

Ultramafic Geoecology of North America

Arctic to Tropical

Geoecology involves the geology, soils, and plant communities of natural landscapes. It is a holistic endeavor.

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Glossary

The ultramafic rocks of North America range from komatiite (a volcanic rock) that was common from nearly 4 Ga in the Archean to igneous and metamorphic rocks (dunite, peridotite, and serpentinite) that became the common ultramafic rocks as Earth cooled and Proterozoic and Phanerozoic plate tectonics became responsible for most of the ultramafic rocks. The physically and chemically most developed soils are no more than a few million year old; they were described in the Klamath Mountains and the Caribbean area. Plant communities evolve more rapidly, and recent ones were described in ultramafic terrains throughout North America from the Arctic Circle to Costa Rica and the Caribbean area.

The diversity of ultramafic soils and plant communities is great. They were described and characterized from Alaska, Pyke Hill, and Newfoundland to Costa Rica and the Caribbean area.

