

Assignment to the Middle *N. asperus* zone is based on the occurrence of the following species.

<i>Aglaoreidia qualumis</i>	(4840-5093 feet)
<i>Anacolosidites sectis</i>	(5093 feet)
<i>Myrtaceidites verrucosus</i>	(4840-5320 feet)
<i>Proteacidites pachypolus</i>	(4840-5600 feet)
<i>Proteacidites rectomarginis</i>	(4840-5093 feet)
<i>Riccisporis boxatus</i>	(4840-5320 feet)
<i>Tricolpites simatus</i>	(4840-5093 feet)
<i>Triorites magnificus</i>	(5320-5600 feet)

As indicated on the range chart for the Bass Basin (Partridge 1973) a fairly large number of species terminate at or near the top of the Middle *N. asperus* zone and the presence of these forms precludes assignment to the Upper *N. asperus* zone. Some of the more commonly occurring species whose ranges do not extend beyond the Middle *N. asperus* zone and which were identified in Dondu-1 above the occurrence of *Triorites magnificus* include *Periporopollenites demarcatus*, *Proteacidites adenanthoides*, *P. crassis*, *P. incurvatus*, *P. leightoni*, *P. reticulatus*, *Simplicepollis meridianus* and *Tripoporopollenites ambiguus*.

Microplankton are rare to frequent and occur most commonly in the section between 4840 and 5320 feet. With the exception of *Hystriochokolpoma eisenackii*, all of the species are known from equivalent strata in the Gippsland and Otway Basins. Dinoflagellates and acritarchs identified from the Middle *N. asperus* zone are:

Achomosphaera sp.
A. alcicornu
Corrudinium incompositum
Crassosphaera concinna
Deflandrea phosphoritica
Epicephalopysis indentata
Horologinella spinata
Hystriochokolpoma eisenackii
H. rigaudae
Lingulodinium machaerophorum
Operculodinium centrocarpum
Phthanoperidinium spinatum
Schematophora speciosa
Spiniferites cingulata
S. ramosa
Systematophora placacantha

Lower *Nothofagidites asperus* Zone - Assemblages from sidewall cores at 5700, 6005 and 6208 feet are assigned to this zone. In comparison to the assemblages from the overlying zone, species diversity and spore-pollen abundance is much less and preservation is in general poorer, particularly in the shallower two samples in the Lower *N. asperus* zone. Moreover, no microplankton occur within this interval.