

Chowan terrace extend up the river valleys, in places almost entirely across the Wicomico belt. These estuarine plains are in most places separated from the Wicomico plain by well-defined escarpments. Numerous clean-cut sections of the formation are exhibited in the bluffs of all the larger streams where they cross the area of its occurrence. (See geologic map, Plate XIII, in pocket.)

In position the formation rests unconformably upon older deposits of the Coastal Plain. North of Neuse River these consist for the most part of Miocene beds, but in part, especially beneath the estuarine extensions, of Cretaceous beds. South of Neuse River it rests in part upon Miocene, in part upon Eocene, and in part upon Cretaceous beds. Its upper surface forms a terrace plain which in the main belt slopes up from elevations of about 50 feet along the southeast edge of the area to about 90 or 100 feet along the foot of the seaward-facing escarpment which separates it from the plain above. The reëntnants which extend up the river valleys slope up to elevations exceeding 100 feet above sea level at their inland extremities.

The plain has been somewhat dissected by stream erosion, more especially along the borders of the valleys and along the escarpments, but in general the valley incisions are much shallower than in the case of the older terrace plains. Broad, level stretches exist in the interstream areas, and some of these form extensive areas of swamp land, locally termed pocosons, savannahs, and bays.² The larger of these swamps are Angola Bay in Duplin and Pender counties, Holly Shelter Swamp in Pender County, Great Dover Swamp in Craven and Jones counties, and Whiteoak Pocason in Jones County.

In lithologic character the formation consists of sandy clays, sands and gravels, resembling in a general way those of the Coharie and Sunderland formations. In nearly all sections the coarser sands, or sands and gravels, form the basal beds, and, as a rule, show stratification and cross-bedding. These grade upward into finer sands and sandy clays of uniform texture. Along nearly all the rivers crossing the belt which have their source inland in the Piedmont Plateau region, the exposures reveal near the base of the Wicomico deposits numerous erratic boulders of quartz and various kinds of crystalline rocks which are in

²*Pocason*.—A tract of level wet land supporting a thick growth of gums, gall berries, bay bushes and trees, and other bushes, trees, etc., which prefer a wet soil.

Savannah.—A tract of level land having a wet soil except during periods of dry weather, and supporting grass and other low vegetation, with but a scattered growth of pine or other trees and bushes, so that a horse or other object of similar size may be seen at a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Sometimes applied to tracts of open prairie land.

Bay.—A flat or slightly depressed tract of greater or less extent, with either wet or dry soil, supporting a conspicuous growth of bay trees and bushes.