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PALYNOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF
WEST HALIBUT-1, GIPPSLAND BASIN

by

H.E. Stacy

and

A.D. Partridge

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WEST HALIBUT-1

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Twenty-one sidewall cores, eleven core samples and one cuttings sample were processed and examined for palynology. Yield varied from very good to very poor, however, age determinations could be made in most cases.

Formation and zone subdivisions from the basal part of the Lakes Entrance Formation to the bottom of the well are summarized below. Table 1 lists all of the samples examined and summarises the findings, while individual fossil occurrence is noted on the accompanying distribution charts.

S U M M A R Y

<u>UNIT/FACIES</u>	<u>ZONE</u>	<u>DEPTH (in metres)</u>
Lakes Entrance Formation	P. <u>tuberculatus</u>	2372
Latrobe Group (Coarse clastics)	UNCONFORMITY	
	Middle M. <u>diversus</u>	2374-2403.7
	Lower M. <u>diversus</u>	2411-2510.5
	Upper L. <u>balmei</u>	2515-2577
	T.D.	2577

G E O L O G I C A L C O M M E N T S

1. Most of the samples from the Latrobe Group showed some evidence of marine influence by the presence of at least a few dinoflagellates in the residues.
2. In contrast to the adjacent Fortescue-1 well where the Middle M. diversus Zone sediments were predominantly of non-marine character the highest Eocene (of the Middle M. diversus Zone) samples in West Halibut-1 at 2374m and 2377.5m contain almost entirely dinoflagellate assemblages with very few non-marine (i.e. spores and pollen) specimens present. This difference is probably a function of the more distal or seaward position of West Halibut-1 compared to Fortescue-1.

Even though the highest Eocene assemblage in West Halibut-1 contains predominantly dinoflagellates, the actual species composition makes it clearly distinct from the sample from the immediately overlying and much younger Lakes Entrance Formation.

3. The top of the Latrobe at West Halibut-1 is stratigraphically lower (Middle M. diversus) than the top of the section encountered at Fortescue-1 (Upper M. diversus).
4. The Wetzeliella hyperacantha Zone, which was noted in Fortescue-1 to straddle the boundary between the Upper L. balmei and Lower M. diversus Zones, was found to do the same thing in this well. It extends from 2510.5 to 2522 metres.
5. The separation between the Lower and Middle M. diversus Zones is based on the rare occurrence of Proteacidites tuberculiformis at 2403.7 metres. Since no other species, whose first appearances are diagnostic of the Middle M. diversus Zone were found, the separation between the Lower and Middle subzones should be considered tentative at this time.

D I S C U S S I O N _ O F _ Z O N E S

The presence and distribution of all identified species are marked on the distribution sheets. The basis for separation this well section into stratigraphic zones is given below:

Upper Lygistepollenites balmei Zone: 2515-2577 metres.

The top of this zone is picked on the highest "in place" occurrence of L. balmei and A. obscurus and below the first occurrence of such Early Eocene species as Spinizonocolpites prominatus and Polypodiaceoisporites varus. The presence of such species as Proteacidites grandis, Cyathidites gigantis and Wetzeliella homomorpha, which occur throughout this section demonstrate that only Upper L. balmei sediments were penetrated.

Wetzeliella hyperacantha Zone: 2510.5 - 2522 metres.

As noted in the Geological Comments, Wetzeliella hyperacantha occurs in the samples on each side of the boundary between the Upper L. balmei and Lower M. diversus Zones. A similar occurrence was noted in Fortescue-1. The only occurrence of Kenleyia fimbriata, at 2515 metres, is also in this zone.

Lower Malvacipollis diversus Zone: 2411 - 2510.5 metres.

The base of the Lower M. diversus Zone is placed in West Halibut-1 at 2510.5 metres which contains the first appearances of Spinizonocolpites prominatus (frequent), Crassoretitriletes vanraadshoovenii and Polypodiaceoisporites varus, while the top is taken at the sample below the first occurrence of Proteacidites tuberculiformis. Supporting the assignment of this section to the Lower part of the Middle subdivision is the frequent occurrence of Tetracolporites multistriatus which ranges up into only the lower part of the Middle subdivision.

Overall the samples in the Lower M. diversus Zone can be characterised by the common occurrence of Proteacidites grandis. In this aspect the samples can be readily distinguished from the underlying Upper L. balmei Zone, for although P. grandis may be common in this latter zone it is invariably associated with abundant pollen of Lygistopollenites balmei.

Middle Malvacipollis diversus Zone: 2374 - 2403.5 metres.

The occurrence of Proteacidites tuberculiformis at 2403.7 metres confirms the presence of the Middle M. diversus Zone at this depth. Unfortunately other indicator species (e.g. Proteacidites ornatus, P. xestoformis, P. plemmelus and Diporites delicatus) whose first appearance can be used to recognise the base of this zone are absent from this well, and consequently the differentiation of the zone in this well is very poor. Two of the samples from the upper part of this zone (e.g. 2374m and 2377.5m) contained an almost entirely dinoflagellate flora. Compared to Fortescue-1 this suggests that the West Halibut-1 location is in a more distal or seaward location during the Middle M. diversus Zone time.

Proteacidites tuberculatus Zone: 2372 metres.

The sample from 2372 yielded Cyatheacidites annulata, Dinosphaera simplex and other species from the P. tuberculatus Zone. The one sidewall core above this depth (1825), that was processed for palynology, was barren.

R E F E R E N C E S

Stacy, H.E., and Partridge, A.D., 1978, Palynological Analysis of Fortescue-1, Gippsland Basin, ESOA Paleo. Report 1978/19.

TABLE I : SUMMARY OF PALEONTOLOGICAL ANALYSES, WEST HALIBUT-1, GIPPSLAND BASIN

Sample	Depth (m)	Depth (ft)	Zone	Age	Confidence Rating	Yield	Diversity	Comments
SWC11	1825	5986	Indeterminate <i>P. tuberculatus</i>	-	-	Barren	Barren	
SWC 58	2372	7782	<i>P. tuberculatus</i>	0	Good	Moderate		
SWC 57	2374	7789	Middle M. diversus	2	Fair	Low	Early Eocene dinoflagellate flora	
SWC 55	2376	7795	Middle M. diversus	1	Poor	Low	Highest occurrence of <i>P. grandis</i>	
SWC 84	2377.5	7800	Middle M. diversus	2	Poor	Low		
SWC 112	2381	7812	Middle M. diversus	1	Poor	Low		
SWC 82	2385	7825	Middle M. diversus	2	Poor	Low		
Core-1	2387.7	7834	Indeterminate	-	V. Poor	V. Low	Almost barren	
Core-1	2389.9	7841.	Indeterminate	-	Barren	Barren		
Core-1	2399.3	7872	Middle M. diversus	2	Fair	Moderate	Lowest <i>P. tuberculiformis</i> , Highest <i>T. multistriatus</i>	
Core-2	2403.7	7886	Middle M. diversus	1	Good	High		
SWC 52	2411	7910	Lower M. diversus	Early Eocene	2	Poor	Moderate	
Core-4	2427.2	7963	Lower M. diversus	Early Eocene	2	V. Poor	V. Low	
Core-5	2437.2	7996	Lower M. diversus	Early Eocene	2	Poor	Low	
Core-5	2438.6	8001	Lower M. diversus	Early Eocene	1	Very Good	High	
Core-6	2440	8005	Lower M. diversus	Early Eocene	1	Good	Moderate	
Core-6	2444.8	8021	Lower M. diversus	Early Eocene	1	Poor	Low	
Core-6	2447.7	8031	Lower M. diversus	Early Eocene	2	Fair	Moderate	
Core-6	2453.5	8050	Lower M. diversus	Early Eocene	1	Good	High	
SWC 45	2472.5	8112	Lower M. diversus	Early Eocene	1	Good	High	
SWC 44	2479	8133	Lower M. diversus	Early Eocene	1	Good	High	
SWC 41	2507.5	8227	Lower M. diversus	Early Eocene	2	Fair	Moderate	
SWC 40	2510.5	8237	Lower M. diversus	Early Eocene	0	Good	High	
SWC 39	2515	8251	Upper L. balmei	Paleocene	0	V. Good	Very High	
SWC 38	2518	8261	Upper L. balmei	Paleocene	1	Good	High	
SWC 37	2522	8274	Upper L. balmei	Paleocene	1	Good	High	
SWC 36	2537	8323	Upper L. balmei	Paleocene	1	Good	High	
SWC 35	2541	8337	Upper L. balmei	Paleocene	0	V. Good	Very High	
SWC 34	2545	8350	Upper L. balmei	Paleocene	0	V. Good	Very High	
SWC 33	2549	8363	Upper L. balmei	Paleocene	0	Good	High	
SWC 32	2553.5	8378	Upper L. balmei	Paleocene	1	Fair	Moderate	
SWC 31	2565	8415	Upper L. balmei	Paleocene	1	Good	High	
Cuttings	2577	8455	Upper L. balmei	Paleocene	3	Good	High	

