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PALYNOCLOGY OF 17 SUBSURFACE AND OUTCROP
SAMPLES, FOR THE VICTORIAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ROGER MORGAN

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PALYNOLOGY OF 17 SUBSURFACE AND OUTCROP SAMPLES, FOR THE VICTORIAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BY

ROGER MORGAN

for VICTORIAN GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY

August 1993

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FIGURE 1 : ZONAL FRAMEWORK

APPENDIX I

I SUMMARY

Analysis of the samples submitted is complete as below

Cobboboonee-2

CORE 15 (829-833.5m) : indeterminate : this sample is barren of recognisable palynomorphs but contains abundant inertinite, consistent with deep weathering, unfavourable lithologies or post maturity.

CORE 16 (886.9-891.2m) : upper *diversus* Zone : Early Eocene : marginally marine.

Dartmoor-25

CORE (57-61.4m) : middle *diversus* Zone : Early Eocene : non-marine.

Devondale Road Quarry : 5719600E : indeterminate : only trace inertinite seen.

Glenelg-1

CORE (302m) : *asperopolus* Zone : late Early to early Middle Eocene : marginally marine.

CORE (390m) : upper *diversus* Zone : Early Eocene : marginally marine.

Lavers Hill (south of Sandpit Road) : indeterminate : only trace inertinite seen.

Narrawaturk-6

CORE 10 (630-639.7m) : lower *asperus* Zone (*heterophlycta* dinocyst Zone) : Middle Eocene : very nearshore marine.

CORE (633.2-639.7m) : lower *asperus* Zone (*heterophlycta* dinocyst Zone) : Middle Eocene : marginally marine.

Narrawong-13

CORE 10 (574-580m) : *asperopolus* Zone : late Early to early Middle Eocene : marginally marine.

CORE 12 (686-692m) : *asperopolus* Zone : late Early to early Middle Eocene : marginally marine.

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Wanwin-1

CORE 4 (168.9-174.3m) : *asperopolus* Zone : late Early to early Middle Eocene : marginally marine.

Warrain 7

CORE 3 (215.5-222.75m) : indeterminate : this sample is barren of recognisable palynomorphs but contains abundant inertinite. This is consistent with deep weathering, unfavourable lithologies (eg clean sandstones or volcanics) or post maturity (eg local thermal metamorphism from lava flows).

CORE 4 (252.3-258.35m) : *asperopolus* Zone (*thompsonae* dinocyst Zone) : late Early to early Middle Eocene : nearshore marine.

CORE 7 (343.8-348.15m) : upper *diversus* Zone : Early Eocene : marginally marine.

CORE 8 (398.9m-404.48m) : upper *diversus* Zone : Early Eocene : marginally marine.

Wye River : Beach : indeterminate : abundant fungal debris seen.

The lower *asperus* Zone samples are consistent with the lower Niranda Sub Group. The *asperopolus* and upper *diversus* Zone samples are consistent with the Burrungule Member and the immediately underlying Dilwyn Formation. The middle *diversus* Zone sample is consistent with the Dilwyn Formation underlying the Burrungule Member.

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II INTRODUCTION

Greg Parker, geologist with the Basin Studies Group, submitted seventeen samples for palynology. These were related to two projects. Fourteen were from subsurface Otway Basin sections checking subsurface mapping by Charles Abele, focussing particularly on the Eocene Burrungule Member. Three were from outcrop locations to check age dating.

Palynomorph occurrence data are included as Appendix I and justify the zonal assignments. The Tertiary spore-pollen zonation is essentially as summarised by Partridge (1976), drawing on the work of Stover and Evans (1973) and Stover and Partridge (1973) and is summarised in Figure 1.

All samples are immature for hydrocarbons.

