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**PALYNOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF KINGFISH-9
GIPPSLAND BASIN**

by

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INTRODUCTION

Eleven sidewall cores in Kingfish-9 were examined, cleaned and split by author and then forwarded to Laola Pty Ltd in Perth for processing to extract organic microfossils (palynomorphs). All samples were examined by author for their contained spores, pollen and microplankton to derive the data and interpretations in this report.

Between 8 to 12 grams (average 9.9g) of each sidewall core was processed for palynological analysis. High residue yields were recovered from most samples in the Latrobe Group coarse clastic section, very low yields from the overlying Gurnard Formation and variable low to high yields from the basal Lakes Entrance Formation. Palynomorph concentrations in general was directly proportional to yield. Spore-pollen diversity averaged 18+ species per sample. Microplankton were very rare and of very low diversity in the Latrobe coarse clastics section but occurred in abundance and of moderate diversity in the overlying Gurnard and Lakes Entrance Formations. From the latter units diversity averaged 11+ species per sample. Preservation varied from poor to good but overall was fair. Some degrading of the preservation was caused by the use of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and EUKITT mounting medium.

The palynological preparation by Laola Pty Ltd were overall better than in the Kingfish-8 well, drilled immediately preceding Kingfish-9. This reflects increasing experience in processing Gippsland Basin samples.

Lithological units and palynological zones from the base of the Lakes Entrance Formation to Total Depth are given in the following summary. The interpretative data with zone identification and Old and New Confidence Ratings are recorded in Table-1 and basic data on residue yields, preservation and diversity are recorded on Tables-2 and 3. All species which have been identified with binomial names are tabulated on the accompanying range charts. Relinquishment lists for palynological slides and residues from samples analysed in Kingfish-9 are provided at the end of the report.

2. The Gurnard Formation in Kingfish-9 is identified between 2304.0m to 2309.0m. It is characterised on the gamma ray log by high values raising from a background of below 80 gapi to two discrete peaks of 180 gapi at 2305m and 128 gapi at 2307.5m. Both peaks were sampled by sidewall cores which were subsequently analysed for palynology. There is also a characteristic wide separation of the Bulk Density and Neutron Porosity logs. The lithologies of the two sidewall cores taken in this interval are, however, somewhat atypical as they contained only minor glauconite. The shallowest sample at 2305m identified as a mottled siltstone, which upon cleaning for the palynological analysis was found to contain burrows up to 1cm in diameter distinguished by a change in colour of the siltstone from green to grey. The deeper sample at 2307.5m was a firm homogeneous dark grey-green to almost black claystone which apparently contained only minor amounts of glauconite. Both samples could be confidently assigned to the Lower *N. asperus* and *A. australicum* Zones based on very low yielding but obviously highly diverse assemblages. The occurrence of the *A. australicum* Zone and associated acritarchs species *Tritonites pandus* and *T. tricornus* indicate that only the lower part of the Gurnard Formation is to be found in Kingfish-9. As was recorded in Kingfish-8 (Partridge, 1992) the absence of an interval in Kingfish-9 containing *T. tricornus* before the FAD (First Appearance Datum) of *T. pandus* suggests that part of the early Middle Eocene (approx. 44-48 Ma) is missing at the base of the Gurnard Formation in Kingfish-9 (see fig.5 in Marshall & Partridge 1988).

Additional palynological age dating of the Gurnard Formation is still possible by processing samples from the 1.6 metres recovered from core-1 cut between 2307m to 2309m.

3. All samples from the Lakes Entrance Formation are dominated by open marine dinoflagellate assemblages. The rare but consistent presence of the spore *Cyatheacidites annulatus* associated with *Foveotriletes lacunosus* the index species for the Middle subzone of the *P. tuberculatus* Zone suggests that the very basal part of Lakes Entrance Formation is probably missing. The length of the hiatus is also extended by apparent absence of both the Upper and Middle *N. asperus* Zones from the underlying Gurnard Formation.

by moderate diversity microplankton assemblages with key zone species. The most significantly spore-pollen identified are *Conbaculites apiculatus* ms and *Proteacidites asperopolus* both identified on single specimens from the deeper sample and *Proteacidites pachypolus* recorded as a single specimen from the shallower sample.

The index dinoflagellate species *Areosphaeridium australicum* ms is abundant in both samples assigned to the zone. Other key dinoflagellate species are *Achilleodinium biformoides* (2307.5m), *Deflandrea flounderensis* (2307.5m) and *Deflandrea truncata* (2305.0m). Associates of the dinoflagellates are the frequent occurrence in both samples of the key acritarch species *Tritonites pandus* and *T. tricornus*. Anomalous dinoflagellate species occurring in the deeper of the two samples are *Areosphaeridium* sp. cf. *A. capricornum* which was poorly preserved and may be misidentified and *Homotryblium tasmaniense* which is considered to be reworked.

