

The silica commonly takes the form of very fine sand. In the "silex bed" silica has replaced the carbonates in the limestone or in the shells within it. Many of the silicified shells are beautiful pseudomorphs that retain the delicate ornamentation of the original. Silification is a surficial process that is not restricted to any definite stratigraphic level.

In Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties, which include the type area, the Tampa is commonly a fairly hard, dense, light-colored to yellowish limestone. Locally it is closely packed with impressions of mollusks. In the Chattahoochee area soft beds alternate with hard, and much of the rock has a chalky appearance. Fossils are less conspicuous.

*Thickness*—The thickest natural exposure of the Tampa limestone is in Gadsden County, where it rises about 117 feet above low water in Apalachicola River at Chattahoochee. This bluff probably reveals almost the entire thickness of the formation, though the bottom may not be reached there. Because of its greater content of clastic impurities the Tampa is probably thicker near Chattahoochee than elsewhere. According to Mansfield (1937b, p. 14) well borings indicate that the limestone is about 65 feet thick near Tampa. Only a few feet of limestone is exposed at any one place in Hillsborough County.

*Distribution*—The Tampa limestone crops out in two widely separated areas. The typical area includes the northwestern half of Hillsborough County, the southwestern part of Pasco, and the adjoining parts of Pinellas. Exposures in this region are not numerous except along the shore of the Gulf of Mexico, where the limestone is bare in many places. The other area extends westward from the Apalachicola valley in western Gadsden and Liberty Counties to the western side of Holmes County. There are many excellent exposures in the Apalachicola valley, but farther west they are few and far between, and some of them are not readily identifiable. Between these two areas there are outlying patches of Tampa limestone in Marion County north of Kendrick. These outliers are not shown on the geologic map.

*Stratigraphic relations*—Exposures of the contact of the Tampa limestone and the next-older Suwannee limestone are