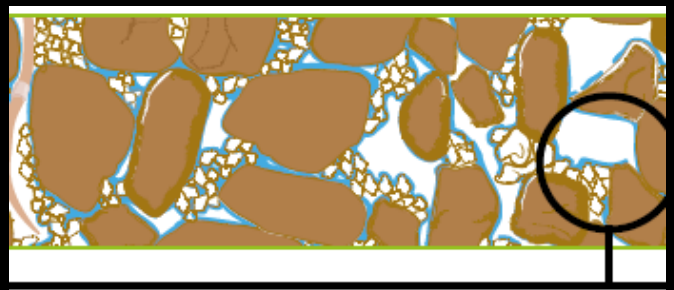


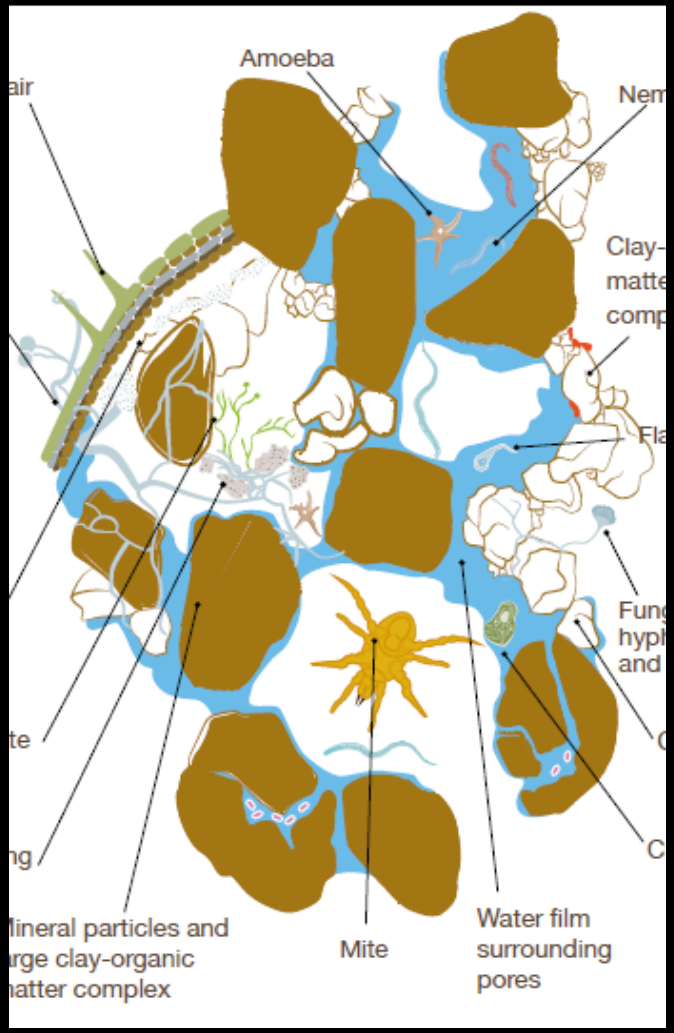
Predominantly Malham 2 – Soilscape 7

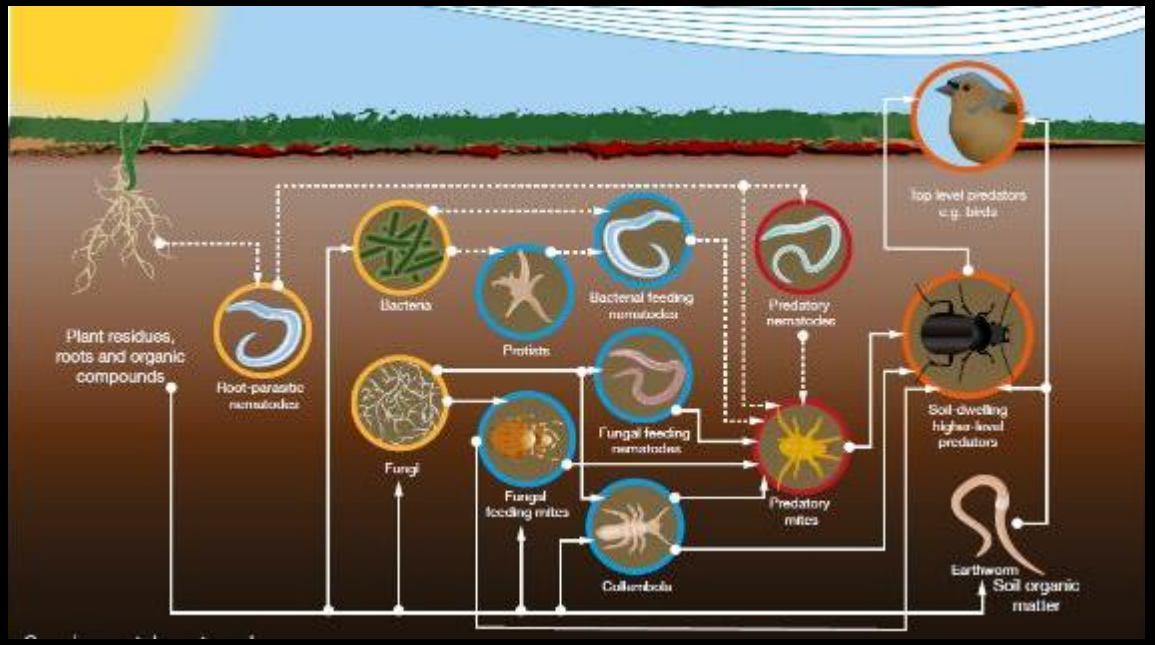
Soils are shallow or moderately deep fine silt with a brown unmottled subsoil over hard limestone.

Upper horizons are usually stoneless but the subsoil is stony immediately over limestone.

