

## II INTRODUCTION

Bridge Chat-1 was drilled in early 1986. Several batches of cuttings samples were examined on a quick turnaround basis during drilling, providing approximately 100m spacing. Close to the final T.D., several individual samples were processed on a quick turnaround basis to provide age dating to aid the T.D. decision. Following well completion, a final batch of samples was submitted. This batch included three sidewall cores only, as the sidewall coring gun failed. In all, thirty six samples were studied and are reported here. Many of the preparations are not the best possible, as the emphasis was on fast turnaround, not absolute technical processing excellence.

The spore-pollen zonation used is that of Stover and Evans (1973) and Stover and Partridge (1973), as modified for the Bass Basin by Partridge (1973). No formal zonation exists for the dinoflagellates, although Harris (1985) has recently published some zones for part of the Eocene of the St. Vincent and Otway Basins. Partridge (1976) published a table showing zone names for the Gippsland Basin, but the underlying justification has never been published. Neither of these zonations are entirely relevant, but elements of them are discussed herein.

Palynomorph occurrence data are presented in Appendix I, and are the basis for the assignment of the studied section to thirteen zones of Campanian to Oligocene age. Maturity data was developed in the form of Spore Colour Index, and is plotted on Figure 1.