

The interval is assigned to the Tricolpites longus Zone at the top on the youngest occurrence of Tricolpites confessus and at the base on oldest Stereisporites (Tripunctisporis) punctatus, supported by probable Tetracolporites verrucosus. At the top, only single specimens of T. confessus were seen at 3519-28m (cutts) and 3555-64m (cutts) and these could conceivably be reworked. However, at 3591-3600m (cutts), T. confessus is relatively common and is certainly in place. At the base, S. (T.) punctatus always has its last occurrence within the T. longus Zone, so that some of the underlying interval may belong to the T. longus Zone, but absence of key fossils precludes such assignment. L. balmei occurs fairly consistently down to 3710m (swc).

Preservation in this interval is very poor due to the high maturity, and thin walled or delicate pollen have been destroyed. Thus assemblages are lean and of low diversity, and so resolution is poor.

Dinoflagellates include only very rare Morkallacysta pyramidalis, indicating totally non-marine, partly lacustrine, environments.

Spore colours are very dark brown above 3700m (indicating maturity for oil and peak to full maturity for gas/condensate) and very dark brown/black below 3700m (indicating post-maturity for oil and full maturity for gas/condensate).

K. 3976 (swc)-4247m (swc) : ? lower T. longus-T. lillei Zones

Assignment at the top is taken on the absence of younger indicators, but, as explained above, may include the basal T. longus Zone. The usual markers for the base of the T. longus Zone were not seen, probably due to their destruction caused by the effect of the very high maturity on their relatively thin pollen wall. The base of the interval is defined by the oldest common