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PALYNOLOGY OF BHPP MINERVA-2A, OFFSHORE OTWAY BASIN, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

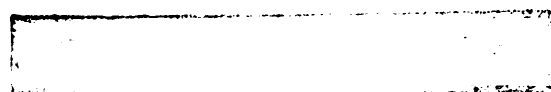
BY

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CONTENTS		PAGE
I	SUMMARY	3
II	INTRODUCTION	5
III	PALYNOSTRATIGRAPHY	6
IV	CONCLUSIONS	15
V	REFERENCES	16

FIGURE 1 : CRETACEOUS REGIONAL FRAMEWORK, OTWAY BASIN

FIGURE 2 : ZONATION USED HEREIN

FIGURE 3 : MATURITY PROFILE : MINERVA-2A

TABLE 1 : DETAILED SUGGESTED ENVIRONMENTS, RESERVOIR
SECTION OF MINERVA-2A

I SUMMARY

570-600m(cutts) : *diversus* Zone : Early Eocene : brackish to non-marine : immature

600-620m(cutts) : apparently *balmei* Zone : ? Paleocene : marginally marine :
immature

620-740m(cutts) : *balmei* Zone : Paleocene : marginally marine : immature

740-60m(cutts) : upper *longus* Zone (*druggii* dino Zone) : Maastrichtian : nearshore
marine : immature

760-840m(all cutts) : *longus* Zone (*druggii* dino Zone markers are probably caved) :
Maastrichtian marginally marine : immature

860-940m(cutts) : *lillei* Zone (900-940m *korojonense* dino Zone) : Maastrichtian-
Campanian : marginally marine : immature

960-1140m(all cutts) : upper *senectus* Zone (960-1020m upper *australis* dino Zone,
1040-1140 lower *australis* dino Zone) : Campanian : very nearshore to
marginal marine : immature

1140-1300m(all cutts) : middle *senectus* Zone (1140-1180m upper *aceras* dino Zone
1230-1300m middle to lower *aceras* Zone) : Campanian : nearshore to very
nearshore marine : immature

1340-60m(cutts) : lower *senectus* Zone (middle to lower *aceras* dino Zone) :
Campanian : nearshore marine : immature

1380(cutts)-1565.5m(swc), upper *apoxyexinus* Zone (1380-1460m upper *cretaceum*
dino Zone, 1480-1565.5m lower *cretaceum* Zone) : Santonian : nearshore
marine : immature

1589.5m(swc)-1701.0m(swc) : middle *apoxyexinus* Zone (1589.5m lower *cretaceum*
dino zone, 1620.0-1643.5m upper *porifera* dino Zone) : Santonian : nearshore
to very nearshore : immature

1717.75m(swc)-1820.5m(swc) : lower *apoxyexinus* Zone : Santonian : nearshore
marine : immature

1828.0m(swc)-1917.35(Core) : upper *mawsonii* Zone : Coniacian : marginal marine, brackish and non-marine : marginally mature for oil

1926.25m(Core)-2049.0m(swc) : lower *mawsonii* Zone : Turonian : nearshore marine below 1970m, very nearshore, brackish and non-marine above 1970m : marginally mature

2066.0m(swc)-2131.0m(swc) : *distocarيناتus* Zone : Cenomanian : nearshore to non-marine : marginally mature.

Depth	Sample	S/P Zone	Dino %	Dino diversity	Algal %	Likely Environment
1728.50	Core	lower apoxyxinus	10	7	0	nearshore marine
1733.60	Core	lower apoxyxinus	8	10	0	nearshore marine
1755.0	swc	lower apoxyxinus	26	11	0	nearshore marine
1774.0	swc	lower apoxyxinus	15	12	0	nearshore marine
1801.5	swc	lower apoxyxinus	36	17	0	nearshore approaching intermediate marine
1820.5	swc	lower apoxyxinus	24	16	0	nearshore marine
1828.0	swc	upper mawsonii	15	16	1	nearshore marine
1839.75	Core	upper mawsonii	1	1	5	slightly brackish anoxic lake
1841.00	Core	upper mawsonii	1	1	11	slightly brackish oxic lake
1843.20	Core	upper mawsonii	<1	1	20	slightly brackish oxic lake
1857.30	Core	upper mawsonii	1	2	10	slightly brackish anoxic lake
1860.30	Core	upper mawsonii	3	2	10	brackish lake (tidal influence)
1866.50	Core	upper mawsonii	5	5	2	marginal marine lagoon or estuary
1876.50	Core	upper mawsonii	2	4	2	marginal marine lagoon or estuary
1879.00	Core	upper mawsonii	7	9	1	nearshore (?tidal lagoon or estuary)
1881.00	Core	upper mawsonii	5	4	2	very nearshore anoxic (?stagnant brackish lagoon or estuarine backwater)
1900.0	swc	upper mawsonii	absent	0	0	non-marine (?levee bank or freshwater swamp)
1917.35	Core	upper mawsonii	3	5	1	brackish swamp (wood shards)
1926.25	Core	lower mawsonii	absent	0	1	non-marine (?levee bank or freshwater swamp)
1933.10	Core	lower mawsonii	3	3	0	brackish swamp (wood shards, spores)
1935.50	Core	lower mawsonii	8	8	5	nearshore marine lagoon or estuary (significant freshwater algal influence)
1939.35	Core	lower mawsonii	6	6	8	nearshore marine lagoon or estuary (significant freshwater influence)
1941.65	Core	lower mawsonii	3	11	4	nearshore marine lagoon or estuary (significant freshwater influence)
1943.00	Core	lower mawsonii	absent	0	5	non-marine (freshwater lake)
1948.00	Core	lower mawsonii	absent	0	4	non-marine (freshwater lake or swamp)
1953.00	Core	lower mawsonii	6	3	3	brackish lagoon or estuary
1955.60	Core	lower mawsonii	3	10	1	very nearshore (near normal salinity estuary)
1961.25	Core	lower mawsonii	5	10	6	very nearshore (?backbarrier tidal lagoon-note significant freshwater and saline influences)
1968.25	Core	lower mawsonii	3	7	8	very nearshore (?backbarrier tidal lagoon-note significant freshwater and saline influences)
1996.5	swc	lower mawsonii	13	13	0	nearshore marine
2012.5	swc	lower mawsonii	28	9	1	nearshore marine
2049.0	swc	lower mawsonii	9	12	0	nearshore marine
2066.0	swc	distocarinatus	16	13	0	nearshore marine
2077.0	swc	distocarinatus	11	7	0	nearshore marine
2105.0	swc	distocarinatus	9	8	0	nearshore marine
2119.0	swc	distocarinatus	absent	0	4	freshwater lake or swamp
2131.0	swc	distocarinatus	1	5	0	very nearshore (?brackish tidal lagoon)

Table 1 Detailed suggested environments, reservoir section of Minerva-2A
REF:OTW.MINERV2

II INTRODUCTION

After well completion, sixty eight samples (23 core chips, 20 swcs, 25 cuttings) were submitted for detailed study. These results are summarised herein.

Palynomorph occurrence data are shown as Appendix I and form the basis for the assignment of the samples to fourteen spore-pollen and dinoflagellate units of Early Eocene to Cenomanian age.

