

PALNOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF BORE CORE SAMPLES.

ESSO GIPPSLAND SHELF No. 1, BORE.

Cores 19 and 20 from the Gippsland Shelf No. 1. Well were macerated in hydrofluoric acid and Schulzes solution, and the residues examined.

Core 19 - 7708 to 7731 feet - A number of microspores including Lycopodiumsporites sp., Proteacidites sp. A, B and C, Triorites cf. T. edwardsi and Rugulatisporites sp. were isolated. The microflora contained no species (with the possible exception of Lycopodiumsporites sp.) characteristic of the Victorian Lower Cretaceous sediments, and is no older than Upper Cretaceous. Its precise age is difficult to determine, but would appear to be in the range Eocene - Upper Cretaceous.

This determination, if correct, means that the previous report on Cores 15 and 16 is incorrect, as an uppermost Lower Cretaceous age was given, based largely on megafossil impressions.

Suspected contaminating proteaceous pollens mentioned in this earlier report probably then form part of the microfloral assemblage present in the sediments intersected by core 15.

Core 20 - 8678 to 8693 feet - Palynological examination of this core revealed no diagnostic microfossils.

Further examination of these cores as well as core 21 is proceeding.

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