

INTRODUCTION

Esso Bass No.2 Well was drilled in the north east corner of Bass Strait, at latitude $39^{\circ}53'09''S$ and longitude $146^{\circ}18'15''E$, which is 31 miles east of Bass No.1 location and 36 miles south-west from the granitic Curtis Island. As the well was drilled in Tasmanian waters the investigation was carried out on behalf of the Tasmanian Mines Department, as well as in the interests of Esso Explorations Australia (the Operator) and Haematite Explorations (the Permit Holder). Permission to undertake this work was granted by Dr. E.A. Thomas, Director of the Victorian Geological Survey. The close co-operation of all four bodies is acknowledged.

Sample Detail: Rotary cutting samples were submitted from the "first returns" at 850 feet to the total depth at 5910 feet. Because of rapid rate of drilling between 850 feet and 2,100 feet, rotary cutting samples were so contaminated that faunal determination was pointless. This interval has been ignored in this study by agreement with both Esso and Haematite. The 13 3/8" casing shoe was set at 2,043 feet and samples between 2,100 feet and 2,500 feet were free from contamination, but contamination gradually increased below 2,500 feet.

Small samples were submitted from cores 1 to 5 and 8 to 10. Foraminifera were isolated from cores 1 to 4. Below 2,100 feet, cutting samples were examined at 50 foot intervals and the interval was reduced where necessary. From this examination levels for side wall core intervals were selected, but only 3 side wall cores were obtained, from 3,345, 3,450 and 3,700 feet.

The faunas were examined in the same way as for the Bass No.1 well and the vertical distribution of species was compared with that on figure 1 of the Bass No.1 report of Taylor (1965a).

The datum for all samples was given from rotary table as +31 feet M.S.L. (water depth is 280' M.S.L.). All depths given here were those shown on submitted samples and no adjustment has been made for E-log interpretations.