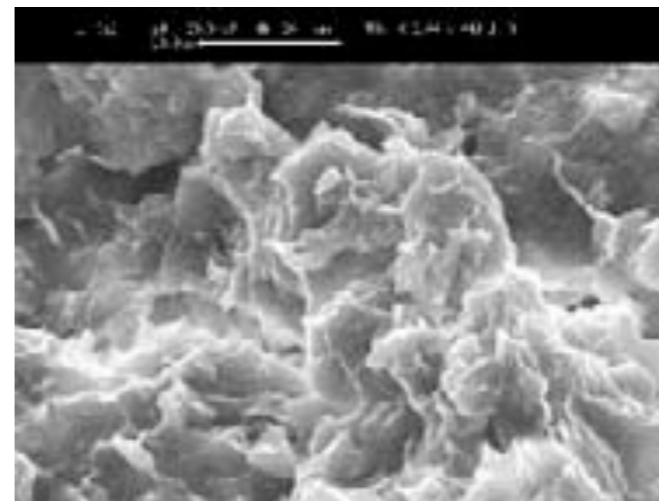


Swelling Clays

The interlayer in montmorillonite or smectites is not only hydrated, but it is also expansible; that is, the separation between individual smectite sheets varies with the amount of water present in the soil. Because of this, they are often referred to as "**swelling clays**".

Soils having high concentrations of smectites can undergo as much as a 30% volume change due to wetting and drying or these soils have a high shrink/swell potential and upon drying will form deep cracks.



bentonite