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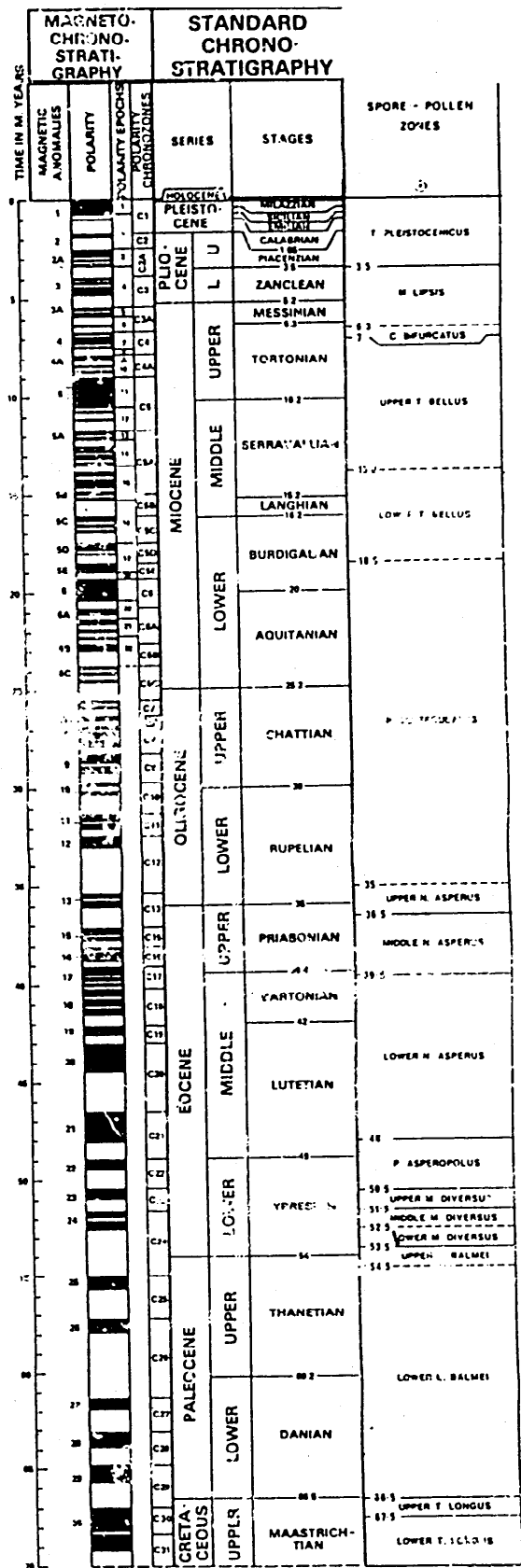


FIGURE 1 ZONAL FRAMEWORK

III PALYNOSTRATIGRAPHY

A Cobbobonee-2

1: CORE 15 (829-833.5m)

This sample is barren of recognizable palynomorphs, but contains abundant inertinite. This is consistent with deep weathering destroying the palynomorphs, unfavourable lithologies sorting or oxidising out the palynomorphs, or post maturity caused by proximity to lava flows.

2: CORE 16 (886.9-891.2m): upper *diversus* Zone

Assignment to the upper *Malvacipollis diversus* Zone of Early Eocene age is indicated at the top by the absence of younger indicators and at the base by oldest *Proteacidites pachyporus*. Oldest *Tribrachium*, *Leontia ambigua*, *Anacoloidites acutulus* and youngest *Intratropopollenites rotatus*, *Proteacidites ornatus* and *Spinozmocolpites prominatus* are consistent. *Heteragacidites harrisii* is common and *Malvacipollis subtilis* and *Proteacidites* spp are frequent.

Amongst the rare dinoflagellates, *Homotriblium tasmaniense* is consistent as it is restricted to the upper *diversus* to lower *asperopolus* spore-pollen zones.

Environments are very nearshore marine as shown by the abundant cuticle, totally dominant and diverse spore-pollen, and low content and diversity dinoflagellates.

This assemblage usually occurs in the lower Burrungule Member and immediately underlying Dilwyn Formation.

B Dartmoor-25

CORE (57-61.4m): middle *diversus* Zone

Assignment to the middle *M. diversus* Zone of Early Eocene age is indicated at the top by the absence of younger indicators and at the base by oldest *Proteacidites kopiensis*, *P. tuberculiformis* and *P. ornatus*. Frequent taxa include *Cyathidites*, *Ericipites scabratus*, *H. harrisii* and *Proteacidites*. Minor Cretaceous reworking was noted.

Abundant and diverse spore-pollen, abundant cuticle and total absence of dinoflagellates indicate non-marine environments.

This assemblage usually occurs in the Dilwyn Formation underlying the Burrungule Member.

C Devondale Road Quarry 5719600E : indeterminate

This sample was almost totally barren with only a trace of inertinite seen. This is consistent with deep weathering.

D Glencg-1

1 : CORE (302m) : *asperopolus* Zone

Assignment to the *Proteacidites asperopolus* Zone of late Early to early Middle Eocene age is indicated at the top by youngest *Myrtacoidites tenuis*, *I. notabilis* and *P. ornatus*, and at the base by oldest *Proteacidites asperopolus*. The most common taxon is *Proteacidites*, with *M. subtilis* and *H. harrisi* frequent. Rare but consistent are *P. asperopolus* and *P. pachypolus*. The very rare dinoflagellates are not age significant.

Marginally marine environments are indicated by the abundant and diverse spores and pollen and extremely rare low diversity dinoflagellates.

This assemblage is consistent with the Burrungule Member of the Dilwyn Formation.