Gentle slopes or plateau ground deep accumulations of silty drift are common

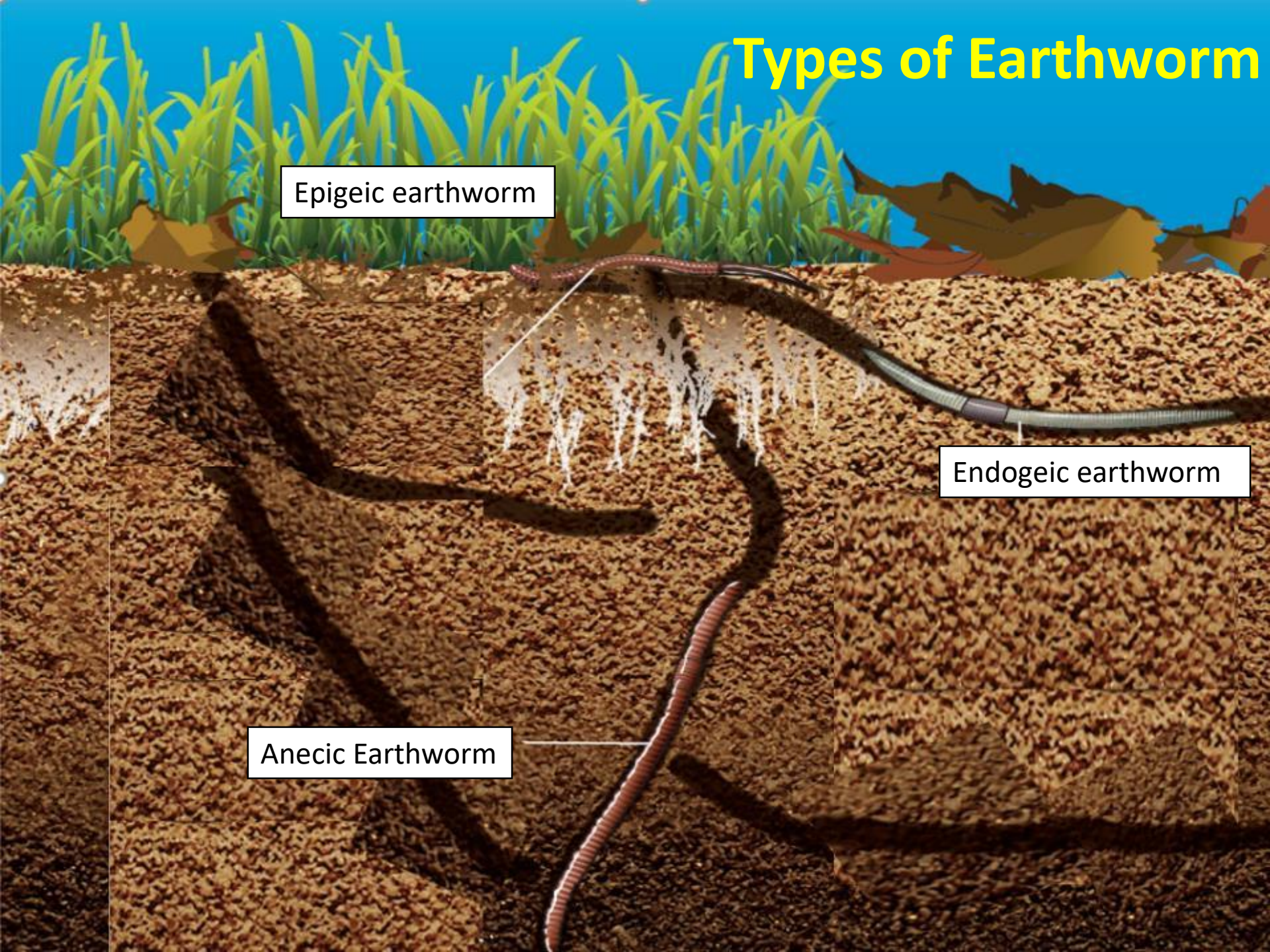






The soil food web

Types of Earthworm



Soil Structure and infiltration

Soil Organic Matter

Biological

- Energy for soil organisms
- Nutrient source – N, P & S
- Stores K, Ca, Mg, Cu, Zn etc

