Towards a simple compressive strength test for earth bricks?

J. E. Aubert · P. Maillard · J. C. Morel · M. Al Rafii

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Abstract There is an increasing demand for earth construction in the world today but there is no consensus on the procedure to be used to measure the compressive strength of earth bricks. The study presented in this paper aims to propose a test procedure specific to earth bricks that would give the most realistic value of compressive strength while remaining as simple as possible. This study focused on four different bricks and consisted of measuring the compressive strength of these specimens by varying several parameters: specimen size, orientation, use of Teflon capping or not, and tests on dry sawn specimens, on half-bricks or on entire bricks. The results of the study show that the best compromise to achieve a simple and representative compressive strength test for earth bricks is to transform the bricks as little as possible before the test and thus to test entire bricks.

Keywords Earth bricks · Compressive strength · Procedures · Standards · Aspect ratio · Confinement

J. E. Aubert (✉) · M. Al Rafii
Laboratoire Matériaux et Durabilité des Constructions (LMDC), Université de Toulouse, UPS, INSA, 135 avenue de Rangueil, 31077 Toulouse Cedex 4, France
c-mail: aubert@insa-toulouse.fr

P. Maillard
Centre Technique de Matériaux Naturels de Construction (CTMNC), Service Céramique R&D, Ester Technopole, 87069 Limoges Cedex, France

J. C. Morel
Laboratoire de Télodie et Dynamique des Systèmes, UMR 5513 CNRS, Ecole Nationale des Travaux Publics de l’Etat, Université de Lyon, Rue Maurice Audin, 69518 Vaulx en Velin Cedex, France

J. C. Morel
Laboratoire de Génie Civil et Bâtiment, Ecole Nationale des Travaux Publics de l’Etat, Université de Lyon, Rue Maurice Audin, 69518 Vaulx en Velin Cedex, France