Proteacidites tuberculatus Zone: 2290.0-2300.5 metres Oligocene.

Four sidewall core samples are assigned to the *P. tuberculatus* Zone on the occurrence of the key spore *Cyatheacidites annulatus* which is present in the highest three sidewall cores and represented by a corroded (ghosted) specimen in the deepest sidewall core at 2300.5m. Other indicator spores present in these samples are *Foveotriletes crater* at 2291.5m and *Foveotriletes lacunosus* at 2297.0m. The latter spore is regarded as the key indicator species for the Middle subzone of the *P. tuberculatus* Zone by Stover & Partridge (1973). The associated microplankton assemblages contain typical Lakes Entrance Formation index dinoflagellate species including *Protoellipsodinium simplex* ms (common in all samples), *P. mamillatus* ms and *Tectactodinium scabroellipticus* ms. Overall the samples are dominated by the dinoflagellates *Spiniferites ramosus* s.l., *Operculodinium centrocarpum*, *Dapsilidinium pseudocolligerum* and *Nematosphaeropsis* spp. Most samples also contain microforaminiferal liners and scolecodonts.

TABLE 1: Interpretative Palynological Data Kingfish-9, Gippsland Basin.

SAMPLE TYPE	DEPTH (M)	SPORE-POLLEN ZONES	*CR OLD	*CR NEW	DINOFLAGELLATE ZONE (OR ASSOCIATION)	*CR OLD	*CR NEW	COMMENTS
SWC 20	2290.0	<i>P. tuberculatus</i>	0	B2	(<i>Operculodinium</i> spp.)	1	B2	<i>Cyatheacidites annulatus</i> present.
SWC 19	2291.5	<i>P. tuberculatus</i>	0	B2	(<i>Operculodinium</i> spp.)	1	B2	<i>C. annulatus</i> present.
SWC 18	2297.0	<i>P. tuberculatus</i>	0	B2	(<i>Operculodinium</i> spp.)	1	B3	Frequent <i>C. annulatus</i> .
SWC 17	2300.5	<i>P. tuberculatus</i>	2	B5	(<i>Operculodinium</i> spp.)	1	B3	Corroded specimen of <i>C. annulatus</i> present.
SWC 16	2305.0	Lower <i>N. asperus</i>	2	B5	<i>A. australicum</i>	1	B4	<i>Tritonites pandus</i> and <i>T. tricornus</i> present.
SWC 15	2307.5	Lower <i>N. asperus</i>	0	B1	<i>A. australicum</i>	0	B2	<i>T. pandus</i> and <i>T. tricornus</i> present.
SWC 8	2328.5	Indeterminate						Virtually barren.
SWC 7	2357.5	Lower <i>M. diversus</i>	1	B2				Common <i>Proteacidites grandis</i> .
SWC 6	2358.5	Lower <i>M. diversus</i>	1	B2				
SWC 5	2364.0	Lower <i>M. diversus</i>	1	B2				Common <i>P. grandis</i> .
SWC 4	2365.5	Lower <i>M. diversus</i>	1	B2				Frequent <i>P. grandis</i> .