PALYNOLOGY DATA SHEET

BASIN: GIPPSLAND ELEVATION: KB: 25 GL: 68
 WELL NAME: WEST HALIBUT-1 TOTAL DEPTH: 2577m

AGE	PALYNOLOGICAL ZONES	HIGHEST DATA					LOWEST DATA				
		Preferred Depth	Rtg	Alternate Depth	Rtg	Two Way Time	Preferred Depth	Rtg	Alternate Depth	Rtg	Two Way Time
NEOGENE	<i>T. pleistocenicus</i>										
	<i>M. lipsis</i>										
	<i>C. bifurcatus</i>										
	<i>T. bellus</i>										
	<i>P. tuberculatus</i>	2372	O				2372	O			
	Upper <i>N. asperus</i>										
	Mid <i>N. asperus</i>										
	Lower <i>N. asperus</i>										
	<i>P. asperopolus</i>										
	Upper <i>M. diversus</i>										
PALEOGENE	Mid <i>M. diversus</i>	2374	2	2376	1		2403.7	1			
	Lower <i>M. diversus</i>	2411	2	2438.6	1		2510.5	0			
	Upper <i>L. balmei</i>	2515	O				2577	3	2565	1	
	Lower <i>L. balmei</i>										
	<i>T. longus</i>										
	<i>T. lilliei</i>										
	<i>N. senectus</i>										
	<i>U. T. pachyexinus</i>										
	<i>L. T. pachyexinus</i>										
	<i>C. triplex</i>										
EARLY CRETACEOUS	<i>A. distocarinatus</i>										
	<i>C. paradoxus</i>										
	<i>C. striatus</i>										
	<i>F. asymmetricus</i>										
	<i>F. wonthaggiensis</i>										
PRE-CRETACEOUS	<i>C. australiensis</i>										

COMMENTS: Wetzelieilla hyperacantha Zone: 2510.5 - 2522

- CONFIDENCE RATING:
- O: SWC or Core, Excellent Confidence, assemblage with zone species of spores, pollen and microplankton.
 - 1: SWC or Core, Good Confidence, assemblage with zone species of spores and pollen or microplankton.
 - 2: SWC or Core, Poor Confidence, assemblage with non-diagnostic spores, pollen and/or microplankton.
 - 3: Cuttings, Fair Confidence, assemblage with zone species of either spores and pollen or microplankton, or both.
 - 4: Cuttings, No Confidence, assemblage with non-diagnostic spores, pollen and/or microplankton.

NOTE:

If an entry is given a 3 or 4 confidence rating, an alternative depth with a better confidence rating should be entered, if possible. If a sample cannot be assigned to one particular zone, then no entry should be made, unless a range of zones is given where the highest possible limit will appear in one zone and the lowest possible limit in another.

