In pursuing his field studies, the soil student cannot afford an offhand discrimination of the values of seemingly unimportant features. If his work is to rank as scientific, he must observe and record all the characteristics, features, relationships, and functions of the soils with which he is dealing. In the final analysis of his data he may, perhaps, be able to piece together the fragments of information into a whole story that may prove or indicate significant facts.

To the soil surveyor, the establishment of the proof of facts concerning soil character is especially valuable in enabling him to more correctly and expeditiously classify and map soils, but on soil character is based largely the economic value of the soil, and the interpretation of observed features and relationships of soils has a meaning and use far beyond the activities of the investigator.

The ecological relationships of soils afford valuable information to the soil student concerning the influence of native plant growth on soil development and as an indicator of soil characteristics. The natural vegetation also furnishes an index of inherent soil productiveness, moisture conditions, and crop adaptations.

In Texas there is a consistent relation of native vegetation to soil characteristics, although climatic conditions and physiography exert a great influence on the broader groupings of vegetative types. Inclusive groups of distinctive vegetative associations occur in the four climatic regions of Texas.

Humid Region

In the eastern part of Texas the humid region, with as high as 50 inches of rainfall a year in the southeastern part, reaches westward to where the average annual precipitation is as low as 25 inches in places. This region is occupied by soils of the pedalferic group which support a humid type of vegetation fairly similar to that of the southern and western parts of the humid region throughout the United States. In Texas this plant association is subdivided into two communities of subregional significance; the forests, located on large areas of light-colored, light-textured, noncalcareous soil; and the treeless areas of coarse grasses covering the dark-colored