

MIDDLE MIOCENE LIMESTONE FROM CAPE BARREN ISLAND.
FURNEAUX GROUP, BASS STRAIT.

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In 1935 Mr. F. Blake of the Geological Survey of Tasmania visited Cape Barren Island in connection with the underground water supply at Franklin Village which is situated on Sandford Bay in the northwest part of the island. He collected a small sample of fossiliferous limestone which he forwarded to the late Mr. F. Chapman who was then Commonwealth Palaeontologist. No examination of the material was made at the time. Recently it came under the notice of the writer who has made a detailed microscopic examination of it, with the following results:-

The rock is a hard to friable, cream coloured, bryozoal limestone. The residue after washing contains numerous foraminifera and bryozoa, but the majority of the specimens are poorly preserved.

A list of species recognised is as follows:-

FORAMINIFERA. Textularia sagittula Defr., Trifarina bradyi Cushman, Sigmoidella elegantissima (d'Orb.), Globigerina bulloides d'Orb., Gypsina globulus Reuss, Planorbulinella plana (H.A. & E.), Cibicides ungerianus (d'Orb.), Discorbis Orbicularis (Terq.), Notorotalia howchini (Chap. Parr & Coll.), Calcarina verriculata Parr, Crespinella umbonifera (Parr), Eponides repandus (F. & M.), E. concentricus (P. & J.), Elphidium parri Cushman, Amphistegina lessonii d'Orb., Operculina victoriensis Chap. & Parr.

ANTHOZOA. Mopsea tenisoni Chapman.

BRYOZOA. Cellaria contigua McG., C. depressa Mapl., Vincularia gigantes Canu & Bassler, Cribrilina terminata Waters, Hiantopora liversidgei (T.Wds.), Adeonellopsis clavata (Waters), Retepora rimata, Waters, Spiropora verticellata (Goldf.), Mecynoecia proboscides (M.Edw.), Idmonea milneana d'Orb., I. trigona McG.

OSTRACODA. Bythocypris tumefacta Chapman.

Note on the Fauna and the Age of the Limestone.

The fossils are poorly preserved and many of the bryozoa cannot be determined even generically.

The foraminiferal assemblage contains species which definitely determine the age of the bed. The commonest species is Calcarina verriculata which is one of the most characteristic forms in the assemblage in the limestone at Batesford, Victoria. Associated with it are Planorbulinella plana, Operculina victoriensis and Amphistegina lessonii, all of which are common in the Batesford limestone. Calcarina verriculata is also present in the same horizon in the bores in Gippsland, ~~is also present in the same horizon in the bores in Gippsland,~~ Victoria, but is not common in that area.

The bryozoal assemblage is similar to that found at Batesford and generally in the Balcombian rocks in Victoria, as well as at King Island, Tasmania.

The ostracod, Bythocypris tumefacta, is a typical species in the Balcombian limestones.

The age of the limestone from Cape Barren Island is Middle Miocene. It is referred to the Batesford substage which is considered a subdivision of the Balcombian Stage. (Crespin, 1943).

References.

- Blake, F. 1935. Underground Water at Reservation, Cape Barren Island. Geol.Surv.Tas.Rept. (Departmental, typewritten).
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