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Geological structure and formation of Roztocze

In orthographical sense Roztocze is an undulating highland with the length of 185 km and the width of 15-28 km and stretching from Polichna to the area of Lvov. The culmination points of Roztocze reach the absolute values of 290 m in the north to 390 m in the south with the highest point of Czartowska Skała (Devil's Rock) of 409 m. Roztocze is a narrow ridge that consists of Upper Cretaceous rocks. The Neogene sediments can be found in a narrow strip along the southern ridge and some parts of the plateau. The Roztocze Ridge is built out of a mosaic of blocks of different sizes and separating valleys and tectonic rifts. The development of the surface relief in Neogene and the older Quaternary period was caused by the destructive processes. The evolution of the surface relief in the Quaternary period was connected with the cyclical climatic changes which resulted in the creation of the ice cap. In the last Ice Age Roztocze was situated in the periglacial zone which created conditions favoring intensive erosion and accumulation of sediments in the highland. The Eolithic covers in the form of sand and dust developed on Roztocze in the upper pleniglacial era. In the Roztocze of the areas of Goraj and Szczebrzeszyn the loess covers were created. On the other hand intensive erosion and hill-creating processes developed in the area of Tomaszów and Rawa. The sand material was carried down from the slopes accumulated at the bottom of the valleys from where the seasonal streams would carry it and later heap up large flat cones at the edges of Roztocze. Intensive deflation created sand and air streams carrying the sand to Roztocze. A strip of dunes stretching over the area of many kilometers was created as the effect of this process.