



ABSTRACT

The development of soil and associated forest vegetation has not been a simple and straightforward process. It has taken place over many thousand of year through a squence of complex, interrelated events. While a number of years relatively independent factors a involved in the development of both soil and vegetation, perhaps none is more important than climate. Climate, vegetation and soil form an interrelated dynamic complex, and when one member of this complex is altered the others similiary change and a new equilibrium is established.

Soils are derived from parent material of different mineral composition and these materials results in soil properties that influence both the composition of forest vegetation and the rate of tree growth. As the parent rock weathers, a soil profile develops, influenced not only by the physical factors of the environment but by the biota of the area that contribute to mineral weathering and organic matter content.

The environmental factors that affect soil development also influence the type of plant community that develops in a particular area. More specifically, the properties of soils developed under a particular regime have a profound influence on the growth and development of plants.

