

A Comparative Study of Bogs on Cary and Tazewell Drift

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ABSTRACT

Pollen diagrams of the Valparaiso bogs practically reveal a complete picture of the forests of post-Valparaiso times in Illinois. Unfortunately, the forest history of the post-Bloomington period is less complete, due to the absence of satisfactory pollen records in the upper layers of the Tazewell bogs.

The succession of forests as shown by the pollen diagrams of bogs of both substages apparently is the same in most cases: (1) Increase and dominance of the conifers; (2) decline of the conifers and the advance of the deciduous forest. If the oldest layers of the Tazewell peat formed very slowly, the period of conifer dominance of that stage may coincide with the period of conifer dominance following the retreat of the Valparaiso ice. On the other hand, the post-Bloomington conifer forests might have been superseded by the deciduous forests before the advance of the Valparaiso ice-sheet, and the succession of forests in central Illinois since Bloomington times may have been as follows: (1) northern conifer, (2) deciduous, (3) northern conifer, (4) deciduous.

Evidence supporting the theory of a xerothermic period during postglacial times is lacking.