2 : CORE (390m) : upper *diversus* Zone

Assignment to the upper *M. diversus* Zone of Early Eocene age is indicated at the top by the absence of younger markers and at the base by oldest *P. pachypolus* and *M. tenuis*. Other species consistent with this assignment include *A. acutulus*, *Polycolpites esobolensis*, *P. ornatus* and *P. tuberculiformis*.

Amongst the rare dinoflagellates, *H. tasmaniense* is consistent as it is usually restricted to the upper *diversus* and lower *asperopolus* spore-pollen zones. *Deflandrea obliquipes* and *D. pachyceros* are also present and Early Eocene restricted.

Marginal marine environments are indicated by the common and diverse spores and pollen, abundant cuticle, and rare low diversity dinoflagellates.

This assemblage usually occurs in the lower Burrungule Member and the underlying Dilwyn Formation.

E Lavers Hill (south of Sandpit Road) : indeterminate

This sample was almost totally barren with only a trace of inertinite seen. This is consistent with deep weathering.

F Narrawaturk-6

CORE : 10 (630-639.7m) and CORE (633.2-639.7m) : lower *asperus* Zone
Assignment to the lower *Nothofagidites asperus* Zone is indicated at the base by oldest *Nothofagidites* spp especially *N. deminutus* and *N. falcatus*, and confirmed by the dinoflagellates. At the top, the absence of younger indicators plus very rare *Proteacidites reticulatus* indicates the assignment, and is confirmed by the dinoflagellates. Youngest *P. leightoni*, *P. pachypolus* and *T. ambiguus* confirm a middle *asperus* or older zone.

Amongst the dinoflagellates, the presence of *Deflandrea heterophlycta*, *Achilleodinium biformoides* and *Areosphaeridium australicum* indicates assignment to the *heterophlycta* dinoflagellate zone, correlative of the lower *asperus* spore-pollen zone.

Marginally marine environments are indicated by the abundant and diverse spores and pollen, abundant cuticle and very rare low diversity dinoflagellates.

These features are consistent with the Mepunga Formation.

G Narrawong-13

CORE : 10 (574-580m) and CORE 12 (686-692m) : *asperopolus* Zone
Assignment to the *P. asperopolus* Zone of late Early to early Middle Eocene age is indicated at the top on youngest *M. tenuis*, *I. notabilis* and *P. ornatus* and at the base on oldest *P. asperopolus*. The most common taxon is *H. harrisii* with frequent *M. subtilis* and *Proteacidites* and consistent *P. pachypolus*. The extremely rare dinoflagellates include *D. obliquipes* and *D. pachyceros*, indicating Early Eocene ages. Rare Permian reworking was noted.

Marginally marine environments are indicated by the abundant and diverse spores and pollen and extremely rare very low diversity dinoflagellates.

This assemblage is consistent with the Burrungule Member of the Dilwyn Formation.

H Wanwin-1

CORE 4 (168.9-174.3m) : *asperopolus* Zone

Assignment to the *P. asperopolus* Zone of latest Early to early Middle Eocene age is indicated by oldest *P. asperopolus* at the base and youngest *M. tenuis*, *I. notabilis* and *P. ornatus* at the top. Other significant taxa include *Kuylisporites waterbolkii*, *P. tuberculiformis*, *S. cainozoicus* and *T. ambiguus*.

Amongst the very rare dinoflagellates, *H. tasmaniense* is consistent, being restricted to the upper *diversus* and lower *asperopolus* spore-pollen zones. *A. biformoides* is also present.

Marginally marine environments are indicated by the abundant and diverse spores and pollen, abundant cuticle and extremely rare low diversity dinoflagellates.

These features are consistent with the Burrungule Member of the Dilwyn Formation.

I Warrain 7

1 : CORE 3 (215.5-222.75m) : indeterminate

This sample was almost totally barren with only a trace of inertinite seen. This is consistent with deep weathering, unfavourable lithofacies (eg clean sandstones or volcanics), or high maturity (eg local metamorphism due to nearby lava flows).

2 : CORE 4 (252.3-258.35m) : *asperopolus* Zone

Assignment to the *P. asperopolus* Zone of Late Early to early Mid Eocene age is indicated at the top by youngest *I. notabilis*, *S. prominatus* and *P. ornatus* and at the base by oldest *P. asperopolus*. *H. harrisii* is common with frequent *Dilwynites granulatus*, *M. subtilis* and *Proteacidites*. Other significant taxa include *A. acutullus*, *P. tuberculiformis* and *T. ambiguus*.

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Amongst the dinoflagellates, the presence of *Kisselovia thompsonae* indicates the *K. thompsonae* dinoflagellate zone, correlative with the basal *asperopolus* spore-pollen zone. The common presence of *H. tasmaniense* and the rare presence of *D. obliquipes* and *D. pachyceros* are consistent with this assignment.

