

3.

age limits for the red siltstones and conglomerates.

The general degree of consolidation, lack of noticeable cleavage and close jointing, and absence of steep bedding, combined, tend to suggest that the red horizon post-dates the Mid-Devonian orogeny of Tasmania. The beds cannot be easily matched with known successions on the Tasmanian mainland, and with the absence of Upper Carboniferous - Lower Jurassic strata with Mid-Jurassic dolerite intrusions on the far N.W. Tasmanian coast, this suggests a tentative Mesozoic-basal Tertiary age, probably post-Mid Jurassic/basal Palaeocene. No strata of this age are known to outcrop on mainland Tasmania.

Glauconitic sands and silts similar to those in the conglomerate pebbles in the red horizon are known in Upper Cretaceous-basal Palaeocene beds on the S. coast of Victoria (Taylor, 1964; Bock and Glenie, 1965) and may be approximately equivalent in age. Hematite in the red horizon indicates oxidation, probably either representing material washed in from nearby terrestrial sources during lowered sea-level or oxidation of the beds during later marine regression. Evidence of land surfaces of appropriate age extending below present sea-level is known in Tasmania below probable Mid-Upper Mesozoic andesites at Cape Portland (Jennings and Sutherland, 1969) and below the non-marine Palaeocene beds in north Tasmania.