Specimen counts were made on all assemblages and expressed in the raw data as percentages. In the running text, percentages from cuttings are always bracketed (5%) to show that they may be inaccurate due to caving.

The Cretaceous spore-pollen zonation is essentially that of Dettmann and Playford (1969), but has been significantly modified and improved by various authors since, and most recently discussed in Helby et al (1987), as shown on Figure 1. The Late Cretaceous zonation has been modified by Morgan (1992) in project work for BHPP (Figure 2). Tertiary zones are essentially those of Partridge (1976).

Maturity data was generated in the form of Spore Colour Index, and is plotted on Figure 3 Maturity Profile of Minerva-2A. The oil and gas windows on Figure 3 follow the general consensus of geochemical literature. The oil window corresponds to spore colours of light-mid brown (Staplin Spore Colour Index of 2.7) to dark brown (3.6). These correspond to vitrinite reflectance values of 0.6% to 1.3%. Geochemists argue variations on kerogen type, basin type and basin history. The maturity interpretation is thus open to reinterpretation using the basic colour observations as raw data. However, the range of interpretation philosophies is not great, and probably would not move the oil window by more than 200 metres.

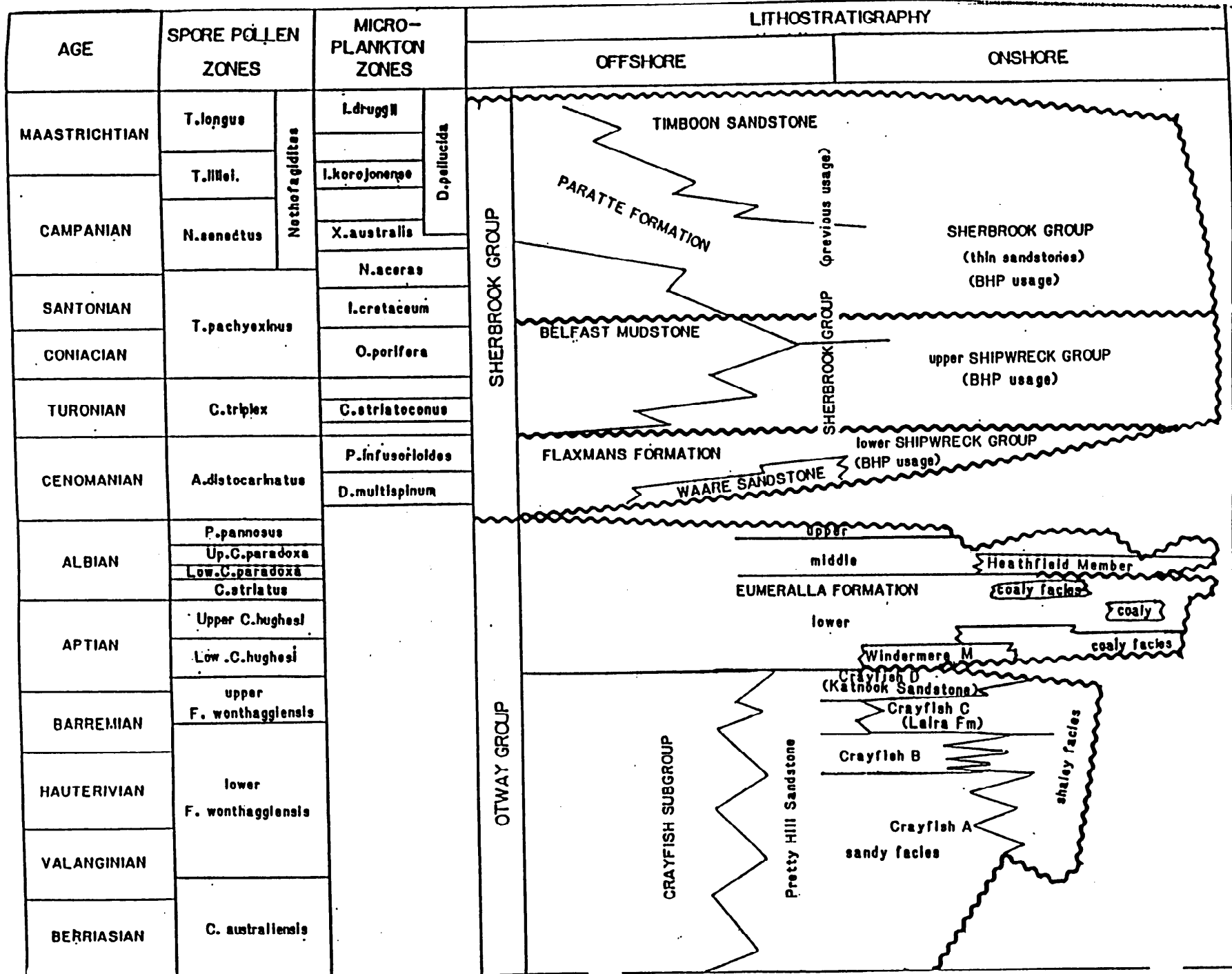


FIGURE 1. CRETACEOUS REGIONAL FRAMEWORK, OTWAY BASIN

SPORE-POLLEN ZONES	SPORE-POLLEN HORIZONS	DINOFLAGELLATE ZONES	DINOFLAGELLATE HORIZONS
LONGUS	upper T. confessus 1 T. sectilis G. rudata • 1b N. senectus • 1d	DRUGGII	M. conorata 1a M. conorata 1c M. druggii 1e I. pellucida 2
	lower T. sabulosus 2a T. longus 2b		
LILLEI	upper T. sectilis 3a	KOROJONENSE	I. korojonense 3 I. cretacea
	lower T. lillei 3b		I. korojonense 3c I. pellucida
SENECTUS	upper G. rudata 7a	upper AUSTRALIS	X. australis 4 X. ceratoides A. wisemaniae A. suggestium 4a
	middle T. sabulosus 7e	lower ACERAS	N. aceras 5 N. semireticulata X. australis • 6
	lower N. senectus 9a	upper ACERAS	N. tuberculata 7 X. australis 7b N. tuberculata 7c N. semireticulata O. obesa 7d
APOXYEXINUS	middle A. cruciformis 1% A. cruciformis 1-4% 11	middle ACERAS	T. suspectum Heterosphaeridium 10%+ 8 Heterosphaeridium 20%+ 9
	lower A. cruciformis 10%+ 12	lower ACERAS	N. aceras 9b I. belfastense 10 A. denticulata Heterosphaeridium 20%+ 10a
	lower A. cruciformis 10%+ 12a	upper CRETACEA	I. belfastense A. denticulata 11a
MAWSONII	middle A. cruciformis 11 12 A. cruciformis 10%+ 12a A. cruciformis 10%+ 12c	lower CRETACEA	I. cretacea 11b
	lower A. distocarinatus 12c	PORIFERA	O. porifera 12b
DISTOCARINATUS	consistent 13 A. distocarinatus P. mawsonii 15a	STRIATOCONUS	C. edwardsii 14
	common saccates A. cruciformis	INFUSORIOIDES	C. edwardsii • 15 C. edwardsii • 15b
			dinoflagellates

FIGURE 2 ZONATION USED HEREIN SHOWING THE NUMBERED HORIZONS AGAINST THE EXISTING FORMAL ZONATION.