A nearshore marine environment is indicated by the common and diverse spores and pollen mixed with common (20%) dinoflagellates of moderate diversity.

These features are consistent with the Burrungule Member of the Dilwyn Formation.

3 : CORE 7 (343.8-348.15m) and CORE 8 (398.9-404.48m) : upper *diversus* Zone

Assignment to the upper *M. diversus* Zone of Early Eocene age is indicated at the top by the absence of younger markers and at the base by oldest *M. tenuis* and *P. pachypolus*. Other significant taxa include *A. acutillus*, *I. notabilis*, *P. ornatus* and *T. ambiguus*. *H. harrisii* is common, with *Proteacidites* frequent.

Amongst the dinoflagellates, *D. pachyceros* occurs at 343.8-348.15m and indicates a general Early Eocene age.

Marginally marine environments are indicated by the abundant and diverse spore-pollen and rare (1%) low diversity dinoflagellates.

These features are consistent with the lower Burrungule Member and the underlying Dilwyn Formation.

J. Wye River

Beach : indeterminate

This sample yielded well, but contained only abundant fungal debris suggesting Recent weathering and fungal growth in the sediment. Age diagnostic taxa were not seen.

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V REFERENCES

Partridge AD (1976) The geological expression of eustacy in the early Tertiary of the Gippsland Basin *APEA J* 16 (1), 73-79

Stover LE and Evans PR (1974) Upper Cretaceous Eocene spore-pollen zonation, offshore Gippsland Basin, Australia *Spec Publs Geol Soc Aust* 4 55-72 (imprint 1973)

Stover LE and Partridge AD (1973) Tertiary and Late Cretaceous spores and pollen from the Gippsland Basin, Southeastern Australia
Proc R Soc Vict 85, 237-286

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11(a)

VICTORIAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SAMPLES

MORGAN PALAEO ASSOCIATES BOX 161, MAITLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5573 PH.088 322795 FAX.088 322798	
C L I E N T: VICTORIAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (GREG PARKER)	
W E L L: VARIOUS LOCATIONS	
F I E L D / A R E A:	
A N A L Y S T: ROGER MORGAN	D A T E : AUGUST 1993
N O T E S: ALL DEPTHS IN METRES ...	"C" = common.....11 - 30%
	"F" = frequent... 4 - 10%
" ? " = questionably present	"R" = rare..... 1 - 3%
	"X" = very rare...<1%

RANGE CHART OF OCCURRENCES BY ALPHBETICAL - within group -

11(c)

COBBONE#2	829-833.SCR15	886-9-891.2CR	DARTMOOR#25	57-61.4CORE	DEVONDALE RD	5719600R	GLENNEL#1	302.OCCRE	390.OCCRE	LAVERS HILL	SANDPIT ROAD	NARRANONG#13	574-580 CR10	686-692 CR12	NARRAVATUR#6	630-639.7CORE	633-2-539.7CR	NARRAVAT#7	213-5-222.75	252-3-258.35	343-8-348.15	398-9-404.48	NANMINE#1	168-9-174.3	WYE RIVER	BEACH	
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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COBBOONER#2	829-833.5CR15	886-9-891.2CR	57-61.4CORE	DEVONDALE RD	5719600E	GLENELG#1	302.0CORE	390.0CORE	LAVERS HILL	SANDPIT ROAD	NARRAMONG#13	574-580 CR10	686-692 CR12	NARRAMATTUR#6	630-639.7CORE	633-2-639.7CR	WARRAIN#7	215.5-222.75	252.3-258.35	343.8-348.15	398.9-404.48	WANNIN#1	168.9-174.3	WYE RIVER	BEACH	
117	PROTEACIDITES TUBERCULATUS cf																									
118	PROTEACIDITES TUBERCULIFORMIS																									
119	RETITRILETES AUSTRICLAVATIDITES																									
120	SANTALUMIDITES CAINOZOICUS																									
121	SCHIZOCOLPUS SP																									
122	SPINIZONOCOLPITES PROHINATUS																									
123	STEREISPORITES ANTIQUISPORITES																									
124	TETRACOLPORITES OAHARUENSIS																									
125	TRICOLPITES GILLII																									
126	TRICOLPITES RENMARKENSIS																									
127	TRICOLPITES SINATUS																									
128	TRICOLPORITES																									
129	TRICOLPORITES SP																									
130	TRILETES TUBERCULIFORMIS																									
131	TRIPOROLETES RETICULATUS																									
132	TRIPOROPOLLENITES AMBIGUUS																									
133	TRIPUNCTISPORIS PUNCTATUS																									
134	VERRUCOSISPORITES KOPIKUENSIS																									