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PALYNOLOGICAL EXAMINATION
OF ARDONACHIE NO. 2 BORE
872 - 3105 FEET
OTWAY BASIN

BY

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C O N T E N T S

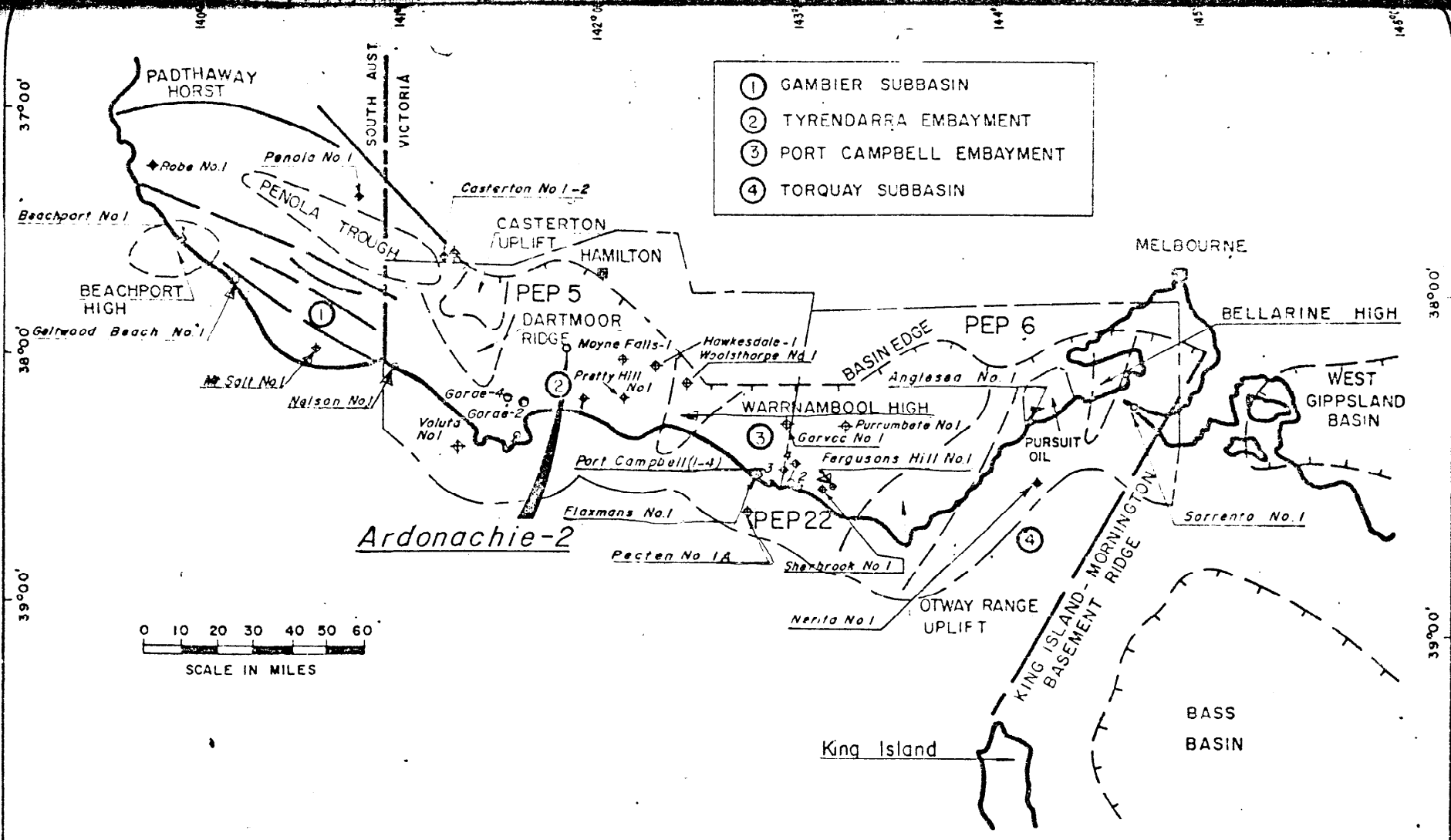
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Table 1

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- ① GAMBIER SUBBASIN
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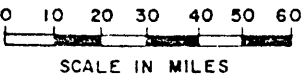


Fig 1

KEY MAP OF THE OTWAY BASIN

2072

PALYNOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ARDONACHIE No.2 BORE,
872 - 3105 FEET

I INTRODUCTION

Ten samples of cores from between 872 and 3105 feet in Ardonachie No.2 bore were submitted by Shell Development (Australia) Pty. Ltd. for palynological examination and age determination. The bore was sunk in the Otway Basin, Victoria by the Mines Department of Victoria and the cored section examined is considered (refer Sample list; E&P:MA:35.21; 6th August, 1970) to include horizons of the Wangerrip Group (872-2444 feet), possible developments of the Sherbrook Group (2623-37 feet), and probable horizons of the Otway Group (2864-3105 feet).

All samples were processed for palynological examination by a method involving the use of hydrofluoric acid, zinc bromide and ultrasonic vibration (see Dettmann 1963). After this treatment the residues were examined for plant microfossils, the preservation quality of which was ascertained (see Table 1). Specific analyses of the plant microfossil assemblages was carried out after the residues were subjected to further treatment with Schulze solution (2-3 minutes) and weak alkali (ca. $\frac{1}{2}\%$ ammonium hydroxide), followed by thorough washing in distilled water. 2/

Plant material including spores, pollen grains, and fragments of wood and cuticle was obtained from all samples; dinoflagellate cysts and/or acritarchs are also represented in minor proportions in the majority of samples. Evidence provided by the plant microfossils indicates that the section examined includes horizons of Upper (872-2037 feet) and Middle (2441-2637 feet) Paleocene age overlying a thin Senonian (2864-2902 feet) sequence which rests on Middle - Upper Albian (3101-05 feet) strata. These age estimations are based upon the presence of Harris' (1965, 1970)

Gambierina edwardsii and Cupanioidites orthoteichus Zonules and of Dettmann and Playford's (1969) Tricolpites pachyexinus and Contospora paradoxa Zones.

II MICROFLORAL ASSEMBLAGES AND AGE DETERMINATIONS

The microfloras extracted from the samples are documented below in terms of their qualitative and quantitative content. The quantitative estimates are denoted as follows: Ab (abundant) - numerical representation of a particular species totals at least 5% of total microflora; C (common) - numerical representation of a species forms 1-5% of total microflora; and R (rare) - numerical representation of a species is less than 1% of total microflora.

A. 872 - 2067 feet

core 5, 872-94 feet

Prob. M. diversus

An abundant well preserved microflora was obtained from the sample. The following types were observed:

| | | | |
|--|--|--|----|
| Spores | <u>Baculatisporites comaumensis</u> (Cookson) | C | |
| | <u>Cyathidites australis</u> Couper | C | |
| | <u>C. minor</u> Couper | C | |
| | <u>Gleicheniidites circinidites</u> (Cookson) | C | |
| | <u>Laevigatosporites ovatus</u> Wilson & Webster | C | |
| | <u>L. major</u> (Cookson) | C | |
| | <u>Trilites tuberculiformis</u> Cookson | R | |
| | <u>Verrucosisporites kopkuensis</u> (Couper) | R | |
| | Pollen | * <u>Alisporites grandis</u> (Cookson) | R |
| | | * <u>Cupanioidites orthoteichus</u> Cookson & Pike | R |
| | | <u>Dacrydiumites florinii</u> Cookson & Pike | R |
| | | <u>Dilwynites granulatus</u> Harris | Ab |
| | | <u>Malvacipollis diversus</u> Harris | R |
| * <u>Myrtaceidites eugenifoides</u> Cookson & Pike | | C | |
| <u>Microcachryidites antarcticus</u> Cookson | | C | |
| <u>Nothofagidites emarcidus</u> (Cookson) | | C | |
| <u>N. brachyspinulosus</u> (Cookson) | | R | |
| <u>Phyllocladidites mawsonii</u> Cookson | | C | |
| <u>Podocarpidites ellipticus</u> Cookson | Ab | | |
| <u>P. exiguus</u> Harris | R | | |
| <u>Proteacidites annularis</u> Cookson | R | | |
| <u>P. crassus</u> Cookson | R | | |
| * <u>P. dilwynensis</u> Harris | C | | |
| <u>P. incurvatus</u> Cookson | R | | |

| | | |
|----------------|--|----|
| | * <u>P. reticuloscabratus</u> Harris | R |
| | <u>P. subscabratus</u> Couper | Ab |
| | <u>Tricolporites prolata</u> Cookson | C |
| | <u>Tricolpites</u> sp. | C |
| | <u>Tiliaepollenites notabilis</u> Harris | R |
| | <u>Triorites harrisii</u> Couper | Ab |
| Microplankton: | <u>Cordosphaeridium</u> sp. | R |
| Remanié: | <u>Arcellites reticulatus</u> (Cookson & Dettmann) - Lower or early Upper Cretaceous | |

core 7, 1114-33 feet

Pab M diversus

Abundant, well preserved spores and pollen grains were

extracted from the sample as follows:

| | | |
|---------|--|----|
| Spores: | <u>Baculatisporites comaumensis</u> (Cookson) | Ab |
| | <u>Cyathidites australis</u> Couper | R |
| | <u>C. minor</u> Couper | C |
| | <u>C. gigantis</u> (Cookson) | R |
| | <u>Clavifera</u> sp. | R |
| | <u>Gleicheniidites circinidites</u> (Cookson) | C |
| | <u>Foveotriletes</u> sp. | R |
| | <u>Lycopodiumsporites austroclavatidites</u> (Cookson) | R |
| | <u>Stereisporites antiquasporites</u> (Wilson & Webster) | Ab |
| | <u>Verrucosisporites kopukuensis</u> (Couper) | R |
| Pollen: | <u>Araucariacites australis</u> Cookson | R |
| | <u>Banksiaeidites</u> sp. | R |
| | * <u>Cupanieidites orthoteichus</u> Cookson & Pike | R |
| | <u>Dilwynites granulatus</u> Harris | Ab |
| | <u>Microcachryidites antarcticus</u> Cookson | R |
| | <u>Myrtaceidites eugenioides</u> Cookson & Pike | C |
| | <u>Malvacipollis diversus</u> Harris | C |
| | <u>Nothofagidites emarcidus</u> (Cookson) | C |
| | <u>N. cf. brachyspinulosus</u> (Cookson) | R |
| | <u>Podocarpidites ellipticus</u> Cookson | Ab |
| | <u>P. exiguus</u> Harris | R |
| | * <u>Polyporina fragilis</u> Harris | C |
| | <u>Proteacidites adenanthoides</u> Cookson | R |
| | <u>P. crassus</u> Cookson | C |
| | <u>P. crassipora</u> Harris | R |
| | * <u>P. dilwynensis</u> Harris | R |
| | * <u>P. reticuloscabratus</u> Harris | R |
| | <u>P. subscabratus</u> Couper | Ab |
| | <u>P. tuberculiformis</u> Harris | R |
| | <u>Triorites harrisii</u> Couper | Ab |
| | <u>Tricolpites</u> sp. | R |
| | <u>Tetracolpites</u> sp. <i>Tetracolporites</i> sp? | R |

core 10, 1446-48 feet

An abundant well preserved assemblage of spores and pollen grains

as extracted from the sample. Microplankton were also recovered in minor proportions. The following types were identified:

Prob. M. diversus

| | | |
|----------------|--|----|
| spores: | <u>Cyathidites australis</u> Couper | C |
| | <u>C. minor</u> Couper | Ab |
| | <u>Gleicheniidites circinidites</u> (Cookson) | C |
| | <u>G. sp.</u> | R |
| | <u>Laevigatosporites ovatus</u> Wilson & Webster | C |
| | <u>L. major</u> (Cookson) | C |
| pollen: | <u>Cycadopites</u> sp. | R |
| | <u>Dilwynites granulatus</u> Harris | Ab |
| | <u>Dacrydimites florinii</u> Cookson & Pike | Ab |
| | <u>Malvacipollis diversus</u> Harris | Ab |
| | <u>Myrtaceidites eugenioides</u> Cookson & Pike | C |
| | <u>Nothofaidites emarcidus</u> (Cookson) | R |
| | <u>N. cf. brachyspinulosus</u> (Cookson) | R |
| | <u>Microcachryidites antarcticus</u> Cookson | Ab |
| | * <u>Polyporina fragilis</u> Harris | R |
| | <u>Podocarpidites ellipticus</u> Cookson | Ab |
| | <u>Proteacidites annularis</u> Cookson | C |
| | <u>P. crassus</u> Cookson | R |
| | * <u>P. scaboratus</u> Couper | C |
| | <u>P. subscabratus</u> Couper | Ab |
| | * <u>P. reticuloscabratus</u> Harris | R |
| | <u>Tricolpites</u> sp. | R |
| microplankton: | <u>Baltisphaeridium</u> sp. | R |
| | <u>Deflandrea cf. obliquipes</u> Deflandre & Cookson | R |

Core 12, 1719-39 feet

Well preserved spores and pollen grains occur in the

residue in abundant proportions. Species identified include:

| | | |
|---------|--|----|
| spores: | <u>Baculatisporites comamensis</u> (Cookson) | C |
| | <u>Cyathidites australis</u> Couper | Ab |
| | <u>C. minor</u> Couper | Ab |
| | <u>C. splendens</u> Harris | R |
| | <u>Gleicheniidites circinidites</u> (Cookson) | C |
| | <u>Laevigatosporites ovatus</u> Wilson & Webster | Ab |
| | * <u>Latrobosporites crassus</u> Harris | R |
| | <u>Verrucatosporites speciosus</u> Harris | R |
| pollen: | <u>Araucariacites australis</u> Cookson | R |
| | * <u>Cupanieidites orthoteichus</u> Cookson & Pike | R |
| | <u>Dacrycarpites australiensis</u> Cookson & Pike | R |
| | <u>Dacrydimites florinii</u> Cookson & Pike | Ab |
| | <u>Dilwynites granulatus</u> Harris | Ab |
| | <u>Microcachryidites antarcticus</u> Cookson | C |
| | <u>Malvacipollis diversus</u> Harris | C |
| | <u>Myrtaceidites eugenioides</u> Cookson & Pike | C |
| | <u>Phyllocladidites mawsonii</u> Cookson | R |
| | <u>Podocarpidites ellipticus</u> Cookson | C |
| | <u>P. exiguus</u> Harris | C |

| | | |
|----------|--|----|
| | <u>Proteacidites annularis</u> Cookson | R |
| | <u>P. adenanthoides</u> Cookson | C |
| | <u>P. crassus</u> Cookson | C |
| | * <u>P. dilwynensis</u> Harris | R |
| | <u>P. incurvatus</u> Cookson | R |
| | <u>P. subscabratus</u> Couper | Ab |
| | <u>Triorites harrisii</u> Couper | C |
| | <u>Tricolporites prolata</u> Cookson | C |
| | <u>Tiliaepollenites notabilis</u> Harris | R |
| | <u>Tricolpites</u> sp. | R |
| Remanié: | <u>Nuskoisporites</u> sp. - Permian | |

core 15, 2065-67 feet

The following species of well preserved spores and pollen

grains were observed in the residue which contains abundant plant microfossils:

| | | | |
|----------|---|----|----------------------|
| Spores: | <u>Baculatisporites comaumensis</u> (Cookson) | R | <i>M. aiversus</i> |
| | <u>Cyathidites australis</u> Couper | Ab | |
| | <u>C. minor</u> Couper | Ab | |
| | <u>C. splendens</u> Harris | R | |
| | <u>Gleicheniidites circinidites</u> (Cookson) | Ab | |
| | <u>Laevigatosporites ovatus</u> Wilson & Webster | C | |
| | * <u>Latrobosporites crassus</u> Harris | R | |
| | <u>Lycopodiumsporites austroclavatidites</u> (Cookson) | C | |
| | <u>Stereisporites antiquasporites</u> (Wilson & Webster) | C | |
| Pollen: | <u>Dacrydiumites florinii</u> Cookson & Pike | R | |
| | <u>Dilwynites granulatus</u> Harris | Ab | |
| | <u>Microcachryidites antarcticus</u> Cookson | C | |
| | <u>Nothofagidites</u> cf. <u>brachyspinulosus</u> (Cookson) | R | |
| | <u>Podocarpidites ellipticus</u> Cookson | Ab | |
| | <u>P. microsaccatus</u> (Couper) | C | |
| | <u>Myrtaceidites eugenioides</u> Cookson & Pike | R | |
| | <u>Proteacidites crassus</u> Cookson | C | |
| | * <u>P. dilwynensis</u> Harris | R | |
| | * <u>P. reticuloscabratus</u> Harris | C | |
| | <u>P. subscabratus</u> Couper | Ab | |
| | <u>P. tuberculiformis</u> Harris | R | |
| | * <u>Stephanoporopollenites obscurus</u> Harris | R | |
| | <u>Tricolnites</u> sp. | R | |
| Remanié: | <u>Triorites harrisii</u> Couper | C | |
| Remanié: | <u>Nuskoisporites</u> sp. - Permian | | |
| | <u>Murospora florida</u> (Balme) | |) - Lower Cretaceous |
| | <u>Pilosporites notensis</u> Cookson & Dettmann | | |

The abundant well preserved microfloras obtained from sediments between 872 and 2067 feet are characterized by an abundance and diversity of proteaceous forms, abundant Podocaroidites, Dilwynites, and infrequent Nothofagidites. Pteridophyte elements are frequent but display little diversity.

Specifically, the microfloras are characterized by Cupanieidites orthoteichus, Proteacidites reticulosabratus, P. dilwynensis, Myrtaceidites eugenioides, and Tiliaepollenites notabilis, which are absent from lower horizons in the well. The microfloras thus suggest reference of the sediments between 872 and 2067 feet to Harris' (1965, 1970) Cupanieidites orthoteichus Zonule of Upper Paleocene age.

Rare microplankton occur in two of the samples here referred to the Cupanieidites orthoteichus Zonule; types identified provide some support for a Lower Tertiary age (Cookson and Eisenack 1967).

Plant microfossils of Permian and Lower Cretaceous age occur infrequently in the residues and demonstrate that Permian and Lower Cretaceous horizons provided, at least in part, source material of the enclosing sediments.

The abundance of land derived forms and the intermittent and rare occurrence of microplankton suggests that the sediments accumulated in a continental to near-shore marine environment.

B. 2441 - 2637 feet

core 18, 2441-44 feet

Reasonably well preserved spores and pollen grains occur frequently in the sample which also yielded minor proportions of microplankton as follows:

| | | | |
|---------|--|----|-------------------|
| Spores: | <u>Baculatisporites comaumensis</u> (Cookson) | Ab | <i>L. balmei</i> |
| | <u>Cyathidites australis</u> Couper | Ab | |
| | <u>C. minor</u> Couper | C | <i>W. harrisi</i> |
| | <u>Gleicheniidites circinidites</u> (Cookson) | C | |
| | <u>Laevigatosporites ovatus</u> Wilson & Webster | C | |
| | <u>Lycocodiumsporites austroclavatidites</u> (Cookson) | R | |
| | <u>Stereisporites antiquasporites</u> (Wilson & Webster) | Ab | |
| Pollen: | <u>Dacrydiumites florinii</u> Cookson & Pike | R | |
| | <u>D. balmei</u> Cookson | R | |
| | <u>Dilwynites granulatus</u> Harris | C | |
| | <u>D. tuberculatus</u> Harris | Ab | |
| | <u>Araucariacites australis</u> Cookson | C | |

| | | | |
|----------------|--|----|---------------------|
| | <u>Microcachrydites antarcticus</u> Cookson | C | |
| | <u>Phyllocladidites mawsonii</u> Cookson | Ab | |
| | * <u>P. reticulosaccatus</u> Harris | R | |
| | <u>Podocarpidites ellipticus</u> Cookson | C | |
| | <u>P. exiguus</u> Harris | C | |
| | <u>Proteacidites crassus</u> Cookson | C | |
| | <u>P. subcabratus</u> Couper | Ab | |
| | <u>Tricolporites</u> sp. | R | |
| Microplankton: | <u>Deflandrea dartmooria</u> Cookson & Eisenack | R | |
| | <u>Epicephalopyxis indentata</u> Deflandre & Cookson | C | * low M diversus |
| | <u>Hystriosphæridium</u> sp. | R | |
| Remanié: | <u>Nuskoisporites</u> sp. - Permian | | |

core 19, 2625-57 feet

A small residue in which one to several examples of the following types was obtained from the sample:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|------------------|
| Spores: | <u>Ceratospurites</u> sp. | | <i>L. balmei</i> |
| | <u>Cyathidites australis</u> Couper | | |
| | <u>Laevigatosporites ovatus</u> Wilson & Webster | | |
| Pollen: | <u>Cycadopites</u> sp. | | |
| | * <u>Dacrydiumites ellipticus</u> Harris | | |
| | <u>D. balmei</u> Cookson | | |
| | <u>Microcachrydites antarcticus</u> Cookson | | |
| | <u>Phyllocladidites mawsonii</u> Cookson | | |
| | <u>Proteacidites subcabratus</u> Couper | | |
| Incertae Sedis: | <u>Amosopollis</u> sp. | | |
| Microplankton: | <u>Epicephalopyxis indentata</u> Deflandre & Cookson | | |

Assemblages extracted from samples between 2441 and 2637 feet are well preserved but are restricted in both a qualitative and quantitative sense; in particular, angiosperms exhibit a marked decrease in abundance and diversity in comparison with stratigraphically higher assemblages.

The two assemblages recovered from 2441-2637 feet contain Dacrydiumites balmei which appears on present knowledge to be restricted to Harris' (1965, 1970) Gambierina edwardsii Zonule, with possible representation in undifferentiated lowermost Tertiary - uppermost Cretaceous strata (i.e. in horizons immediately above those containing the Nothofagidites Microflora of Dettmann and Playford 1969). The Gambierina edwardsii Zonule is dated as Middle Paleocene although it is possible that its lower age limit may be

within the early Paleocene (see Harris 1970; McGowran, Lindsay, and Harris 1970).

Microplankton recorded from the samples are frequent components of Paleocene strata elsewhere in the Otway Basin (Deflandre and Cookson 1955; Cookson and Eisenack 1965, 1967).

The sediments appear to have accumulated in a near-shore marine environment as evidence by the persistent, but infrequent microplankton content.

C. 2364 - 2902 feet

core 20, 2864-75 feet

A sparse assemblage of fairly preserved spores and pollen grains occurs in the sample. Other microfossils identified include dinoflagellate cysts and chitinous foraminiferal remains. Species identified include:

- | | | |
|----------------|--|--------------------------|
| Spores: | <u>Clavifera triplex</u> (Bolikhovitina) | |
| | <u>Laevigatosporites ovatus</u> Wilson & Webster | <i>T. padueximis</i> |
| | <u>Lycopodiumsporites austroclavitudites</u> (Cookson) | ? base <i>N. acens</i> Z |
| Pollen: | <u>Microcachrydites antarcticus</u> Cookson | |
| | <u>Phyllocladidites mawsonii</u> Cookson | |
| | <u>Proteacidites subscabratus</u> Couper | |
| Microplankton: | * <u>Gymnodinium nelsonense</u> Cookson | |
| | <u>Hexagonifera glabra</u> Cookson & Eisenack | |

core 21, 2895-902 feet

Plant microfossils occur frequently in the residue and include the following forms of spores, pollen grains, and microplankton:

- | | | | |
|---------|--|----|----------------------|
| Spores: | <u>Camarozonosporites amplus</u> (Stanley) | R | |
| | <u>Baculatisporites comanensis</u> (Cookson) | Ab | <i>T. padueximis</i> |
| | <u>Clavifera triplex</u> (Bolikhovitina) | R | |
| | <u>Cyathidites australis</u> Couper | Ab | |
| | <u>C. minor</u> Couper | Ab | |
| | <u>Gleicheniidites circinidites</u> (Cookson) | Ab | |
| | <u>Laevigatosporites ovatus</u> Wilson & Webster | Ab | |
| | <u>Stereisporites antiquasporites</u> (Wilson & Webster) | C | |
| Pollen: | <u>Asteropollis</u> sp. | C | |
| | <u>Cycadopites</u> sp. | C | |
| | <u>Araucariacites australis</u> Cookson | C | |
| | <u>Microcachrydites antarcticus</u> Cookson | R | |
| | <u>Podocarpidites ellipticus</u> Cookson | Ab | |
| | <u>P.</u> sp. | R | |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---|
| | <u>Phyllocladidites mawsonii</u> Cookson | C |
| | <u>Proteacidites subscabratus</u> Couper | C |
| | <u>P. spp.</u> | R |
| | * <u>Tricolpites pachyexinus</u> Couper | R |
| | <u>P. spp.</u> | C |
| | <u>Tricolporites spp.</u> | C |
| Incertae Sedis: | <u>Amosopollis cruciformis</u> Cookson & Balme | R |
| Microplankton: | ' <u>Hystrichosphaeridium</u> ' <u>heteracanthum</u> Deflandre & Cookson | R |
| | <u>Odontochitina porifera</u> Deflandre & Cookson | R |

The two samples from between 2864 and 2902 feet provided reasonably well preserved plant microfossils. The assemblage from 2864-75 feet is sparse in spores, pollen grains, and microplankton. Stratigraphically significant species include Hexagonifera glabra and 'Gymnodinium' nelsonense, components of Evans' (1966) Deflandrea cretacea Zone which is equivalent to the basal portion of the Tricolpites pachyexinus Zone of Dettmann and Playford (1969). The age of the horizon is thus within the Senonian.

The lower sample yielded more frequent spores and pollen grains including Camarozonosporites amplus, Tricolpites pachyexinus, and various undescribed forms together with the microplankton Odontochitina porifera. On this basis the deposit is also included within the Tricolpites pachyexinus Zone.

On the basis of the occurrence of dinoflagellate cysts in a dominantly land-derived microflora, the sediments are considered to have accumulated in a near-shore marine to brackish water situation.

D. 3101 - 05 feet

core22, 3101-05 feet

Fairly preserved spores and pollen grains occur abundantly in the residue together with rare examples of probable acritarchs. The following species were identified:

| | | |
|---------|--|---|
| Spores: | <u>Aequitriradites spinulosus</u> (Cookson & Dettmann) | R |
| | <u>A. verrucosus</u> (Cookson & Dettmann) | R |
| | <u>Baculatisporites comaumensis</u> (Cookson) | C |

C paradoxica
(prob unnamed
C paradoxica)

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----|
| | <u>Balmeisporites holodictyus</u> Cookson & Dettmann | C |
| | <u>B. tridictyus</u> Cookson & Dettmann | R |
| | <u>Cicatricosisporites australiensis</u> (Cookson) | C |
| | <u>C. pseudotripartitus</u> (Bolikhovitina) | R |
| | <u>Coptospora paradoxa</u> (Cookson & Dettmann) | C |
| | <u>Cyathidites australis</u> Couper | Ab |
| | <u>C. minor</u> Couper | Ab |
| | <u>C. punctatus</u> (Delcourt & Sprumont) | R |
| | <u>Foraminisporis asymmetricus</u> (Cookson & Dettmann) | R |
| | <u>F. dailyi</u> (Cookson & Dettmann) | R |
| | <u>Rouseisporites reticulatus</u> Pocock | R |
| | <u>R. simplex</u> (Cookson & Dettmann) | R |
| | <u>Stereisporites antiquasporites</u> (Wilson & Webster) | Ab |
| | <u>Trilobosporites trioreticulosus</u> Cookson & Dettmann | R |
| Pollen: | <u>Araucariacites australis</u> Cookson | C |
| | <u>Alisporites grandis</u> (Cookson) | R |
| | <u>A. similis</u> (Balme) | R |
| | <u>Cycadopites nitidus</u> (Balme) | C |
| | <u>Classopollis</u> cf. <u>classoides</u> Pflug | R |
| | <u>Microcachryidites antarcticus</u> Cookson | Ab |
| | <u>Podocarpidites ellipticus</u> Cookson | Ab |
| | <u>Podosporites microsaccatus</u> (Couper) | C |
| Incertae Sedis: | <u>Schizosporis reticulatus</u> Cookson & Dettmann | R |

The sample provided abundant, reasonably well preserved spores and pollen grains. Gymnosperms and pteridophytes are diversely represented in the assemblage which lacks undoubted angiosperms. The presence of Coptospora paradoxa, Trilobosporites trioreticulosus, and Balmeisporites holodictyus leaves little doubt that the horizons are within the Coptospora paradoxa Zone of Middle-Upper Albian age (See Dettmann and Playford 1969; Evans and Hawkins 1967).

