Of the cores that he lifted, he only published a pollen diagram from the "Twin Lakes Muskeg" in Itasca State Park, Minnesota (18 on map). In 1962, he told me that it was only to "illustrate diagram-drawing technique" and that since 1931 he had switched to pollen systematics.

In 1959, I was a student at the University of Minnesota Itasca Biology Station. I wanted to research vegetation history using fossil pollen analysis. Murray Buell of Rutgers University, who was teaching a field ecology course, said that in June 1931, as a graduate student he had helped Erdtman core in what came to be known as the Twin Lakes Bog D (Conway 1947). He said that the resulting pollen diagram (Erdtman 1943) was incomplete because the core was located along the bog margin of the basin. Murray suggested that I should locate a core beneath the central pond where the basin would be deeper and presumably have a longer record; he was right.

Erdtman's (1947) illustration of pollen grains from the Twin Lakes Muskeg.

Left. Pollen grains from the surface layer:
- pine, spruce, alder and tamarack.
Right. Pollen grains from a layer 14 feet deep, "formed probably several thousand years ago when oak forests and other deciduous trees were far more abundant than now". Shown are oak, pine, birch, hazel, blue beech, linden and alder. Not shown are herb pollen grains of wild rice and prairie plants.
the climate over the past 4,000 years caused not only succession to deciduous forest and then pine forest but also a rise in the water table, enlarging the Pond and initiating centripetal filling of the basin by "Muskeg".

Harking back to our conversation in 1962, I remember him saying, "If you want to be famous, you should not do pollen analysis, you should do pollen systematics".

Alas.

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