Chemical

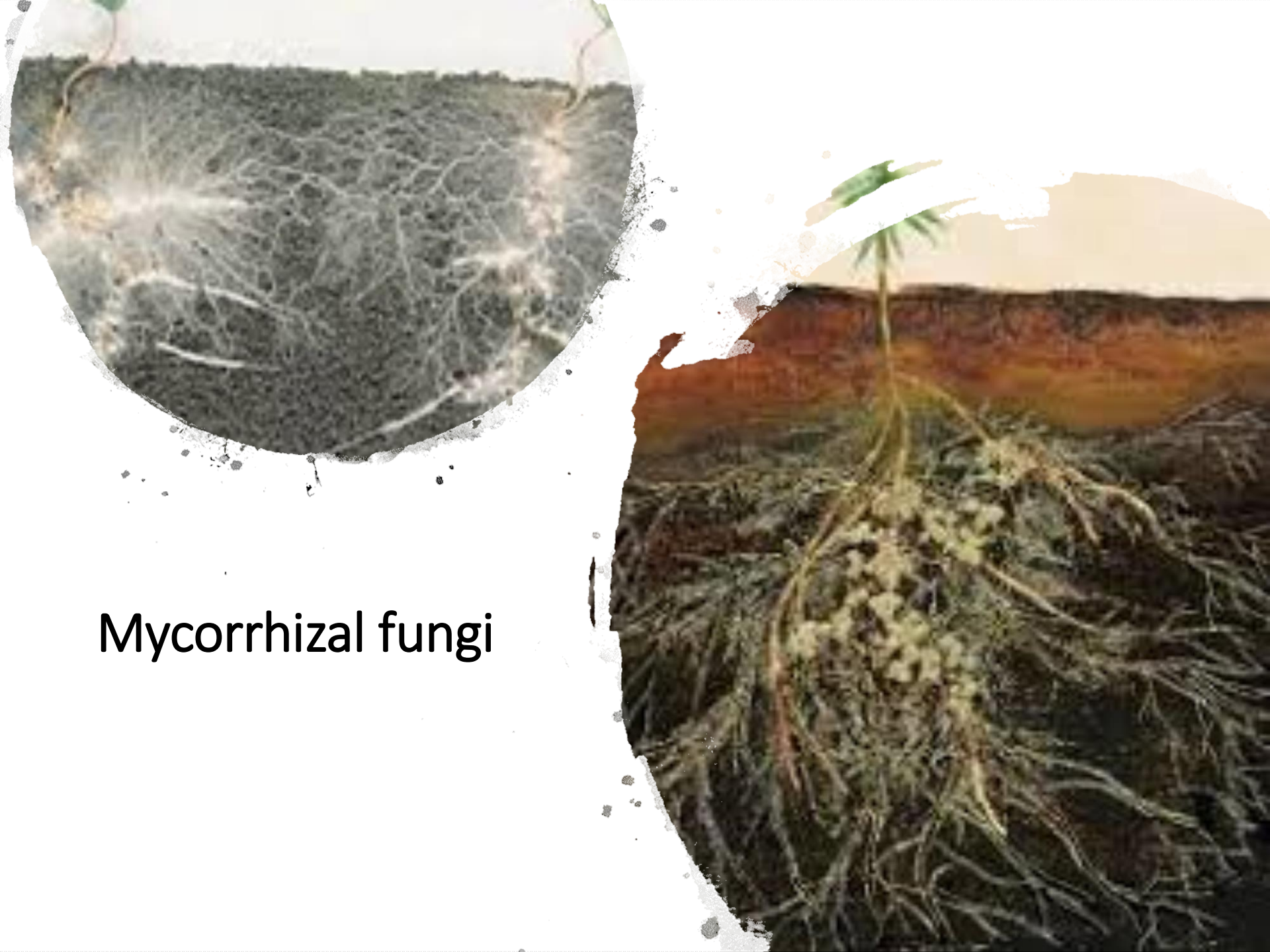
- Adds to cation exchange capacity

Buffers pH

Long-term store
f carbon

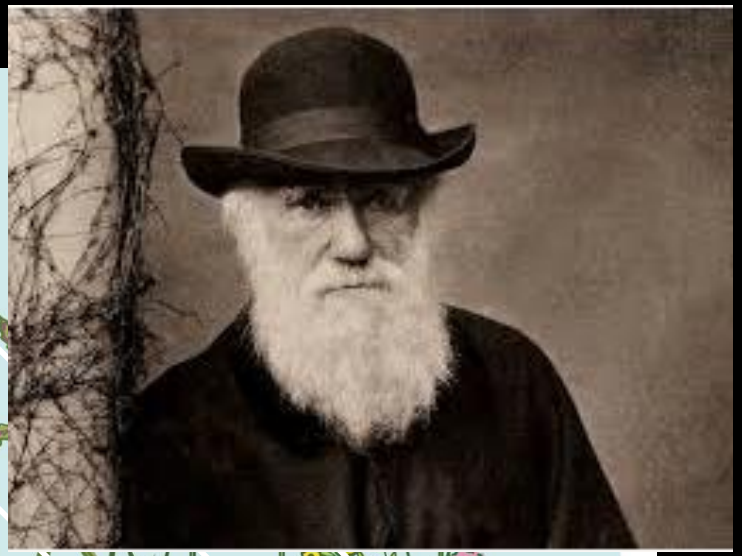
Physical

- Improves soil structure, workability and trafficability
- Improves water holding capacity
- Reduces soil lost by erosion



Mycorrhizal fungi

More diversity = more yield



Drought Resistance