

# MODELING THE MAIN DRYING AND WETTING BRANCHES FOR HYSTERESIS LOOP OF SOIL WATER RETENTION

V. V. Terleev<sup>1</sup>, A. G. Topaj<sup>2</sup>, W. Mirschel<sup>3</sup>, P. D. Gurin<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Saint-Petersburg State Polytechnical University,  
Polytechnicheskaya str., 29, Saint-Petersburg, 195251, Russia*

<sup>2</sup>*Agrophysical Research Institute, 14 Grazhdansky pr., Saint-Petersburg, 195220, Russia*

<sup>3</sup>*Leibniz Centre of Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Eberswalder Strasse, 84, Muencheberg, 15374,  
Germany*

*E-mail: Vitaly\_Terleev@mail.ru*

The mathematical model of main drying and wetting branches for hysteresis loop of soil water retention is developed. Model parameters are interpreted using the concepts of soil being a capillary-porous medium. It has been suggested to use the lognormal distribution of effective pore radii and factors of physical soil properties for model parameters' adequate assessment.

**Keywords:** differential soil water capacity, soil water retention curve, capillarity, hysteresis loop, lognormal distribution of effective pore radii.