

PLEISTOCENE.

COLUMBIA GROUP.

COHARIE FORMATION.

Name.—The name Coharie is derived from Great Coharie Creek, a tributary of Black River in North Carolina. The appropriateness of its application is suggested by the fact that the terrace plain formed by the surface of the deposits of the formation has a widespread development on either side of the narrow valley of this creek in the northern half of Sampson County. (See Great Coharie quadrangle.)

Definition.—The deposits referred to this formation constitute a terrace covering present over considerable areas, including the central part of Nash County, the western part of Wilson County, portions of eastern and southern Johnston County, southwestern Wayne County, the northern half of Sampson County, and a small area in eastern Harnett County, and south of Cape Fear River broad areas in southern Cumberland, northern Robeson, and southeastern Scotland counties. In the areas south of Cape Fear River the Coharie Plain has not been differentiated, except approximately, from the next lower-lying or Sunderland plain. All of these areas, except as they have been dissected by streams, present broad, almost level or very gently sloping surfaces. Broad reëntnants from the terrace plain of the lower-lying Sunderland formation extend up the principal valleys which have their courses across these areas. (See geologic map, Plate XIII, in pocket.)

Northward of the areas above described a narrow area of Coharie deposits is believed to extend through Halifax County and possibly through Northampton County into Virginia, but its limits have not been accurately determined. The Coharie plain extends southward into South Carolina, but the extent of its development in that State has not been determined.

Along the northwestern border of the Coharie belt as a whole the deposits are limited by the escarpment previously described as forming the southwestern boundary of the Lafayette belt. To the southeast they are limited by a sea-facing escarpment which separates them from the next lower lying, and younger, terrace formation, the Sunderland. This latter escarpment is well marked on the Rocky Mount and Kenly quadrangles. Outside of these quadrangles the escarpment has not been traced in detail, and the lines are drawn approximately, using railroad elevations and such other data as are available. Broad reëntnants from the Sunderland plain extend up the streams, and, in the case of some of the larger rivers, reach almost across the Coharie belt.