

samples are not rich in fossil material.

Spore colours of yellow indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

C. 1170-1299m (cutts) : middle N. asperus Zone

Assignment to the middle Nothofagidites asperus Zone is indicated by the presence (confined to this interval) of Triorites magnificus. The youngest occurrences of Proteacidites pachypolus (1180m, cuttings) and Santalumidites cainozoicus (1299m) confirm the assignment.

Age diagnostic dinoflagellates include Alisocysta ornata (restricted to the middle N. asperus Zone in the Gippsland Basin) and Deflandrea phosphoritica, Systematophora placacantha and Areosphaeridium arcuatum, all indicating a general mid Eocene or younger age.

Nearshore marine environments are indicated by the dominance of spores and pollen, with minor dinoflagellates.

Spore colours of mid yellow indicate immaturity for hydrocarbons.

D. 1353-1548m (cutts) : lower N. asperus Zone

Assignment to the lower Nothofagidites asperus Zone is indicated at the top by the absence of T. magnificus (seen above) and at the base by the dominance of Nothofagus spp. The presence of Intratropopollenites notabilis, Malvacipollis diversus and Proteacidites obesolabrus in the bottom sample only, suggest substantial reworking and possible proximity to an unconformity.

Age diagnostic dinoflagellates include S. placacantha, D.