

DISCUSSION

The biostratigraphic scheme of Stover & Partridge (1973) has been applied to the assemblages from this well. Table 1 summarises the palynological analyses.

N. asperus Zone - sidewall cores from 6715 to 7431 feet. The preservation of palynomorphs in this interval is generally fair, but the assemblages are not particularly diverse. Rare microplankton occur sporadically at 6730, 6825 and 6920 feet. Species recorded include *Spiniferites* spp., *Pterospermopsis* sp., *Cordosphaeridium* cf. *C. gracilis* and *Hystrichosphaeridium* cf. *tubiferum* and do not conflict with the assignment of the spore-pollen assemblages to the *N. asperus* Zone.

Based on the presence of *Intratropollenites notabilis* at 6825 feet the assemblage from this core is equated with the lower *N. asperus* Zone. Other significant species include *Proteacidites pachypolus*, *Tricolpites thomasi* and diverse and common *Nothofagidites* spp. Assemblages from 6920 and 7431 feet are assigned to this zone because of the predominance of *Nothofagidites* pollen over *Haloragacidites harrisi* rather than to the older *P. asperopolus* Zone.

Proteacidites asperopolus Zone - sidewall core at 8189 feet the assemblage although very poorly preserved and of very low diversity, is dominated by an abundance of *Haloragacidites harrisi*. Rare species include *Ephedripites* sp., *Proteacidites pachypolus*, *P. grandis* and *P. kopsiensis*. The assemblage is assigned to this zone on very limited data, however the *H. harrisi* (*Nothofagidites* relationship is a useful regional guide, particularly in the lower sections of the zone.

Malvacipollis diversus Zone - sidewall cores at 8520 to 8944 feet. Further deterioration of preservation resulting in low diversity assemblages and four confident specific allocations, is most evident in this zone.