the men are able to make two or even three trips to the city a day to bring home the night soil. But the night soil contains little mineral material, so even long, continued heavy additions of night soil would not produce a plaggen epipedon. It might conceivably produce an anthropic epipedon in the course of time.

A Brief History of the Miami Soil Series

George D. Bailey

The soil series concept has been in use for over 75 years. During this period the concept has undergone many changes, but it still remains an abstraction: a soil taxonomic unit that is not directly observable. Because the Miami series was one of the first series recognized and is still in use, a study of its history is in essence a review of the evolution of the series category.

Soil survey began in the United States in 1899. It had a strong geological bias. Soil units were originally differentiated by surface texture alone, but soil scientists soon recognized a need to show the relationships between soil textural units. They borrowed the term “series” from geology, where it was used to define a time-stratigraphic group of sedimentary rock formations. The term was used in soil survey for several years before it was officially defined (3).

The Miami series was first mapped in the soil survey of Montgomery County, Ohio in 1900. Sandy loam, loam, gravelly loam, clay loam, and black clay loam soil types were grouped within this series. Surface colors ranged from light yellowish brown to black, the drainage ranged from well drained to poorly drained, and the parent material included both glacial till and alluvium (7). Within the next few years, soils identified with the Miami soil series were mapped in New York, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, and North Dakota as well as Ohio (8).

The first definition of the term soil series was published in 1903 as “soils with a common feature, i.e., parent rock, and restricted to a physiographic province” (8). In that same year the Miami series was described as soils that were “chiefly derived from morainic material of either glacial or alluvial origin” (8). In one of the first U.S. Department of Agriculture soil correlation procedures, the soil survey administrators declared that soils previously mapped as the Allegan series were to be considered part of the Miami series (8). The early mapping of the soils identified as the Miami series has been summarized by Simonson (5):

Several types of Miami soils were mapped in New York and North Dakota in 1902, after the first types were mapped in Ohio in 1900. The several types

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