The preponderance of land-derived plant microfossils and the apparent absence of dinoflagellate cysts suggests that the sediments accumulated in a continental environment.

III CONCLUDING REMARKS

As outlined above the following spore-pollen biostratigraphic units occur in Ardonachie No. 2 bore:- the Cupanoidites orthoteichus Zonule between 872 and 2067 feet; the Gambierina edwardsii Zonule between 2441 and 2637 feet; the Tricolpites pachyexinus Zonule between 2864 and 2902

feet; and the Coptospora paradoxa Zone at 3101-05 feet.

Nearby sequences in which these spore-pollen biostratigraphic units have been identified include Eumeralla No.1 well and Branhholme No.1, Gorae No.2, and ^{Gorae} No.4 bores. Thus the following correlations may be proposed:-

- 1) Ardonachie No.2 between 872 and 2667 feet is equivalent to at least part of the sequence between 2933 and 5432 feet in Gorae No.2; between 2895 and 6084 feet in Gorae No.4; and possibly to horizons between 2108-21 in Eumeralla No.1 (see Dettmann 1970a,b).
- 2) Ardonachie No.1 between 2441 and 2637 feet and Branhholme No.1 between 570 and 430 feet are probable equivalents and are referable to the Gambierina edwardsii Zone (see Dettmann 1969).
- 3) Ardonachie No.1 at 2864-902 feet and Eumeralla No.1 at 2835-49 are probable correlatives within the Tricolpites pachyexinus Zone (see Dettmann 1970a).
- 4) Ardonachie No.1 at 3101-05 feet, which is within the Coptospora paradoxa Zone, may be correlated with at least portion of the sequences between 602 and 1497 feet in Branhholme No.1 and between 3800 and 5816 feet in Eumeralla No.1 (see Dettmann 1969).

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EXPLANATION OF TABLE 1

Preservation and zonal attribution of plant microfossil assemblages in cores of Ardonachie No.2 bore, 872-3105 feet.

Abbreviations:

Yield expresses frequency of plant microfossils in the palynological residues as follows:-

Ab = abundant

C = common

Sp = sparse

Colour and Preservation. Spores, pollen, microplankton, wood, and cuticle present in the residues are denoted by their colour (col.) and quality of preservation (pres.) thus:-

Y = yellow

Br = brown

Bl = black

good = well preserved

fair = fairly preserved

Spore-pollen zones are those defined by Harris (1965, 1970) and Dettmann and Playford (1969).

TABLE 1

| GRUB G R U R R I A R I A Y A N G E R B R O O K | Depth (feet) | Yield | Spore-Pollen | | Microplankton | | Wood | | Cuticle | | Spore-Pollen Zone |
|--|-----------------|-------|--------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| | | | Col. | Pres. | Col. | Pres. | Col. | Pres. | Col. | Pres. | |
| | 872-894 | Ab | Y | good | Y | good | Br-BL | fair | Y | good | <i>Cupanieidites orthoteichus</i> |
| | 1114-1133 | | " | " | - | - | " | " | " | " | " |
| | 1446-1448 | | " | " | Y | good | " | " | " | " | " |
| | 1719-1739 | | " | " | - | - | " | " | " | " | " |
| | 2063-2067 | | " | " | - | - | " | " | " | " | " |
| | 2441-2444 | C | Y-Br | " | Y | good | " | " | Y-Br | " | <i>Gambierina edwardsii</i> |
| | 2623-2637 | Sp | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " |
| | 2864-2875 | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | fair | <i>Tricolpites pachyexinus</i> |
| | 2895-2902 | C | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " | " |
| | 3101-3105 | Ab | " | fair | - | - | " | " | " | " | <i>Coptospora paradoxa</i> |

TABLE 1