

Biogeography. Lecture 21

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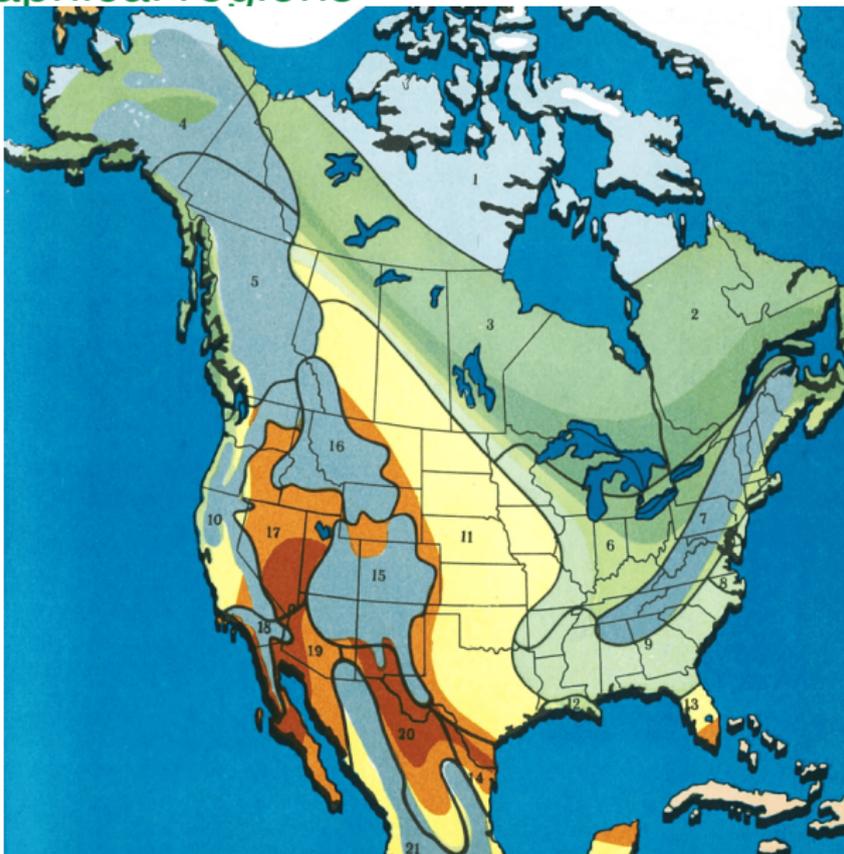