*CR = Confidence Ratings OLD & NEW

BASIC DATA

TABLE 2: Basic Sample Data

TABLE 3: Basic Palynomorph Data

RANGE CHARTS

RELINQUISHMENT LISTS

RELINQUISHMENT LIST - PALYNOLOGICAL SLIDES

WELL NAME & NO: KINGFISH-9
 PREPARED BY: A.D. PARTRIDGE
 DATE: July 1992

SAMPLE TYPE	DEPTH (M)	CATALOGUE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
SWC 20	2290.0	P195984	Kerogen slide sieved/unsieved fractions
SWC 20	2290.0	P195985	Kerogen slide unsieved fraction
SWC 20	2290.0	P195986	Oxidized slide 2 (1/2 cover slip)
SWC 20	2290.0	P195987	Oxidized slide 3 (1/2 cover slip)
SWC 19	2291.5	P195988	Kerogen slide sieved/unsieved fractions
SWC 19	2291.5	P195989	Kerogen slide unsieved fraction
SWC 19	2291.5	P195990	Oxidized slide 2
SWC 19	2291.5	P195991	Oxidized slide 3
SWC 18	2297.0	P195992	Kerogen slide sieved/unsieved fractions
SWC 18	2297.0	P195993	Kerogen slide unsieved fraction
SWC 18	2297.0	P195994	Oxidized slide 2
SWC 18	2297.0	P195995	Oxidized slide 3 (1/2 cover slip)
SWC 17	2300.5	P195996	Kerogen slide sieved/unsieved fractions
SWC 17	2300.5	P195997	Kerogen slide unsieved fraction
SWC 17	2300.5	P195998	Oxidized slide 2 (1/2 cover slip)
SWC 16	2305.0	P195999	Kerogen slide sieved/unsieved fractions
SWC 16	2305.0	P196000	Kerogen slide unsieved fraction
SWC 16	2305.0	P196001	Oxidized slide 2 (1/4 cover slip)
SWC 15	2307.5	P196002	Kerogen slide sieved/unsieved fractions
SWC 15	2307.5	P196003	Kerogen slide unsieved fraction
SWC 15	2307.5	P196004	Oxidized slide 2 (1/2 cover slip)
SWC 8	2328.5	P196005	Kerogen slide unsieved fraction
SWC 7	2357.5	P196006	Kerogen slide sieved/unsieved fractions
SWC 7	2357.5	P196007	Oxidized slide 2
SWC 7	2357.5	P196008	Oxidized slide 3 (1/2 cover slip)
SWC 6	2358.5	P196009	Kerogen slide sieved/unsieved fractions
SWC 6	2358.5	P196010	Kerogen slide unsieved fraction
SWC 6	2358.5	P196011	Oxidized slide 2
SWC 6	2358.5	P196012	Oxidized slide 3
SWC 5	2364.0	P196013	Kerogen slide sieved/unsieved fractions
SWC 5	2364.0	P196014	Kerogen slide unsieved fraction
SWC 5	2364.0	P196015	Oxidized slide 2
SWC 5	2364.0	P196016	Oxidized slide 3
SWC 4	2365.5	P196017	Kerogen slide sieved/unsieved fractions
SWC 4	2365.5	P196018	Kerogen slide unsieved
SWC 4	2365.5	P196019	Oxidized slide 2
SWC 4	2365.5	P196020	Oxidized slide 3

MICROPLANKTON RANGE CHART KINGFISH-9, GIPPSLAND BASIN.

Chart Column	Species	2290.0 M	2291.5 M	2297.0 M	2300.5 M	2305.0 M	2307.5 M	2328.5 M	2357.5 M	2358.5 M	2364.0 M	2365.5 M	SWC	Chart Column	Species	2290.0 M	2291.5 M	2297.0 M	2300.5 M	2305.0 M	2307.5 M	2328.5 M	2357.5 M	2358.5 M	2364.0 M	2365.5 M	SWC
1	PARALECANIELLA INDENTATA													1	PARALECANIELLA INDENTATA												
2	APECTODINIUM SP.													2	APECTODINIUM SP.												
3	APECTODINIUM HOMOMORPHUM													3	APECTODINIUM HOMOMORPHUM												
4	ACHILLEODINIUM BIFORMOIDES													4	ACHILLEODINIUM BIFORMOIDES												
5	AREOSPHAERIDIUM AUSTRALICUM MS													5	AREOSPHAERIDIUM AUSTRALICUM MS												
6	AREOSPHAERIDIUM CAPRICORNUM													6	AREOSPHAERIDIUM CAPRICORNUM												
7	CLEISTOSPHAERIDIUM EPACRUM MS													7	CLEISTOSPHAERIDIUM EPACRUM MS												
8	DEFLANDREA FLOUNDERENSIS													8	DEFLANDREA FLOUNDERENSIS												
9	DEFLANDREA SPP.													9	DEFLANDREA SPP.												
10	HOMOTRYBLIUM TASMANIENSE													10	HOMOTRYBLIUM TASMANIENSE												
11	HOROLOGINELLA INCURVATA													11	HOROLOGINELLA INCURVATA												
12	IMPAGIDINIUM CRASSIMURATUM													12	IMPAGIDINIUM CRASSIMURATUM												
13	LINGULODINIUM MACHAEROPHORUM													13	LINGULODINIUM MACHAEROPHORUM												
14	OPERCULODINIUM CENTROCARPUM													14	OPERCULODINIUM CENTROCARPUM												
15	SPINIFERITES RAMOSA S.L.													15	SPINIFERITES RAMOSA S.L.												
16	TRITONITES PANDUS													16	TRITONITES PANDUS												
17	TRITONITES SPINOSUS													17	TRITONITES SPINOSUS												
18	scolecodont													18	scolecodont												
19	DEFLANDREA TRUNCATA													19	DEFLANDREA TRUNCATA												
20	NEMATOSPHAEROPSIS RHIZOMA MS													20	NEMATOSPHAEROPSIS RHIZOMA MS												
21	PTHANOPERIDIUM DELICATUM MS													21	PTHANOPERIDIUM DELICATUM MS												
22	SPINIDIUM SPP.													22	SPINIDIUM SPP.												
23	TECTATODINIUM MARLUM MS													23	TECTATODINIUM MARLUM MS												
24	CRASSOSPHAERA CONCIINNA													24	CRASSOSPHAERA CONCIINNA												
25	DAPSIDINIUM PSEUDOCOLLIGERUM													25	DAPSIDINIUM PSEUDOCOLLIGERUM												
26	HYSTRICHOKOLPOMA RIGAUDIAE													26	HYSTRICHOKOLPOMA RIGAUDIAE												
27	PROTOELLIPSODINIUM SIMPLEX MS													27	PROTOELLIPSODINIUM SIMPLEX MS												
28	botryococcus													28	botryococcus												
29	microforaminiferal liner													29	microforaminiferal liner												
30	HYSTRICHOKOLPOMA SP.													30	HYSTRICHOKOLPOMA SP.												
31	LINGULODINIUM SOLARUM													31	LINGULODINIUM SOLARUM												
32	TECTATODINIUM SCABROELLIPTICUS MS													32	TECTATODINIUM SCABROELLIPTICUS MS												
33	APECTODINIUM AUSTRALIENSE													33	APECTODINIUM AUSTRALIENSE												
34	CYCLOPSIELLA VIETA													34	CYCLOPSIELLA VIETA												
35	NEMATOSPHAEROPSIS N.SP. 2													35	NEMATOSPHAEROPSIS N.SP. 2												
36	PENTADINIUM LATICINCTUM													36	PENTADINIUM LATICINCTUM												
37	PYXIDINOPSIS PONTUS MS													37	PYXIDINOPSIS PONTUS MS												
38	PROTOELLIPSODINIUM MAMILLATUS MS													38	PROTOELLIPSODINIUM MAMILLATUS MS												

