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PALYNOLOGICAL REPORT ON ESSO GIPPSLAND SHELF No.3 WELL AT 6425 FEET

The sample examined from core 6 at 6425 feet in Esso Gippsland Shelf No.3 well provided sparse numbers of reasonably well preserved spores and pollen. Species identified include:

Araucariacites australis Cookson
Beaupreaidites elegansiformis Cookson
Myrtaccidites tenuis Harris
Nothofagidites emarcida (Cookson)
Nothofagidites cf. brachyspinulosa (Cookson)
Phyllocladidites mawsonii Cookson
Proteacidites cf. adenanthoides Cookson
Proteacidites annularis Cookson
Proteacidites ornatus Harris
Proteacidites subscabratus Couper
Triorites harrisii Couper
Tricolporites prolata Cookson

The presence of a single specimen of Beaupreaidites elegansiformis may indicate equivalence of the microflora with the Duplopollis orthoteichus Assemblage described by Harris (1965) from upper horizons of the Dilwyn Clay in western Victoria. However, the index of Harris's assemblage was not observed in Gippsland Shelf No.3 well at 6425 feet. Thus, correlation of the Gippsland microflora with those described by Harris cannot be made with certainty. Nevertheless, the available palynological evidence does suggest a Lower Tertiary, possibly Upper Paleocene, age for sediments at 6425 feet in Gippsland Shelf No.3 well. An Upper Paleocene age was suggested (Dettmann 1965) for sediments between 6935 feet and 7150 feet in Esso Bass No.1 well.

References

Dettmann, M.E. 1965. Palynological report on Esso Bass No.1 well, 6740 - 7693 feet. Unpublished report submitted to Esso Exploration Australia Inc. 18/10/65.

Harris, W.K. 1965. Basal Tertiary microfloras from the Princetown area, Victoria, Australia. Palaeontographica, 115B, 75-106.

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