

PLIOCENE.

WACCAMAW FORMATION.

Name.—The Waccamaw formation receives its name from the Waccamaw River in South Carolina, where fossiliferous deposits are well developed and where extensive collections have been made definitely determining the Pliocene age of the exposures. The name "Waccamaw beds" was first proposed by Dall in his Tertiary Fauna of Florida in 1892,¹ and an extensive list of the fossils was published on pages 210-213 of the same report. The name is again used by Dall in his Table of North American Tertiary Horizons,² and is also included in his Correlation Table facing page 334. Mr. Earle Sloan, State Geologist of South Carolina, uses the name in his report on the geology of the State included in the Handbook of South Carolina, page 92, 1907.

Definition.—The Waccamaw formation includes all the marine Pliocene deposits thus far recognized in North Carolina, with the exception of the doubtful Croatan deposits, and constitutes the uppermost marine Tertiary deposits of the State. It is best developed in the southern part of the State, no outcrops of it appearing, so far as known, to the north of the Neuse River.

The Waccamaw strata overlies deposits of earlier age in the southeastern part of the State, these earlier formations ranging from the Peedee Cretaceous to the Duplin Miocene. In a well boring in Hyde County the record seems to show the presence of the Waccamaw which is in immediate contact with the Yorktown Miocene deposits. In Craven and Carteret counties it is not known what deposits underlie the Waccamaw, but it seems not improbable that in some places it is the Trent Eocene.

Along the Cape Fear River the Waccamaw is in contact with the Peedee Cretaceous, and it occupies a similar relation along the Waccamaw River in South Carolina.

The formation is overlain by Pleistocene in every locality where it has been recognized. In most places the overlying materials consist of unfossiliferous quartz sands of light color, but in Hyde County in a well near Lake Landing, previously mentioned, Pleistocene strata containing marine fossils are found immediately above the Waccamaw.

The Waccamaw formation is unconformable with all of the formations with which it is in contact.

Lithologically the Waccamaw formation closely resembles the Miocene Yorktown formation. It consists of loose gray to buff fine quartz

¹Wagner Free Institute of Science Trans., Vol. III, Part II, 1892, p. 209.

²Eighteenth Annual Report of the U. S. Geological Survey, Part II, p. 337.