DATA RECORDED BY: H.E. STACY DATE: MARCH 1, 1979

DATA REVISED BY: DATE:

WEST HALIBUT-1

GIPPSLAND Basin

Sheet No. 1 of 4

SAMPLE	TYPE *	DEPTH	DEPTHS
PALYNOMORPHS			
<i>A. qualumis</i>		2372	S
<i>A. acutullus</i>		2374	S
<i>A. luteoides</i>		2376	S
<i>A. oculatus</i>		2377.5	S
<i>A. sectus</i>		2381	S
<i>A. triplaxis</i>		2385	S
<i>A. obscurus</i>		2399.3	C
<i>B. disconformis</i>		2403.7	C
<i>B. arcuatus</i>		2411	S
<i>B. elongatus</i>		2-37.2	C
<i>B. mutabilis</i>		2438.5	C
<i>B. otwayensis</i>		2440	C
<i>B. elegansiformis</i>		2444.8	C
<i>B. trigonalis</i>		2447.7	C
<i>B. verrucosus</i>		2453.5	C
<i>B. bombaxoides</i>		2472.5	S
<i>B. emaciatus</i>		2479	S
<i>C. bullatus</i>		2507.5	S
<i>C. heskermensis</i>		2510.5	S
<i>C. horrendus</i>		2515	S
<i>C. meleosus</i>		2518	S
<i>C. apiculatus</i>		2522	S
<i>C. leptos</i>		2537	S
<i>C. striatus</i>		2541	S
<i>C. vanraadshoovenii</i>		2545	S
<i>C. orthoteichus/major</i>		2549	S
<i>C. annulatus</i>		2553.5	S
<i>C. gigantis</i>		2565	S
<i>C. splendens</i>			
<i>D. australiensis</i>			
<i>D. granulatus</i>			
<i>D. tuberculatus</i>			
<i>D. delicatus</i>			
<i>D. semilunatus</i>			
<i>E. notensis</i>			
<i>E. crassieinxinus</i>			
<i>F. balteus</i>			
<i>F. crater</i>			
<i>F. lucunousus</i>			
<i>F. palaequetrus</i>			
<i>G. edwardsii</i>			
<i>G. rudata</i>			
<i>G. divaricatus</i>			
<i>G. gestus</i>			
<i>G. catathus</i>			
<i>G. cranvellae</i>			
<i>G. wahooensis</i>			
<i>G. bassensis</i>			
<i>G. nebulosus</i>			
<i>H. harrisii</i>			
<i>H. astrus</i>			
<i>H. elliottii</i>			
<i>I. anguloclavatus</i>			
<i>I. antipodus</i>			
<i>I. notabilis</i>			
<i>I. gremius</i>			
<i>I. irregularis</i>			
<i>J. peiratus</i>			
<i>K. waterbolkii</i>			
<i>L. amplus</i>			
<i>L. crassus</i>			
<i>L. ohaiensis</i>			
<i>L. bainii</i>			
<i>L. lanceolatus</i>			
<i>L. balmrei</i>			
<i>L. florinii</i>			
<i>M. diversus</i>			
<i>M. duratus</i>			
<i>M. grandis</i>			
<i>M. perimagnus</i>			

*C=core; S=sidewall core; T=cuttings.

Well Name WEST HALIBUT-1

GIPPSLAND

Sheet No. 2 of 4

SAMPLE	TYPE *	DEPTH	DEPTHS
		2312	S
		2374	S
		2376	S
		2377.5	S
		2381	S
		2385	S
		2399.3	C
		2403.7	C
		2411	S
		2437.2	C
		2438.6	C
		2440	C
		2444.8	C
		2447.7	C
		2453.5	C
		2472.5	S
		2507.5	S
		2510.5	S
		2515	S
		2518	S
		2522	S
		2537	S
		2541	S
		2545	S
		2549	S
		2553.5	S
		2555	S
PALYNOmorphs			
<i>M. subtilis</i>			
<i>M. ornamentalis</i>			
<i>M. hypolaenoides</i>			
<i>M. homeopunctatus</i>			
<i>M. parvus/mesonesus</i>			
<i>M. tenuis</i>			
<i>M. verrucosus</i>			
<i>M. australis</i>			
<i>N. asperus</i>			
<i>N. asperoides</i>			
<i>N. brachyspinulosus</i>			
<i>N. deminutus</i>			
<i>N. emarginatus/heterurus</i>			
<i>N. endurus</i>			
<i>N. falcatus</i>			
<i>N. flemingii</i>			
<i>N. goniatus</i>			
<i>N. senectus</i>			
<i>N. vansteenisii</i>			
<i>O. sentosa</i>			
<i>P. ochesis</i>			
<i>P. catastus</i>			
<i>P. demarcatus</i>			
<i>P. magnus</i>			
<i>P. polyoratus</i>			
<i>P. vesicus</i>			
<i>P. densus</i>			
<i>P. velosus</i>			
<i>P. morganii/jubatus</i>			
<i>P. mawsonii</i>			
<i>P. reticuloscattus</i>			
<i>P. verrucosus</i>			
<i>P. crescentis</i>			
<i>P. esobalteus</i>			
<i>P. langstonii</i>			cf
<i>P. reticulatus</i>			
<i>P. simplex</i>			
<i>P. varus</i>			
<i>P. adenanthoides</i>	(Prot.)		
<i>P. alveolatus</i>			
<i>P. amolosexinus</i>			
<i>P. angulatus</i>			
<i>P. annularis</i>			
<i>P. asperopolus</i>			
<i>P. biornatus</i>			
<i>P. clarus</i>			
<i>P. cleinei</i>			
<i>P. confragosus</i>			
<i>P. crassis</i>			
<i>P. delicatus</i>			?
<i>P. formosus</i>			
<i>P. grandis</i>			
<i>P. grevilleensis</i>			
<i>P. incurvatus</i>			
<i>P. intricatus</i>			
<i>P. kopiensis</i>			
<i>P. lapis</i>			
<i>P. latrobensis</i>			
<i>P. leightonii</i>			?
<i>P. obesolabrus</i>			?
<i>P. obscurus</i>			
<i>P. ornatus</i>			
<i>P. otwayensis</i>			
<i>P. pachypolus</i>			
<i>P. palisadus</i>			
<i>P. parvus</i>			
<i>P. plemmelus</i>			
<i>P. prodigus</i>			
<i>P. pseudolomoides</i>			
<i>P. recavus</i>			

*C=core; S=sidewall core; T=cuttings.

Well Name WEST HALIBUT-1

Basin GIPPSLAND

Sheet No. 3 of 4

SAMPLE	TYPE *	DEPTH	
	DEPTHS		
PALYNOmorphs			
<i>P. rectomarginis</i>		2372	S
<i>P. reflexus</i>		2374	S
<i>P. reticulatus</i>		2376	S
<i>P. reticulonconcavus</i>		2377.5	S
<i>P. reticuloscabratus</i>		2381	S
<i>P. rugulatus</i>		2385	S
<i>P. scitus</i>		2399.3	C
<i>P. stipplatus</i>		2403.7	C
<i>P. tenuixinus</i>		2411	S
<i>P. truncatus</i>		2437.2	C
<i>P. tuberculatus</i>		2438.6	C
<i>P. tuberculiformis</i>		2440	C
<i>P. tuberculotumulatus</i>		2444.8	C
<i>P. xestoformis</i> (Prot.)		2447.7	C
<i>Q. brossus</i>		2453.5	C
<i>R. boxatus</i>		2472.5	S
<i>R. stellatus</i>		2579	S
<i>R. mallatus</i>		2507.5	S
<i>R. trophus</i>		2510.5	S
<i>S. cainozoicus</i>		2515	S
<i>S. rotundus</i>		2518	S
<i>S. digitoides</i>		2522	S
<i>S. marlinensis</i>		2537	S
<i>S. rarus</i>		2541	S
<i>S. meridianus</i>		2545	S
<i>S. prominatus</i>		2549	S
<i>S. uvatus</i>			
<i>S. punctatus</i>			
<i>S. regium</i>			
<i>T. multistriatus</i> (CP4)			
<i>T. textus</i>			
<i>T. verrucosus</i>			
<i>T. securus</i>			
<i>T. confessus</i> (C3)			
<i>T. gillii</i>			
<i>T. incisus</i>			
<i>T. longus</i>			
<i>T. phillippsii</i>			
<i>T. renmarkensis</i>			
<i>T. sabulosus</i>			
<i>T. simatus</i>			
<i>T. thomasii</i>			
<i>T. waiparaensis</i>			
<i>T. adelaideensis</i> (CP3)			
<i>T. angurium</i>			
<i>T. delicatus</i>			
<i>T. geranioides</i>			
<i>T. leuros</i>			
<i>T. lilliei</i>			
<i>T. marginatus</i>			
<i>T. moultonii</i>			
<i>T. pacnestratus</i>			
<i>T. retequertrus</i>			
<i>T. scabratu</i> s			
<i>T. sphaerica</i>			
<i>T. magnificus</i> (P3)			
<i>T. spinosus</i>			
<i>T. ambiguus</i>			
<i>T. chnosus</i>			
<i>T. helosus</i>			
<i>T. scabratu</i> s			
<i>T. sectilis</i>			
<i>V. attinatus</i>			
<i>V. cristatus</i>			
<i>V. kopukuensis</i>			

*C=core; S=sidewall core; T=cuttings.

Well Names

WEST HALIEUT-1

Bassin GIPPSLAND

Sheet No. 4 of 4

SAMPLE TYPE *	DEPTH	
PALYNOMORPHS	2372	S
<i>Nemat. balcombiana</i>	2374	S
<i>Operc. centrocarpum</i>	2376	S
<i>Achom. ramulifera</i>	2377.5	S
<i>Spiniferites spp.</i>	2381	S
<i>Dinosphere sp.</i>	2385	S
<i>Hyshichokol. rigaudae</i>	2389.3	C
<i>Dinosphere simplex</i>	2403.7	C
<i>D. scabroellipticus</i>	2411	C
<i>Systematophora placacantha</i>	2437.2	C
<i>Hystrich sp.</i>	2438.6	C
<i>Nemat. divergens</i>	2440	C
<i>Leptodinium spp.</i>	2444.8	C
<i>Ling. machaerophorum</i>	2447.7	C
<i>Defl. dartmooria</i>	2453.5	C
<i>Thal. pelagica</i>	2472.5	S
<i>P. indentata</i>	2479	S
<i>Defl. sp.</i>	2507.5	S
<i>Spinidinium sp.</i>	2510.5	S
<i>Palaeocysto australiense</i>	2515	S
<i>Wetz. hyperacantha</i>	2522	S
<i>Dyphes colligerun</i>	2537	S
<i>Wetz homomorpha</i>	2541	S
<i>Adnat sp.</i>	2545	S
<i>Tubiosphaera filosa</i>	2549	S
<i>Dinosphere pontus</i>	2553.5	S
<i>Histiocysta variata</i>		
<i>Rosnaesp. biformoides</i>		
<i>Areoligeria sp.</i>		
<i>Kenleyia lophophora</i>		
<i>Spinif. lanceolatus</i>		
<i>Kenleyia fimbriata</i>		?
<i>Emmetrocysta sp.</i>		
<i>Fibrocysta sp.</i>		
<i>Danea sp.</i>		
<i>Delf. medcalfi</i>		
<i>A. dictyoplodus</i>		
<i>Spiniferites ramulifera</i>		
<i>Thalassiphora sp.</i>		
<i>Achomosphaera septata</i>		
<i>Kenleyia spp.</i>		

*C=core; S=sidewall core; T=cuttings.