PALYNOLOGICAL DETERMINATIONS FOR NARIMBA-1, BASS BASIN, AUSTRALIA

by

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SUMMARY

Depths	Zone	Age
5850' to 6160'	Middle *N. asperus*	Middle to Late Eocene
6505' to 7243'	Lower *N. asperus*	Middle Eocene
7434' to 7616'	*P. asperopolus*	Early to Middle Eocene
7830' to 8210'	Upper *M. diversus*	Early Eocene
8335' to 9170'	Middle *M. diversus*	Early Eocene
9246' to 10770'	Lower *M. diversus*	Early Eocene
10844' to 10978'	Indeterminate	

Spore-pollen zone determinations for Narimba-1 are based on palynomorph assemblages from 51 sidewall and three conventional cores. Palynomorph preservation is good to fair in assemblage down to about 9000 feet; below this depth the preservation deteriorates and is very poor in assemblages below 10,000 feet. Microplankton occur in the majority of samples from 5850 to 10,844 feet and recycled Permian forms were found sporadically down to 10,770 feet. Occurrences of spore-pollen species are shown on the accompanying palynomorph distribution sheets and a summary of the palynological analyses is given on Table 1.

DISCUSSION

Middle *Nothofagidites asperus* Zone

The sample from SWC 23 at 5850 feet is assigned confidently to this zone because of the presence of *Triorites magnificus* and *Tricolpites thomasii*. Microplankton are rare in this assemblage which also has recycled Early Cretaceous spores. SWC 23 at 6160 feet is also placed in the Lower *N. asperus* zone but with reservation inasmuch as it could be assigned equally well to the Lower *N. asperus* zone on qualitative data. Quantitatively, the assemblage is more similar to other Middle *N. asperus* assemblages than to those from the Lower *N. asperus* zone. Recycled Permian spore-pollen and a specimen of *Lygistepollenites balmei* were identified at 6160 feet. Microplankton are rare at both 5850 and 6160 feet from which the following forms were identified: