

III PALYNOSTRATIGRAPHYA. 830m (cutts) : upper N. asperus Zone

Assignment to the upper Nothofagidites asperus Zone is indicated by the absence of younger indicators, the oldest occurrence of Malvacipollis grandis, the youngest occurrence of Schizocolpus marlinensis, and the absence of older indicators.

Dinoflagellates are dominant (75% of palynomorphs) but of only moderate diversity. The presence of moderately common Phthanoperidinium comatum without older indicators is consistent with the upper N. asperus assignment.

Offshore marine environments are indicated by the dominance of dinoflagellates, despite their moderate diversity. Spores and pollen are not rare, but are dominated by Nothofagidites spp.

Yellow spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

B. 886m (cutts)-926m (swc) : N. asperus Zone, subzone uncertain

Very poor fossil yields were obtained from these two samples. The upper one was totally barren, but the lower one had a low diversity assemblage insufficient for confident subzonal assignment. Both samples are assigned to the Nothofagidites asperus Zone due to their stratigraphic position between two confidently assigned samples.

The rare dinoflagellates present indicate a lower N. asperus or younger zonal assignment, and a marine environment.

Yellow spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbon