

## INTRODUCTION

Otvos (2009) presents a fascinating and thought-provoking discussion of sharp contrasts in Quaternary geology between the Mississippi-Alabama and Louisiana Gulf coastal plains. Unfortunately, his paper is partially marred by the use of antiquated stratigraphic nomenclature that has either been abandoned or greatly revised within the Gulf coastal plain. First, Otvos (2009) incorrectly indicates that the Williana Formation (Member or Terrace) of Fisk (1938, 1939a, 1940, 1944), which also has been discredited and abandoned as a valid stratigraphic unit, correlates with the Citronelle Formation. Second, Otvos (2009) incorrectly regards the Bentley and Montgomery formations (members or terraces) of Fisk (1938, 1939a, 1940, 1944) as being valid coast-wise stratigraphic units when they are no longer mapped as extending outside of the Red River alluvial valley region. As a result, it is incorrect for Otvos (2009) to write about “Montgomery alluvial terrace deposits” in Mississippi when the Montgomery Formation, which has been redesignated as the “Montgomery Alloformation”, is now only recognized as being a valid stratigraphic unit for Pleistocene sediments underlying fluvial terraces along the Red River. Third, the interpretation of published evidence indicates that the Lissie Formation of Texas, which is correlative in part with Otvos' (2005) “Bentley and Montgomery terraces” in Southwest Louisiana, is considerably older than Marine Isotope Stage 7. The relationship of the sediments dated in Southwest Louisiana by Otvos (2005) to Otvos' (2009) “Montgomery alluvial terrace deposits” in Mississippi is matter of speculation. Therefore, the assignment of these “terrace deposits” to the Montgomery Alloformation currently lacks any scientific basis. Finally, Otvos (2009) is unclear about the precise manner in which the Biloxi and Prairie formations of Mississippi correlate with the Beaumont Formation of Texas and the equivalent Beaumont Alloformation of Louisiana.