



## VIGNETTES OF COASTAL PLAIN GEOLOGY

TIMOTHY ABBOTT CONRAD  
(1803-1877)

If anyone can be called the Father of Coastal Plain Geology, it is Timothy Abbott Conrad. He was a perceptive paleontologist who almost single-handedly established the Tertiary formations of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains, as distinguished by their fossils. In his pioneering works on the region he named nearly 1000 Cenozoic species, so it is little wonder that any paleontological study of the Coastal Plain necessarily begins with his work. And yet through it all he was a shy, almost reclusive, moody, unhappy man, who rarely held any type of paid position for very long. His carelessness was notorious, and toward the end of his life he suffered from a loss of memory that finally caused him to give up work all together. In spite of this he figured substantially in the paleontological literature of the United States for over 50 years, producing an aggregate of some 1700 published pages and 300 plates, most of which he prepared on lithographic limestone himself. (From H.E. Wheeler, 1935, *Bulletins of American Paleontology*, v. 23, no. 77)