

D. DURICRUSTS

Field Note D4a12. Pedogenic silcretes – L. Disintegration and weathering



Disintegrated silcrete hilltop.

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Disintegration

As the kaolin under the hilltop silcrete is eroded, the cap is cracked and huge and small chunks of silcrete are detached from the top and roll down the slopes (Figures 1 to 4).



Figure 1. Aerial view of a disintegrated hill cap. Length of the largest chunk (arrow) is ~20 m.



Figure 2. Top and bottom: ground views of the disintegrated cap shown in Figure 1.
The largest silcrete pieces in the Study Area; the larger chunk is >20 m long, 10 m wide and >10 m thick), which were detached from the bulky hilltop.



Figure 3. Hill cap disintegration. Top – blocks. Bottom – stacks.



Figure 4. Hill cap disintegration. Top – columns. Bottom – slabs.

Weathering

The weathering of silcretes results in the formation of small caverns (Figures 5 to 8).



Figure 5. Weathered massive silcrete.



Figure 6. Weathered massive silcrete.



Figure 7. Weathered conglomeratic silcrete.



Figure 8. Weathered silcrete. Top – brecciated. Bottom – globular.