

Fig. 4. Monthly rainfall distribution from G. L. M. (1967), H. S. (1983), A. T. (1989) and A. T. (1990) at Athabasca.

Among the processes that conduce to natural hazards evaluation its usual to detach landslides, namely by its rapid movements and catastrophic consequences. In fact, those slides have the most important slope instability role in some of the case areas, such as Maior river basin, Lourinhã and Alcabrichel basins and north Lisbon area. In these areas we can observe a complex landslide typology : sheet, translational, complex and earth slides due to lateral sapping. The translational and complex slides (photos 1 and 2) involve large volumes of materials, important equipment costs and farming destructions.

The landslides are particularly frequent on the edges of the river beds, related with the hydrological regime (mainly when flash floods occur), and near the anthropic talus (photo 3).

Among the other mass movements and erosional processes responsible for environmental damages, we must point out rockfalls, laminar, rill and gully erosion and alluvial fans genesis.

Rockfalls affect coherent limestones and sandstones. They are very frequent in the Limestone Massif of Estremadura, although its presence in the other areas is common whenever lithological and structural conditions are favourable.

In badly consolidated materials the rill and gully erosion take place, namely when the topographic (slope degree) and vegetal cover conditions (low density) are propitious (photo 4). In lower slope degrees and in sandy clayish materials it occurs aggradation responsible for alluvial fan formation and farming destruction (photo 5)

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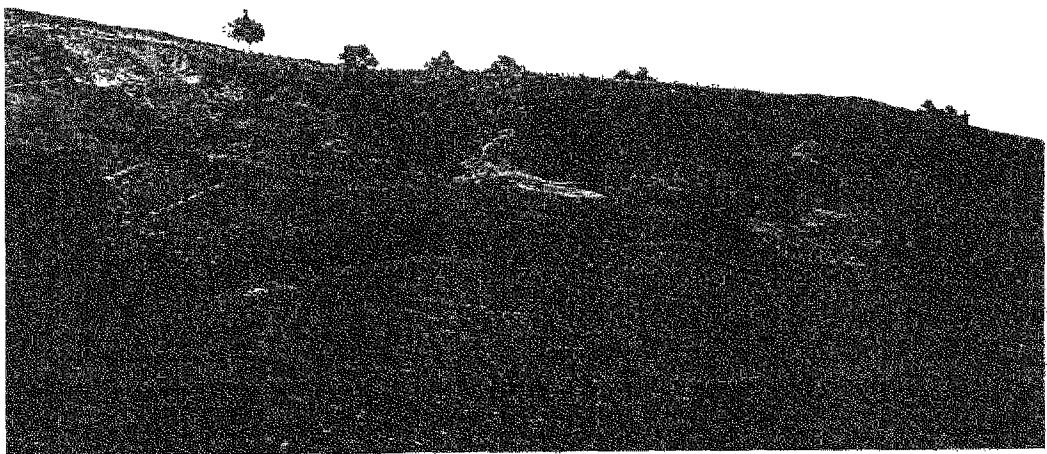


Photo 1-Complex landslide of Quebradas-Alcoentre (Majer river basin), January 1980.

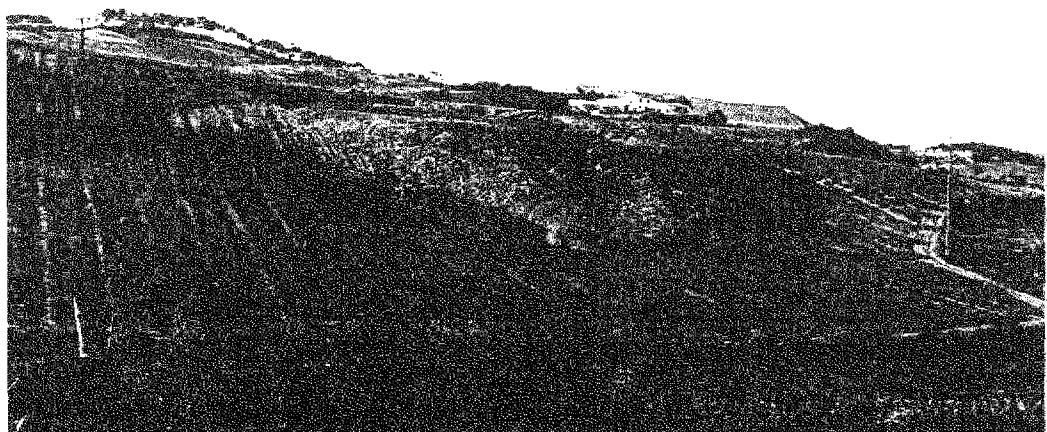


Photo 2-Complex landslide of Carnota de Baixo (North of Lisbon), December 1989.