• = frequent (4-10%) ● = common (11-30%)

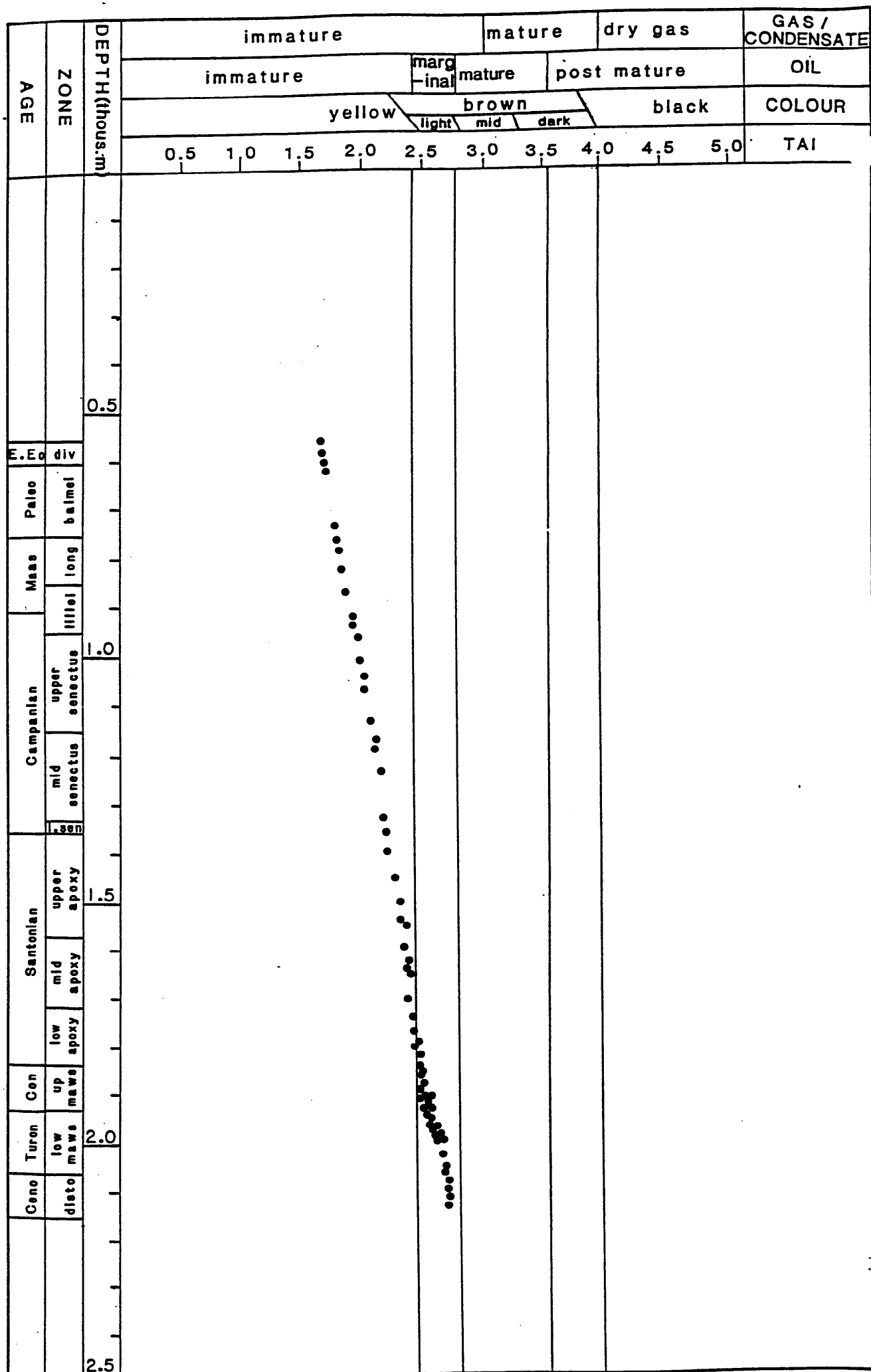


FIGURE 3 MATURITY PROFILE : MINERVA-2A

III PALYNOSTRATIGRAPHY

A 570-80m(cutts), 580-600m(cutts) : *diversus* Zone

Assignment to the middle *Malvacipollis diversus* Zone of Early Eocene age is suggested at the top by the absence of younger markers and at the base by oldest *Proteacidites kopiensis* (580m) *P. clarus* (600m) and *Triporopollenites ambiguus* (580m). The presence of *Cyathidites gigantis* at 580m may suggest the lower *diversus* Zone or older, but its range is not well documented in the Otway Basin. In these cuttings, the middle *diversus* markers may be caved, so a general *diversus* assignment only is made. Common species are *Proteacidites* and *Dilwynites granulatus* with frequent *Lygistepollenites florinii*, *Haloragacidites harrisii*, *Falcisporites* and *Cyathidites*.

Amongst the very rare dinoflagellates, *Deflandrea medcalfii* is consistent with the Early Eocene age.

Marginally marine (580m) to non-marine (600m) environments are indicated by the dominant and diverse spore-pollen, abundant cuticle, and rare dinoflagellates (1% and absent downhole). Common freshwater algae (26% and 39% downhole) indicate lake environments, although brackish at 580m.

Colourless spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

B 600-620m(cutts) : apparently *balmei* Zone

This assemblage appears to belong to the *Lygistepollenites balmei* Zone on youngest *L. balmei* without older markers. However, only one good specimen was seen and the other key marker *Gambierina rudata* was not seen. It is therefore possible that this sample might belong to the *diversus* Zone with minor reworking of *L. balmei*. Taxa normally restricted to the *diversus* and younger zones include *C. orthoteichus*, *Intratriporopollenites notabilis*, *Proteacidites clarus*, *P. ornatus* and *Spinozonocolpites prominatus*, but these could all be caved slightly in these cuttings. *Proteacidites* spp are common, with *Dilwynites* and *Falcisporites* very frequent and *H. harrisii*, *Cyathidites* and *Gleicheniidites* frequent.

Amongst the very rare dinoflagellates, youngest *Deflandrea speciosus* supports the *balmei* assignment and rare *Apectodinium* spp and *Wetzeliella articulata* suggest the very youngest part of it, but could be caved.

Brackish lake environments are favoured by the high freshwater algal content (12%) with low content (4%) and diversity of dinoflagellates. Spores and pollen are dominant and diverse. Considering the high *Botryococcus* contents above, part of their presence in this sample may be caved.

Colourless spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

C 620-40m, 720-40m(cutts) : *balmei* Zone

The presence of consistent *L. balmei* and *G. rudata* without older markers, indicates the *L. balmei* Zone. *Falcisporites* and *Proteacidites* are common with *Dilwynites*, *Cyathidites* and *Microcachrydites* frequent.

The dinoflagellate *Deflandrea speciosa* confirms the Paleocene assignment. A single *Homotriblium tasmaniense* is caved from upper *diversus* to *asperopolus* zones unsampled at the top of the section.

Marginally marine environments are indicated by the low dinoflagellate content (1% and 6%) and their low diversity. *Botryococcus* content is significant (7% and 4%) but could be partly caved.

Colourless spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

D 740-60m(cutts) : upper *longus* Zone

Assignment to the upper *Tricolpites longus* Zone of late Maastrichtian age is indicated at the top by youngest *T. longus* supported by youngest *Grapnelispora evansii*, *Tricolpites confessus*, *Tricolporites lillei* and *Triporopollenites sectilis*. At the base, oldest *Stereisporites punctatus* and low *Nothofagidites* content is diagnostic. *Proteacidites* and *Falcisporites* are common with *Cyathidites* and *Dilwynites* very frequent.

Amongst the scarce dinoflagellates (6%), *Manumiella coronata* and *M. druggii* indicate the *druggii* dinoflagellate Zone, correlative with the upper *longus* Spore-Pollen Zone. *M. coronata* and *Spiniferites* are the most frequent

dinoflagellates. *Deflandrea speciosa*, *D. striata* and *D. pachyceros* are all rare and considered caved.

Nearshore marine environments are indicated by the low dinoflagellate content (6%) and their low diversity. *Botryococcus* is frequent (9%) suggesting significant freshwater influence, but could be caved.

Yellow spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

E 760-80m, 820-40m(cutts) : *longus* Zone

Assignment to the lower *T. longus* Zone of Maastrichtian age is indicated at the top by the absence of younger markers and a downhole influx of *Nothofagidites* and at the base by oldest *T. longus* (although this could be caved slightly). Common taxa are *Proteacidites* and *Falcisporites* with *Phyllocladidites mawsonii* very frequent. *Nothofagidites* (3%) outnumber *G. rudata* (1 and 2%). Minor Permian reworking was seen. The presence of *M. coronata* suggests the *druggii* dino Zone but these are considered caved.

Environments are probably marginally marine although the dinoflagellate content (11% and 8% downhole) suggests nearshore environments. This content is discounted here as it is probably caved. The correlable section in Minerva-1 contains 6% and 0% dinoflagellates.

Yellow spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

F 860-880m, 900-920m, 920-940m(cutts) : *lillei* Zone

Assignment to the *Tricolporites lillei* Zone of Campanian age is indicated at the top by the absence of younger markers and at the base by oldest *T. lillei* (920m) and *T. sectilis* (940m) without older dinoflagellate markers. *Proteacidites* are common and *Cyathidites*, *Falcisporites* and *Podosporites microsaccatus* are frequent. *Tricolporites apoxyxinus* and *T. confessus* are rare elements. Rare Cretaceous and Permian reworking were seen, and the Cretaceous taxa notably include *Dingodinium cerviculum* at 920m (suggesting that marine Aptian is present in this part of the basin).

Dinoflagellates are rare and some are clearly caved. Present and probably in place is *Isabelidinium korojonense* at 920m and 940m indicating the *korojonense* Dinoflagellate Zone, correlative with the *lillei* Spore-Pollen Zone.

Environments are marginally marine with rare dinoflagellates (3%, 2%, <1%) of low diversity, some of which are clearly caved (*M. coronata*).

Botryococcus is common (4%, 13%, 3%) suggesting a brackish lake.

Yellow spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

G 960-80m, 1000-1020m, 1040-60m, 1080-1100m, 1120-40m(all cutts) : upper *senectus* Zone

Assignment to the upper *Nothofagidites senectus* Zone of Campanian age is indicated at the top by the absence of younger markers confirmed by the dinoflagellates and at the base by oldest *G. rudata* (although this could be caved slightly). Common are *Falcisporites* and *Proteacidites* with frequent forms *Cyathidites*, *Gleicheniidites*, *Dilwynites* and *Microcachrydites*. *Tricolpites sabulosus* has a distinctive acme at 1100m (5%) and 1140m (3%). *T. confessus* was not seen below 1060m. Rare Permian and Triassic reworking was seen.

Amongst the dinoflagellates, youngest *Xenascus australense* (980m) and *Xenikoon australis* (1020m) without older markers indicate the upper *australis* Dinoflagellate Zone, correlative with the upper *senectus* Spore-Pollen Zone. Beneath this, youngest *Nelsoniella semireticulata* at 1060m (also present at 1100m), the presence of frequent to common *Xenikoon australis*, and the absence of older markers indicate the lower *X. australis* Zone, correlative with the upper *senectus* Spore-Pollen Zone. *X. australis* is the only common form, all other being rare. *Nelsoniella aceras* is a rare component of all assemblages.

Environments are very nearshore to marginal marine, as shown by the low dinoflagellate content (2%, 2%, 16%, 10%, 7% downhole). Spores and pollen are dominant and diverse.

Yellow spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

H 1140-60m, 1160-80m, 1220-40m, 1280-1300m(all cutts) : mid *senectus* Zone

Assignment to the mid *N. senectus* Zone of Campanian age is indicated at the top by the absence of younger markers and at the base by oldest *T. sabulosus* (although this could be caved slightly). Common taxa are *Dilwynites*, *Falcisporites* and *Proteacidites* with *Cyathidites* and *Microcachrydites* frequent. *Nothofagidites* are rare (1-2%) and *T. sabulosus* is very rare but consistent.

Amongst the dinoflagellates, *Nelsoniella tuberculata* at 1160m and 1180m indicates the upper *Nelsoniella aceras* Dinoflagellate Zone, while the rare presence of *N. aceras* to the base suggests the middle to lower *aceras* Dinoflagellate Zone. *X. australis* occurs to the interval base but is considered caved below 1180m. *Heterosphaeridium heteracanthum*, *Spiniferites* and caved *X. australis* are the most frequent of the rare dinoflagellates.

Nearshore to very nearshore marine environments are indicated by the low dinoflagellate content (12%, 5%, 8%, 9% downhole) with low to moderate diversity. Spores and pollen are abundant and diverse.

Yellow spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

I 1340-60m(cutts) : lower *senectus* Zone

Assignment to the lower *N. senectus* Zone of Campanian age is indicated at the top by the absence of younger markers and at the base by oldest *N. senectus* (which could be caved slightly in these cuttings) and the absence of older markers. *Dilwynites* and *Falcisporites* are common with *Proteacidites* and *Cyathidites* frequent. Minor Permian and early Cretaceous reworking was seen.

Amongst the dinoflagellates, *N. aceras* and *Odontochitina obesa* suggest the middle to lower *aceras* Zone, but these elements could be caved in these cuttings. *H. heteracanthum* is frequent (4%) with all other dinoflagellates rare, including *Odontochitina porifera*, *Gillinia hymenophora* and *Areosphaeridium suggestium*.

Environments appear to be nearshore with low dinoflagellate content (10%) but moderate diversity. Spores and pollen are abundant and diverse.

Yellow spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

J 1380-1400m, 1440-60m, 1480-1500m, 1535-38m(all cutts), 1565.5m(swc) : upper *apoxyexinus* Zone

Assignment to the upper *Tricolporites apoxyexinus* Zone of Santonian age is indicated at the top by the absence of younger markers and confirmed by the dinoflagellates, and at the base by very rare *Amospollis cruciformis* and frequent *Proteacidites* without older markers. Within the interval, *Dilwynites* and *Falcisporites* are common, with *Microcachrydites*, *Podosporites* and *Proteacidites* frequent. Rare Permian reworking was seen.

Amongst the dinoflagellates, the presence of *Isabelidium belfastense* (1400m and 1460m) and youngest *Chatangiella victoriensis* (1400m) indicate the upper *Isabelidium cretaceum* Dinoflagellate Zone, but could be caved at the base. Beneath this, oldest *I. cretaceum* down to 1565.5m(swc) without younger markers, indicates the lower *I. cretaceum* Dinoflagellate Zone. *Heterosphaeridium* and *Odontochitina* spp are the most common taxa. *Trithyrodinium glabra* occurs at 1400m, 1460m and 1500m but could be caved at the base range.

Nearshore marine environments are indicated by the low dinoflagellate content (12%, 30%, 30%, 22%, 13% downhole) and moderate dinoflagellate diversity. Spores and pollen are dominant and diverse in generally inertinite dominated assemblages.

Yellow spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

K 1589.5m, 1620.0m, 1643.5m, 1664.0m, 1701.0m(all swcs) : middle *apoxyexinus* Zone

Assignment to the middle *T. apoxyexinus* Zone of Santonian age is indicated at the top by the downhole influx of *A. cruciformis* (from <1% above to 2-9% in the interval) and at the base by the absence of older markers. Within the interval, *Falcisporites* are common with *Cyathidites*, *Microcachrydites* and *Dilwynites* frequent. *A. cruciformis* is mostly around 5%. Minor Permian reworking is seen.

Amongst the dinoflagellates, oldest *I. cretaceum* at 1589.5m indicates the lower *cretaceum* Dinoflagellate Zone. At 1620.0m and 1643.5m, consistent *Isabelidinium rectangulare* occurs, indicating the upper *Odontochitina porifera* Dinoflagellate Zone. Beneath that, dinoflagellates do not clearly indicate workable dinoflagellate zones. *Conosphaeridium striatoconus* and *Isabelidinium balmei* occur at 1701.0m(swc). *H. heteracanthum* is very frequent with *Spiniferites* frequent. Other taxa are rare. *C. deflandrei* is consistent from 1565.5m and below. Oldest *O. porifera* is at 1643.5m.

Nearshore to very nearshore marine environments are indicated by low dinoflagellate content (16%, 20%, 14%, 9%, 23% downhole) and their low to intermediate diversity. Spores and pollen are dominant and diverse in inertinite dominated assemblages.

Yellow spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

- L 1717.75m(swc), 1728.5m(Core), 1733.60m(Core), 1755.0m(swc),
1774.0m(swc), 1801.5m(swc), 1820.5m(swc) : lower *apoxyexinus* Zone

Assignment to the lower *T. apoxyexinus* Zone of Santonian age is indicated at top and base by the common presence of *A. cruciformis* (10% plus). Within the interval, *Falcisporites* are consistently common to very common, with *Cyathidites* frequent to common. *Dilwynites* are rare at the top (1, 2% at 1717.5m and 1755.0m) but frequent to common (8-31%) beneath. *A. cruciformis* is also frequent to common, mostly around 10%. Minor Permian reworking is seen.

Amongst the dinoflagellates, zone diagnostic taxa were not seen. Potentially useful are *I. balmei* (consistent down to 1755.0m) *Apteodinium granulatum* (top at 1733.60m), *Aptea* sp (top at 1801.5m) and *Chlamydothorea nyelambigua* (top at 1820.5m). *H. heteracanthum* and *Spiniferites* are the most frequent forms. A single *Cribopteridinium edwardsii* occurs at 1820.5 but is considered reworked.

Nearshore marine environments are indicated by the low dinoflagellate content (30%, 10%, 8%, 26%, 15%, 36%, 24% downhole) and their moderate to high diversity. Spores and pollen are abundant and diverse in inertinite dominated microfloras.

Yellow to light brown spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

M 1828.0m(swc), 1839.75m(Core), 1841.00m(Core), 1843.00m(Core), 1857.30m(Core), 1860.30m(Core), 1866.50m(Core), 1876.50m(Core), 1879.00m(Core), 1881.00m(Core), 1900.0m(swc), 1917.35m(Core) : upper *mawsonii* Zone

Assignment to the upper *Phyllocladites mawsonii* Zone of Coniacian age is indicated at the top by youngest *Appendicisporites distocarinatus* coincident with the downhole decrease of *A. cruciformis* (from 10% plus above, to near 5% within the unit), and at the base by the downhole decrease of *A. cruciformis* (from 5% within the unit to 1% or less beneath). Within the zone, *Dilwynites* and *Falcisporites* are common with *Cyathidites* and *Microcachrydites* very frequent, and *A. cruciformis* frequent (around 5%). *A. distocarinatus* and *P. mawsonii* are consistent but rare. Rare Permian and very rare Triassic reworking were seen. Dinoflagellates are scarce to very scarce and are not zone diagnostic. *Heterosphaeridium* and *Botryococcus* are the most frequent microplankton.

Environments are variable within the range of marginal marine, brackish, and non-marine, as shown by microplankton content of low to absent (15%, 1%, 1%, <1%, 1%, 3%, 5%, 2%, 7%, 5%, absent, 3%) and low to very low diversity. The single exception is the topmost sample (15% dinoflagellates of moderate diversity) which is considered nearshore marine. More detailed environments are suggested in table 1 which also tabulates the dinoflagellate diversity and the freshwater algal content. Dinoflagellate diversity is higher towards the base (1866.50-1881.0m) suggesting more marine influence, while freshwater algae are more common towards the top (1839.75-1860.30m) suggesting lakes and brackish lakes. Cuticle fragments are abundant throughout. Some anoxic environments are suggested by common amorphous organic matter (AOM). The detailed environments are suggestions only, based on the palynological data and should be evaluated in concert with the sedimentological data.

Light brown spore colours indicate marginal maturity for oil, but immaturity for gas/condensate.

- N** 1926.25m(Core), 1933.10m(Core), 1935.50m(Core), 1939.35m(Core), 1941.65m(Core), 1943.00m(Core), 1948.00m(Core), 1953.00m(Core), 1955.60m(Core), 1961.25m(Core), 1968.25m(Core), 1996.5m(swc), 2012.5m(swc), 2049.0m(swc) : lower *mawsonii* Zone

Assignment to the lower *P. mawsonii* Zone of Turonian age is indicated at the top by the downhole decrease of *A. cruciformis* (5% to <1%), and at the base on oldest *P. mawsonii*. Within the interval, *Cyathidites*, *Dilwynites* and *Falcisporites* are common to very common, with *Podosporites* and *Microcachrydites* frequent. *A. distocarinus* and *P. mawsonii* are consistent but rare. Rare Permian and very rare Triassic reworking are seen.

Dinoflagellates are very rare to absent above 1970m and frequent to common beneath but largely lack zone diagnostic taxa. In the basal sample (2049.0m) rare *Cribopteridinium edwardsii* occurs, indicating the *Palaeohystrichophora infusorioides* Dinoflagellate Zone. *Heterosphaeridium* and *Botryococcus* are the most frequent microplankton.

Environments are variable but fall into two fairly distinct groups. The upper part of the section (above 1970m) is very nearshore, brackish and non-marine, as shown by low dinoflagellate contents (absent, 3%, 8%, 6%, 3%, absent, absent, 6%, 3%, 5%, 3%), low dinoflagellate diversity, and significant freshwater algae (*Botryococcus*) and high cuticle content. Some anoxic environments are indicated by significant to abundant amorphous organic matter (AOM). More detailed environments are suggested in table 1 but these are only suggestions, made in ignorance of the sedimentological data. The lower part of the section (below 1970m) is nearshore marine as shown by higher dinoflagellate content (13%, 28%, 9% downhole) and diversity. Spores and pollen are common and diverse throughout.

Light brown spore colours indicate marginal maturity for oil but immaturity for gas/condensate.

- O** 2066.0m(swc), 2077.0m(swc), 2105.0m(swc), 2119.0m(swc), 2131.0m(swc) : *distocarinus* Zone

Assignment to the *A. distocarinus* Zone of Cenomanian age is indicated at the top and base by *A. distocarinus* without younger and older markers. Within the interval, *Falcisporites* are very common with *Dilwynites*,

Cyathidites and *Microcachryidites* common to frequent. *Clavifera triplex* occurs down to 2066m but not beneath. *Phyllocladidites ennuchus* occurs rarely to the interval base.

Amongst the rare dinoflagellates, *C. edwardsii* occurs down to 2105m indicating the *infusorioides* Dinoflagellate Zone. *Heterosphaeridium* and *Spiniferites* are the most frequent taxa.

Environments range from nearshore marine to non-marine with low dinoflagellate content (16%, 11%, 9%, absent, 1% downhole) and low diversity. High freshwater algal content at 2119.0m (4%) suggests a freshwater lake or swamp. Detailed environments are suggested in table 1. Spores and pollen are common and diverse in all samples.

Light brown spore colors indicate marginal maturity for oil, and immaturity for gas/condensate.

IV CONCLUSIONS

At the top, the sampled section is Tertiary (Paleocene to Early Eocene) in very nearshore marine and marginally marine environments. Conformably beneath, almost all of the late Cretaceous is seen from Cenomanian to Maastrichtian although the late Campanian *lillei* Zone is condensed. At the base, the reservoir section is mostly very nearshore to non-marine (Cenomanian *distocarinatus* to Coniacian *mawsonii* Zone). Above this, claystone dominated facies in mostly nearshore to marginal marine environments (Santonian *apoxyexinus* to Maastrichtian *longus* zones).

V

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MINERVA #2A

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C L I E N T: BHPP

W E L L: MINERVA #2A

F I E L D / A R E A: OFFSHORE OTWAY BASIN, VICTORIA

A N A L Y S T S: Roger Morgan / Nigel Hooker D A T E: Feb. '94

N O T E S: all depths are in metres

all figures are percentages based on 100 specimen count

"X" represents RARE presence outside the count

in uncounted samples: "A" = abundant "C" = common

"F" = few "R" = rare

RANGE CHART OF OCCURRENCES BY % & HIGHEST APPEARANCE:grouped

	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190		
0570-80 CUTTS																																								
0580-00 CUTTS																																								
0600-20 CUTTS	1	1	1	1	1																																			
0620-40 CUTTS		1	4	1	1																																			
0720-40 CUTTS		1	1	1	1																																			
0740-60 CUTTS		1	1	1	1																																			
0760-80 CUTTS		1	1	3	3																																			
0820-40 CUTTS		1	3	3	3																																			
0860-80 CUTTS		1	4	2	1																																			
0900-20 CUTTS		X	2	1	1																																			
0920-40 CUTTS		7	7	3	3																																			
0960-80 CUTTS		2	8																																					
1000-20 CUTTS																																								
1040-60 CUTTS				1	2																																			
1080-00 CUTTS				X	2																																			
1120-40 CUTTS				1	1																																			
1140-60 CUTTS		1																																						
1160-80 CUTTS		1	2																																					
1220-40 CUTTS		1			X																																			
1280-00 CUTTS		1			X																																			
1340-60 CUTTS				2	2																																			
1380-00 CUTTS					X																																			
1440-60 CUTTS					X																																			
1480-00 CUTTS				X	X																																			
1535-38 CUTTS					1	2																																		
1565.5 SWC				X	X																																			
1589.5 SWC				5	5																																			
1620.0 SWC				5	9																																			
1643.5 SWC				9	2																																			
1664.0 SWC				2	5																																			
1701.0 SWC				5	10																																			
1717.75 SWC				10	7																																			
1728.50 CORE1				1	9																																			
1733.60 CORE1				1	10																																			
1755.0 SWC					12																																			
1774.0 SWC				6	2																																			
1801.5 SWC				2	2																																			
1820.5 SWC				11	1																																			
1828.0 SWC				8	8																																			
1839.75 CORE2					14																																			
1841.0 CORE2				3	7																																			
1843.20 CORE2				3	7																																			
1857.3 CORE3				5	9																																			
1860.3 CORE3				3	3																																			
1866.05 CORE3				4	7																																			
1876.5 CORE3				1	10																																			
1879.0 CORE3				1	13																																			
1881.0 CORE3				4	10																																			
1900.0 SWC				X	14																																			
1917.35 CORE4				6	5																																			
1926.25 CORE4					18																																			
1933.1 CORE4					8																																			
1935.50 CORE4					7																																			
1939.35 CORE4					5																																			

Year	Sample ID	Species	Count	Notes
191	0570-80	CUTTS	1	
191	0580-00	CUTTS	1	
192	0600-20	CUTTS	1	
193	0620-40	CUTTS	1	
193	0720-40	CUTTS	1	
194	0740-60	CUTTS	1	
194	0760-80	CUTTS	1	
195	0820-40	CUTTS	1	
195	0860-80	CUTTS	4	
196	0900-20	CUTTS	1	
196	0920-40	CUTTS	X	
197	0960-80	CUTTS	1	
198	1000-20	CUTTS	2	
198	1040-60	CUTTS	1	
199	1080-00	CUTTS	3	
200	1120-40	CUTTS	1	
200	1140-60	CUTTS	1	
200	1160-80	CUTTS	1	
200	1220-40	CUTTS	2	
200	1280-00	CUTTS	X	
200	1340-60	CUTTS	1	
200	1380-00	CUTTS	2	
200	1440-60	CUTTS	1	
200	1480-00	CUTTS	1	
200	1535-38	CUTTS	1	
200	1565.5	SWC		
200	1589.5	SWC	1	
200	1620.0	SWC		
200	1643.5	SWC	X	
200	1664.0	SWC	1	
200	1701.0	SWC		
200	1717.75	SWC		
200	1728.50	CORE1	1	
200	1733.60	CORE1		
200	1755.0	SWC		
200	1774.0	SWC	1	
200	1801.5	SWC	X	
200	1820.5	SWC	2	
200	1828.0	SWC	2	
200	1839.75	CORE2		
200	1841.0	CORE2	3	
200	1843.20	CORE2	1	
200	1857.3	CORE3	1	
200	1860.3	CORE3		
200	1866.05	CORE3	1	
200	1876.5	CORE3	2	
200	1879.0	CORE3		
200	1881.0	CORE3	1	
200	1900.0	SWC	2	
200	1917.35	CORE4	1	
200	1926.25	CORE4	1	
200	1933.1	CORE4	X	
200	1935.50	CORE4	1	
200	1939.35	CORE4	1	
200	1941.65	CORE4	1	
200	1943.0	CORE5		
200	1948.0	CORE5	1	
200	1953.0	CORE5	1	
200	1955.60	CORE5	1	
200	1961.25	CORE5	1	
200	1968.25	CORE5	1	
200	1996.5	SWC	1	
200	2012.5	SWC	X	
200	2049.0	SWC	1	
200	2066.0	SWC	1	
200	2077.0	SWC	1	
200	2105.0	SWC	X	
200	2119.0	SWC	1	
200	2131.0	SWC		

- PEROTRILETES JUBATUS/MORGANI I
- TRICOLPITES GILLI I
- VITTEISPORITES PALLIDUS
- ISCHYOSPORITES PUNCTATUS
- TRICOLPITES APOXYKINUS
- CICATRICOSPORITES AUSTRALIENSIS
- CICATRICOSPORITES LUDBROOKIAE
- TRICOLPITES SABULOSUS
- KLUKISPORITES SCABERIS
- PHYLLACLADITES VERRUCOSUS
- CALLIALASPORITES TURBATUS
- CRYBELOSPORITES STRIATUS
- LEPTOLEPIDITES MAJOR
- PROTENCIDITES LARGE
- TETRACOLPORITES RETICULATA
- MUROSPORA FLORIDA
- AEQUITRIRADITES VERRUCOSUS
- ORNAMENTIFERA MINIMA
- CHIEROZOSPORITES HORRENDUS
- LYCOPODIACIDITES ASPERATUS
- COPTOSPORA PILEOSA
- LEPTOLEPIDITES VERRUCATUS
- PHIOPOLLENITES PANNOSUS
- PILOSISPORITES NOTENSIS
- RETTIRILETES MODOSUS
- CALLINLASPORITES DAMPIERI
- TRIPOROLETES SIMPLEX
- DENSOISPORITES VELATUS
- PERINOPALLENITES ELATOIDES
- PEROTRILETES MAJUS
- CYCLOSOPORTES HUGHESI
- BALHEISPORITES HOLODICTYUS
- RETTIRILETES CIRCULUMENUS
- FORMINISPOPIS DAILYI
- CYATHEACIDITES TECTIFERA
- RETTIRILETES EMINULUS
- APPENDICISPORITES DISTOCARINATUS
- DILHYMITES TUBERCULATUS

Index numbers are the columns in which species appear.

INDEX NUMBER	SPECIES
172	AEQUITRIRADITES SPINULOSUS
207	AEQUITRIRADITES VERRUCOSUS
24	ALISOCYSTA CIRCUMTABULATA
30	ALISOCYSTA MARGARITA
100	ALTERBIA ACUMINATUM
160	AMOSOPOLLIS CRUCIFORMIS
86	AMPHIDIADEMA DENTICULATA
12	APECTODINIUM HOMOMORPHA (SH. SP)
227	APPENDICISPORITES DISTOCARINATUS
233	APPENDICISPORITES TRICORNITATUS
40	APTEA SP
96	APTEODINIUM GRANULATUM
111	ARAUCARIACITES AUSTRALIS
13	AREOLIGERA SENONENSIS
63	AREOSPHAERIDIUM SUGGESTIUM
151	AUSTRALOPOLLIS OBSCURUS
222	BALMEISPORITES HOLODICTYUS
5	BOTRYOCOCCUS
74	BOURKIDINIUM GRANULATUM
69	CALLAOISPHAERIDIUM ASYMMETRICUM
216	CALLIALASPORITES DAMPIERI
201	CALLIALASPORITES TURBATUS
152	CAMEROZONOSPORITES BULLATUS
209	CAMEROZONOSPORITES HORRENDUS
161	CAMEROZONOSPORITES OHAIENSIS
234	CAMEROZONOSPORITES SOLIDA
109	CANNINGIA SPINY
37	CANNINGINOPSIS BRETONICA
79	CASSICULOSPHAERIDIA RETICMAGNA
162	CERATOSPORITES EQUALIS
107	CHATANGIELLA MICROCANThA
41	CHATANGIELLA TRIPARTITA
70	CHATANGIELLA VICTORIENSIS
101	CHLAMYDOPHORELLA NYEI/AMBIGUA
196	CICATRICOSISPORITES AUSTRALIENSIS
163	CICATRICOSISPORITES FOVEOAUSTRALIENSIS
197	CICATRICOSISPORITES LUDBROOKIAE
186	CINGUTRILETES CLAVUS
83	CIRCULODINIUM DEFLANDREI
95	CIRCULODINIUM SOLIDA
112	CLAVIFERA TRIPLEX
110	CLEISTOSPHAERIDIUM
93	CONOSPHAERIDIUM STRIATOCONUS
104	CONOSPHAERIDIUM TUBULOSUM
174	CONTIGNISPORITES COOKSONIAE
237	COPTOSPORA PARADOXA
211	COPTOSPORA PILEOSA
25	CORDOSPHAERIDIUM INODES
183	COROLLINA TOROSUS
102	CRIBROPERIDINIUM EDWARDSII
35	CRIBROPERIDINIUM SP
202	CRYBELOSPORES STRIATUS
145	CUPANIEIDITES ORTHOTEICHUS
225	CYATHEACIDITES TECTIFERA
184	CYATHIDITES AUSTRALIS
113	CYATHIDITES GIGANTIS
164	CYATHIDITES MINOR
165	CYATHIDITES SPLENDENS
114	CYATHIDITES SPP
187	CYCADOPITES FOLLICULARIS
106	CYCLONEPHELIUM COMPACTUM
221	CYCLOSPORITES HUGHESI
97	CYMOSSOPHAERIDIUM MAGNIFICA
98	DAPSILIDINIUM SP
9	DEFLANDREA MEDCALFII
14	DEFLANDREA OBLIQUIPES (L.H.)
26	DEFLANDREA PACHYCEROS (SH. H)
15	DEFLANDREA SPECIOSUS
27	DEFLANDREA STRIATA
218	DENSOISPORITES VELATUS
240	DICTYOPHYLLIDITES
244	DICTYOTOSPORITES SPECIOSUS
115	DILWYNITES GRANULATUS
228	DILWYNITES TUBERCULATUS
80	DINOGYMNIUM ACUMINATUM
38	EISENACKIA CRASSITABULATA
116	ERICIPITES SCABRATUS
55	EUCLADINIUM MADURENSE
31	EXOCHOSPHAERIDIUM PHRAGMITES