Outline

Holarctic region I: Nearctic North America



Biogeographical regions



North America: 21 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

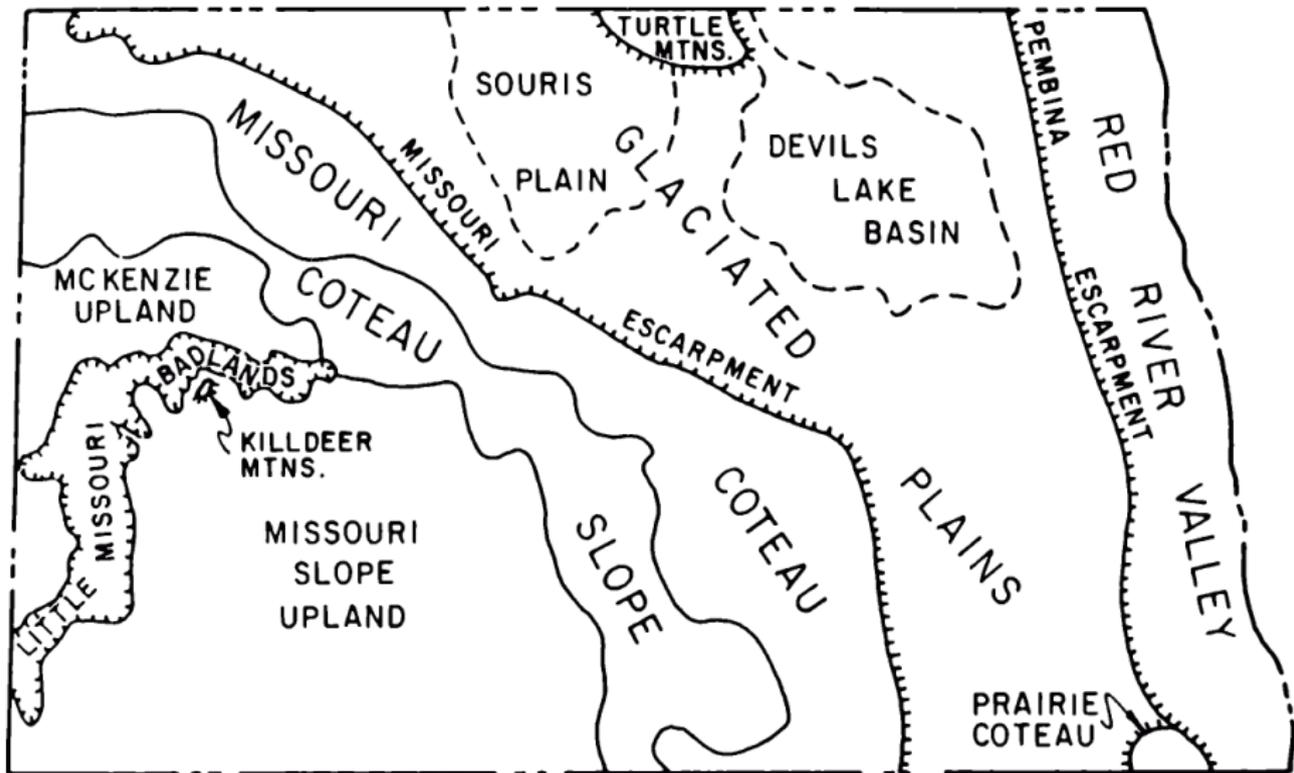


Region 11: Great Plains

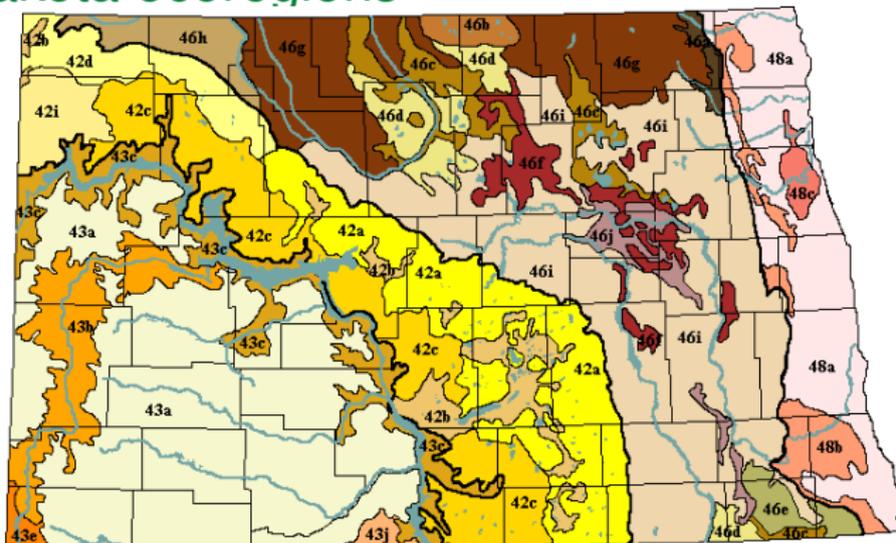
- ▶ From southeast of Alberta to Edwards Plateau in Texas. The eastern border is determining mostly by precipitation whereas western border are Rocky Mountains.
- ▶ Most important landmarks: Badlands, Nebraska sandhills, Llano Estacado (Texas uplands). Black Hills is an unique formation (continental 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



North Dakota ecoregions



- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 42 Northwestern Glaciated Plains | 46 Northern Glaciated Plains |
| 42a Missouri Coteau | 46a Pembina Escarpment |
| 42b Collapsed Glacial Outwash | 46b Turtle Mountains |
| 42c Missouri Coteau Slope | 46c Glacial Lake Basins |
| 42d Northern Missouri Coteau | 46d Glacial Lake Deltas |
| 42i Glaciated Dark Brown Prairie | 46e Tewaukon Dead Ice Moraine |
| 43 Northwestern Great Plains | 46f End Moraine Complex |
| 43a Missouri Plateau | 46g Northern Black Prairie |
| 43b Little Missouri Badlands | 46h Northern Dark Brown Prairie |
| 43c River Breaks | 46i Drift Plains |
| 43e Sagebrush Steppe | 46j Glacial Outwash |
| 43j Moreau Prairie | 48 Lake Agassiz Plain |
| | 48a Glacial Lake Agassiz Basin |
| | 48b Sand Deltas and Beach Ridges |
| | 48c Saline Area |



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