Photo 3-Road destruction by sliding at Unhos (North of Lisbon), December 1989.

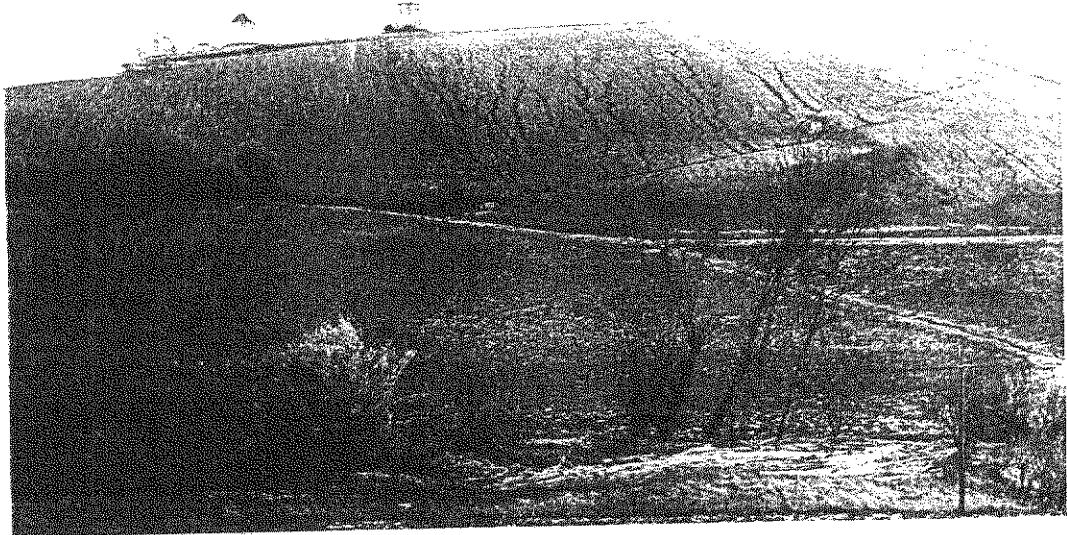


Photo 4 Rill and gully erosion at Mato das Terrinhas (Lourinhã area), December 1989.

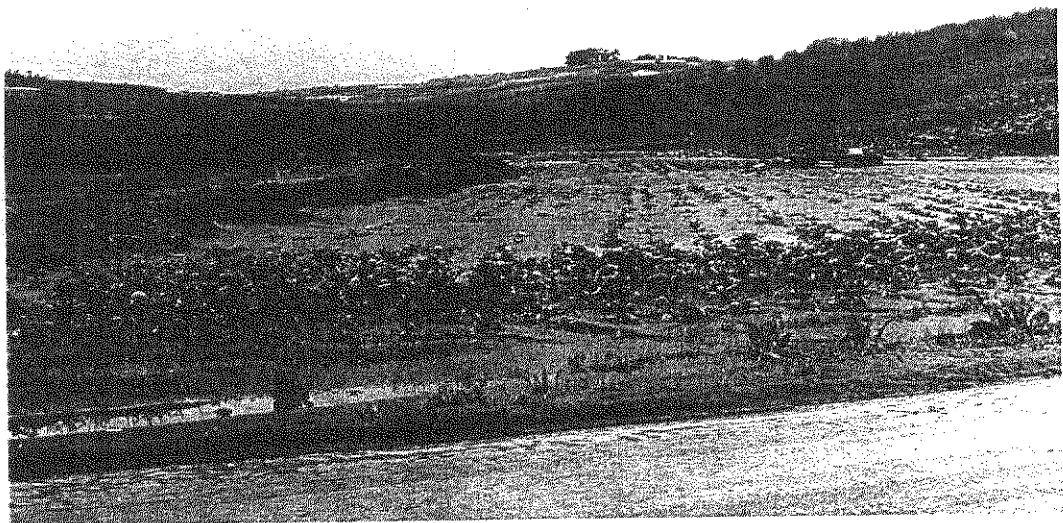


Photo 5 Alluvial fan at Nardupe (near Lourinhã), December 1989.