The Miami Profile

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The name Miami was first used in soils classification in Montgomery County, Ohio, in 1900, and was applied to all the soils of that area except the non-arable bottom land called "Meadow". It included arable recent alluvium or first bottom soils; soils of the second bottom, derived from stratified gravels; and soils on the uplands, both well drained and poorly drained, derived from unassorted glacial drift. From this we deduce that about the only definition of the Miami series was its origin in the "weathering and modification of glacial drift", both ice laid and water laid, well drained and poorly drained.

The year 1902 was a period of expansion and conquest for the Miami. From the place of its origin on the banks of the Big Miami, it consolidated its position in Ohio and planted outposts in New York, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Arkansas, Kansas and North Dakota. In 1903 it was mapped in areas in Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota, and in 1904, 22% of an entire state, Rhode Island, was mapped as Miami. In 1905 the Miami took a long leap to the Puget Sound region in northwestern Washington.

In Bureau of Soils Bulletin No. 55 published in 1909, the Miami series is described as "characterized by the light color of the surface soil, by derivation from glacial material, and by being timbered either now or originally".

In Bureau of Soils Bulletin No. 78, 1911, special attention was given to the revision and definition of the Miami series, and it was restricted to "weathered glacial till", composed largely of granite, limestone, and shale material, with light-colored surface soils. An appended list of changes in correlation in previously published areas contained 160 changes. All the Miami black clay loam, which was a dark colored, poorly drained soil in most places, was changed to other series. Soils derived from alluvium were excluded from Miami. The fine sands and sands were largely eliminated on the basis of their siliceous parent material. At the same time the Miami soils of New York, Rhode Island and other eastern areas were changed to other series.

Bulletin No. 96, in 1912, placed the Miami series as derived from thick glacial drift, ice-laid and composed of mixed granite, sandstone, shale, and limestone material with boulder clay substratum. The soils are described as "brown, light brown or grayish, and are underlain by yellowish and brown heavy textured subsoils. Mottlings of brown and light brown are present in the subsoil and upper part of the soil profile".