31 EXOCHOSPHAERIDIUM PHRAGMITES
166 FALCISPORITES GRANDIS
117 FALCISPORITES SIMILIS
99 FLORENTINIA DEANEI
245 FORAMINISPORIS ASYMMETRICUS
224 FORAMINISPORIS DAILYI
231 FORAMINISPORIS WONTHAGGIENSIS
167 FOVEOGLEICHENIDITES
118 FOVEOTRILETES CRATER
175 GAMBIERINA EDWARDSII
168 GAMBIERINA RUDATA
188 GAMBIERINA RUDATA (TWISTED)
119 GEPHRAPOLLENITES WAHOENSIS
59 GILLINIA HYMENOPHORA
20 GLAPHYROCYSTA RETIINTEXTA
169 GLEICHENIIDITES
146 GLEICHENIIDITES CIRCINIDITES
176 GRAPNELISPORA EVANSII
21 HAFNIASPHAERA SEPTATA
22 HAFNIASPHAERA SP
120 HALORAGACIDITES HARRISII
177 HERKOSPORITES ELLIOTTII
58 HETEROSPHAERIDIUM CF LATEROBRACHIUS
32 HETEROSPHAERIDIUM CONJUNCTUM
42 HETEROSPHAERIDIUM HETEROCANTHUM
241 HOEGISPORIS
19 HOMOTRIBLIUM TASMANIENSE
75 HYSTRICHODINIUM PULCHRUM
16 HYSTRICHOSPHAERIDIUM TUBIFERUM
153 INTRATRIPOROPOLLENITES NOTABILIS
91 ISABELIDINIUM BALMEI
76 ISABELIDINIUM BELFASTENSE
71 ISABELIDINIUM BELFASTENSE ROTUNDATA
84 ISABELIDINIUM CF BELFASTENSE
85 ISABELIDINIUM COOKSONIAE
60 ISABELIDINIUM CRETACEUM
105 ISABELIDINIUM GLABRUM
39 ISABELIDINIUM KOROJONENSE
36 ISABELIDINIUM PELLUCIDA
87 ISABELIDINIUM RECTANGULARE CONTRACTUM
89 ISABELIDINIUM RECTANGULARE DIVERSUM
90 ISABELIDINIUM RECTANGULARIS
108 ISABELIDINIUM SP
194 ISCHYOSPORITES PUNCTATUS
33 KIOKANSIUM POLYPES
199 KLUKISPORITES SCABERIS
238 KUYLISPORITES ZIPPERI
121 LAEVIATOSPORITES OVATUS
230 LAEVIATOSPORITES SPP
122 LAEVIATOSPORITES USMENSIS
203 LEPTOLEPIDITES MAJOR
212 LEPTOLEPIDITES VERRUCATUS
210 LYCOPODIACIDITES ASPERATUS
154 LYGISTIPOLLENITES BALMEI
123 LYGISTIPOLLENITES FLORINII
56 MADURADINIUM PENTAGONUM
124 MALVACIPOLLIS DIVERSUS
125 MALVACIPOLLIS SUBTILIS
28 MANUMIELLA CORONATA
29 MANUMIELLA DRUGGII
17 MICRHYSTRIDIUM SP
126 MICROCACHRYIDITES ANTARCTICUS
1 MICROPLANKTON ?
206 MUROSPORA FLORIDA
127 MYRTACEIDITES PARVUS/MESONESUS
47 NELSONIELLA ACERAS
64 NELSONIELLA CF ACERAS (PSILATE)
48 NELSONIELLA SEMIRECTICULATA
49 NELSONIELLA SP
53 NELSONIELLA TUBERCULATA
128 NOTHOFAGUS BRACHYSPINULOSUS
129 NOTHOFAGUS EMARCIDUS/HETERUS
155 NOTHOFAGUS ENDURUS
130 NOTHOFAGUS FLEMINGII
173 NOTHOFAGUS SENECTUS
7 NUMMUS
8 NUMMUS MONOCULATUS
81 ODONTOCHITINA COSTATA
65 ODONTOCHITINA CRIBROPODA
77 ODONTOCHITINA NO HORNS
66 ODONTOCHITINA OBESA
57 ODONTOCHITINA OPERCULATA
50 ODONTOCHITINA PORIFERA
51 ODONTOCHITINA STUBBY

51 ODONTOCHITINA STUBBY
78 OLIGOSPHAERIDIUM COMPLEX
43 OLIGOSPHAERIDIUM PULCHERRIMUM
208 ORNAMENTIFERA MINIMA
189 ORNAMENTIFERA SENTOSA
190 OSMUNDACIDITES WELLMANII
54 PALAEOHYSTRICHOSPHORA INFUSORIOIDES
103 PALAEOPERIDIUM CRETACEUM
6 PARALECANIELLA INDENTATA
219 PERINOPOLLENITES ELATOIDES
131 PERIPOROPOLLENITES POLYORATUS
132 PERIPOROPOLLENITES VESICUS
191 PEROTRILETES JUBATUS/MORGANII
220 PEROTRILETES MAJUS
213 PHIMOPOLLENITES PANNOSUS
243 PHYLLOCLADIDITES CF MAWSONII
236 PHYLLOCLADIDITES EUNUCHUS
133 PHYLLOCLADIDITES MAWSONII
200 PHYLLOCLADIDITES VERRUCOSUS
214 PILOSISPORITES NOTENSIS
134 PODOSPORITES MICROSACCATUS
135 PROTEACIDITES
156 PROTEACIDITES ANNULARIS
147 PROTEACIDITES CLARUS
136 PROTEACIDITES GRANDIS
178 PROTEACIDITES HAPUKUI
137 PROTEACIDITES INCURVATUS
138 PROTEACIDITES KOPIENSIS
204 PROTEACIDITES LARGE
148 PROTEACIDITES LEIGHTONII
157 PROTEACIDITES ORNATUS
185 PROTEACIDITES PALISADUS
149 PROTEACIDITES SCABORATUS
61 PTEROSPERMELLA AUREOLATA
67 PTEROSPERMELLA AUSTRALIENSIS
150 RETITRILETES AUSTROCLAVATIDITES
223 RETITRILETES CIRCOLUMENUS
226 RETITRILETES EMINULUS
235 RETITRILETES FACETUS
215 RETITRILETES NODOSUS
3 REWORKING: CRETACEOUS
2 REWORKING: PERMIAN
4 REWORKING: TRIASSIC
239 SENECTOTETRADITES FISTULOSUS
232 SESTROSPORITES PSEUDOALVEOLATUS
10 SPINIDIUM SP
11 SPINIFERITES FURCATUS/RAMOSUS
158 SPINIZONOCOLPITES PROMINATUS
139 STEREISPORITES ANTIQUISPORITES
140 STEREISPORITES PUNCTATUS
246 STERIESPORITES REGIUM
82 SUBTILISPHAERA ROTUNDATA
92 TANYOSPHAERIDIUM SALPINK
205 TETRACOLPORITES RETICULATA
52 TRICHODINIUM
44 TRICHODINIUM INTERMEDIUM
159 TRICOLPITES
179 TRICOLPITES CONFESSUS
192 TRICOLPITES GILLII
180 TRICOLPITES LONGUS
170 TRICOLPITES PHILLIPSII
198 TRICOLPITES SABULOSUS
229 TRICOLPITES VARIVERRUCATUS
141 TRICOLPORITES
195 TRICOLPORITES APOXYEXINUS
181 TRICOLPORITES LILLIEI
142 TRILETES TUBERCULIFORMIS
242 TRIPOROLETES RADIATUS
171 TRIPOROLETES RETICULATUS
217 TRIPOROLETES SIMPLEX
143 TRIPOROPOLLENITES AMBIGUUS
182 TRIPOROPOLLENITES SECTILIS
72 TRITHYRODINIUM (THICK RETIC)
23 TRITHYRODINIUM EVITTII
73 TRITHYRODINIUM GLABRA (THICK SMOOTH)
62 TRITHYRODINIUM MARSHALLII
88 TRITHYRODINIUM SUSPECTUM
144 VERRUCOSISPORITES KOPUKUENSIS
34 VERYHACHIUM
193 VITREISPORITES PALLIDUS
18 WETZELIELLA ARTICULATA
45 XENASCUS AUSTRALIENSE
94 XENASCUS CERATOIDES
46 XENIKOON AUSTRALIS
68 XIPHOPHORIDIUM ALATUM