

K. 1630m (swc) : lower L. balmei Zone

Assignment to the lower Lygistepollenites balmei Zone is indicated by the presence of G. rudata and L. balmei without younger or older indicators.

No age diagnostic or other dinoflagellates were seen and so non-marine environments are indicated.

Spore colours are mostly mid brown, indicating maturity for oil and early maturity for gas/condensate. About 20% of grains, however, are significantly darker, in the dark brown range suggesting maturity for oil and for gas/condensate. As the sample is a sidewall core, these higher maturity grains have presumably undergone heating (perhaps quite local and contemporaneously), before being reworked and incorporated into the sediment. They do not appear to be significantly older than the lighter coloured assemblage.