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FORAMINIFERAL ANALYSIS

OF WHIPTAIL-1A,

GIPPSLAND BASIN

by

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INTRODUCTION

The foraminiferal content of nine sidewall cores has been examined. Of these only the top three, (between 1134.7m and 1120.0m) actually contained any foraminifera and these were poor, low diversity assemblages with poor preservation.

GEOLOGICAL COMMENTS

The washed residues of all the residues have been examined. Lithological comments are noted in Table 1.

A major lithological break occurs between sidewall cores 55 at 1154.7m and 56 at 1147.8m where a shale/sand sequence gives way upsection to a unit completely dominated by pelletal glauconite. Within this greensand unit lithology is very consistent with glauconite making up about 80-90% of the residues. Foraminifera were recovered from the upper portion of this greensand.

BIOSTRATIGRAPHY

Only three sidewall cores (at 1134.7m, 1128.5m and 1120.0m) yielded any foraminifera. All assemblages are of very low diversity (one or two species) and are very poorly preserved.

ZONE K (1134.7-1128.5m) LATE EOCENE-EARLIEST OLIGOCENE

Both of these samples contained Subbotina angiporioides and Subbotina linopenta indicating Zone K. The lack of other Zone K indicators means that only a low degree of confidence can be assigned to this determination.

ZONE K/J

(1120.0)

LATE EOCENE-EARLY OLIGOCENE

This sample contained S. angiporioides, Globigerina officinalis and Globorotalia postoretacea. The lack of S. linopenta plus any younger zonal indicators, however, means that only a K/J zonal assignment can be made.

TABLE 1: DATA SUMMARY, WHIPTAIL-1, GIPPSLAND BASIN

DEPTH (M)	SWC NO.	YIELD	PRESERVATION	ZONE	AGE	LITHOLOGY
1257.5	51	Barren		?	Indeterminate	fine micaceous sand with rare glauconite grains
1228.6	52	Barren		?	Indeterminate	micaceous shale with fine quartz grains
1202.5	53	Barren		?	Indeterminate	shale with fine quartz grains
1164.0	54	Barren		?	Indeterminate	fine clean quartz sand
1157.4	55	Barren		?	Indeterminate	shale, rare mica flakes
1147.8	56	Barren		?	Indeterminate	pelletal glauconite with few shaley particles
1134.7	58	V. low	V. poor	K (2)	Late Eocene/ Earliest Oligocene	pelletal glauconite with shaley fragments and fine quartz grains
1128.5	59	V. low	V. poor	K (2)	Late Eocene/ Earliest Oligocene	pelletal glauconite with few shaley fragments
1120.0	60	V. low	V. poor	K/J (5)	Late Eocene/ Early Oligocene	pelletal glauconite with few shaley fragments