

Biogeography. Lecture 26

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April 9, 2014



Outline

Biogeography of the World

Biogeography of North America

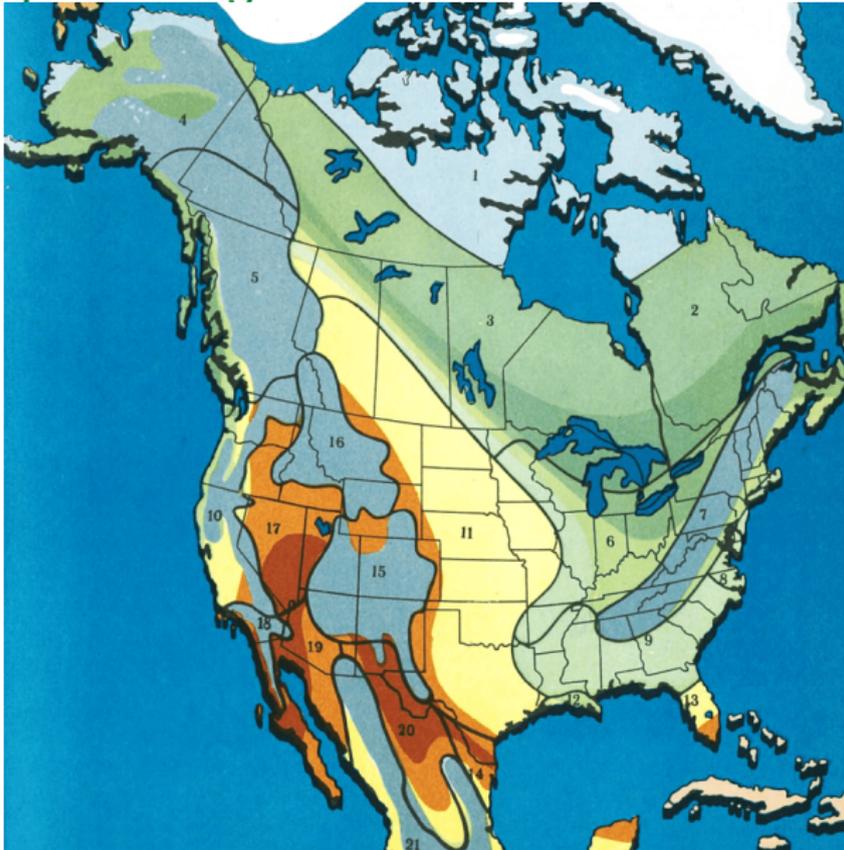


Biogeography of the World

Biogeography of North America



Biogeographical regions of North America



North America: 21 biogeographical region

1. Arctic Islands and Greenland
2. Labrador, Sr. Lawrence Valley
3. Canadian Northwest
4. Alaska
5. Yukon and British Columbia
6. Great Lakes and Central Lowlands
7. Appalachians
8. East Coast
9. Coastal Lowlands
10. Central Pacific Coast Ranges
11. Great Plains
12. Mississippi delta
13. South Florida
14. South Texas
15. South Montane region
16. North Montane region
17. Great Basin
18. Southern California
19. Sonora
20. Chihuahua
21. Mexican Sierras

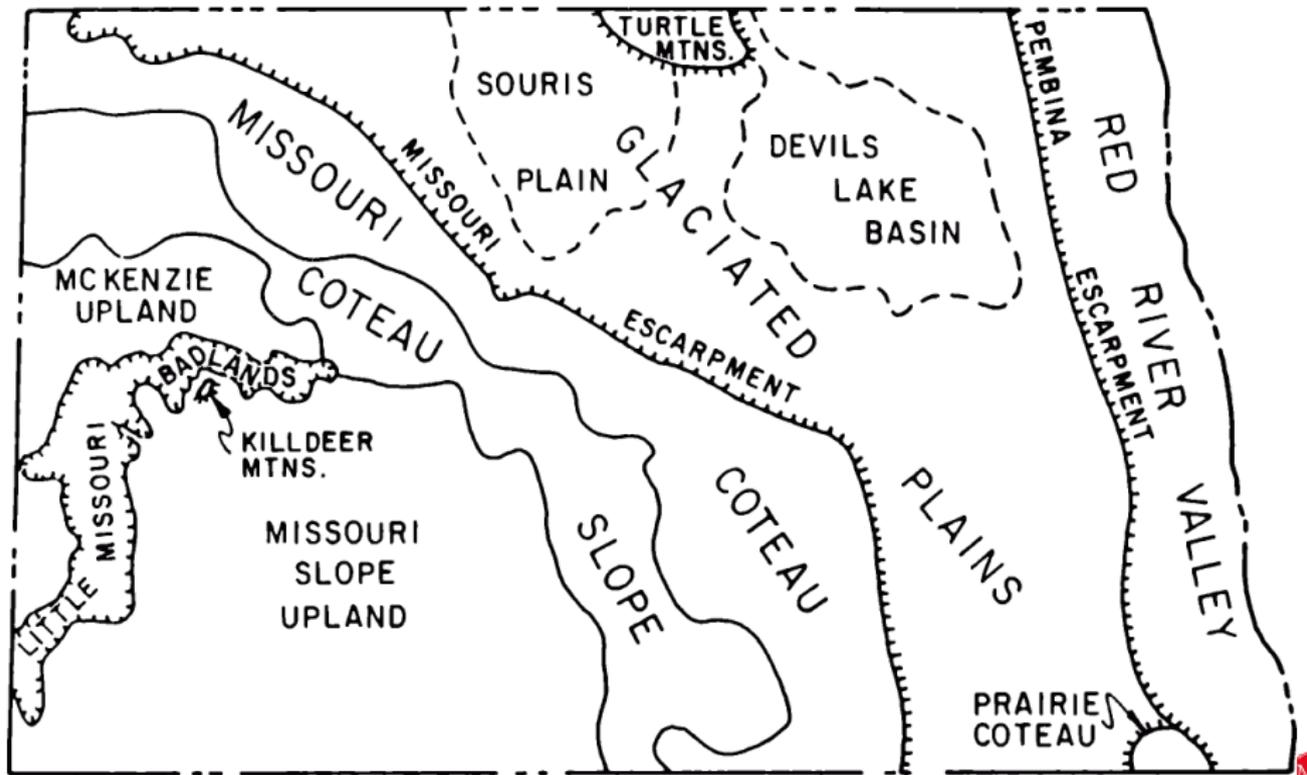


Region 11: Great Planes

- ▶ From southeast of Alberta to Edwards Plateau in Texas. The eastern border is determining mostly by precipitation whereas western border are Rocky Mountains.
- ▶ Most important landmarks: Badlands, Nebraska sandhills, Llano Estacado (Texas uplands). Black Hills is an unique formation (continental plate uplift) having many western elements in flora and fauna. The prairie itself is mostly combination of grasslands, hills and forested coulees. Oak savanna is also frequent (in North Dakota, nearby Towner and in the Ransom county).
- ▶ Historically supported with hoofed animals, mostly bisons (*Bison bison*) and pronghorns (*Antilocapra americana*, unique North American antelope), now with agriculture.
- ▶ Rich life of rodents: prairie dogs, gophers, many species of mice and others.
- ▶ Aster family (Compositae) and grass family (Gramineae) are dominants. Typically split into tall-grass (eastern, humid) and short-grass (western, dry) prairies. Rich flora of Compositae and presence of multiple shrubs (like snowberries, *Symphoricarpos*) are typical to American grasslands.
- ▶ In North Dakota, we have: continental divide, the region of numerous prairie potholes (result of delayed melting of ice), extremely flat Devils Lake region (not even a lake but flooded plane), the second self-drainage basin in North America, wide Red River valley (remaining of Great Lake Agassiz), and “glacier garbage” Turtle Mountains.



North Dakota geography



For Further Reading



A. Shipunov.

Biogeography [Electronic resource].

2014—onwards.

Mode of access:

http://ashipunov.info/shipunov/school/biol_330



I. Sanderson.

The Continent We Live On.

1961.

Mode of access: <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/71734#page/7/mode/1up>



North America.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_America