Format: Relative Abundance By Lowest Appearance

Key to Symbols

- W = REWORKING
- D = CONTAMINATION
- M = PRESENT
- R = RARE
- F = FREQUENT
- C = COMMON
- A = ABUNDANT
- Q = Questionably Present
- = Not Present

SPECIES LOCATION INDEX

CHART

COLUMN SPECIES

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 4 | ACHILLEODINIUM BIFORMOIDES |
| 3 | APECTODINIUM HOMOMORPHUM |
| 2 | APECTODINIUM SP. |
| 33 | APECTODINIUM AUSTRALIENSE |
| 5 | AREOSPHAERIDIUM AUSTRALICUM MS |
| 6 | AREOSPHAERIDIUM CAPRICORNUM |
| 7 | CLEISTOSPHAERIDIUM EPACRUM MS |
| 24 | CRASSOSPHAERA CONCIINNA |
| 34 | CYCLOPSIELLA VIETA |
| 25 | DAPSIDINIUM PSEUDOCOLLIGERUM |
| 8 | DEFLANDREA FLOUNDERENSIS |
| 9 | DEFLANDREA SPP. |
| 19 | DEFLANDREA TRUNCATA |
| 10 | HOMOTRYBLIUM TASMANIENSE |
| 11 | HOROLOGINELLA INCURVATA |
| 26 | HYSTRICHOKOLPOMA RIGAUDIAE |
| 30 | HYSTRICHOKOLPOMA SP. |
| 12 | IMPAGIDINIUM CRASSIMURATUM |
| 13 | LINGULODINIUM MACHAEROPHORUM |
| 31 | LINGULODINIUM SOLARUM |
| 35 | NEMATOSPHAEROPSIS N.SP. 2 |
| 20 | NEMATOSPHAEROPSIS RHIZOMA MS |
| 14 | OPERCULODINIUM CENTROCARPUM |
| 1 | PARALECANIELLA INDENTATA |
| 36 | PENTADINIUM LATICINCTUM |
| 21 | PTHANOPERIDIUM DELICATUM MS |
| 38 | PROTOELLIPSODINIUM MAMILLATUS MS |
| 27 | PROTOELLIPSODINIUM SIMPLEX MS |
| 37 | PYXIDINOPSIS PONTUS MS |
| 22 | SPINIDIUM SPP. |
| 15 | SPINIFERITES RAMOSA S.L. |
| 23 | TECTATODINIUM MARLUM MS |
| 32 | TECTATODINIUM SCABROELLIPTICUS MS |
| 16 | TRITONITES PANDUS |
| 17 | TRITONITES TRICORNUS |
| 28 | botryococcus |
| 29 | microforaminiferal liner |
| 18 | scolecodont |

SPORE-POLLEN RANGE CHART FOR KINGFISH-9, GIPPSLAND BASIN.

Year	Month	Swamp Code	Abundance	Relative Abundance	Lowest Appearance
2290.0	M	SWC-20			
2291.5	M	SWC-19			
2297.0	M	SWC-18			
2300.5	M	SWC-17			
2305.0	M	SWC-16			
2307.5	M	SWC-15			
2328.5	M	SWC-8			
2357.5	M	SWC-7			
2358.5	M	SWC-6			
2364.0	M	SWC-5			
2365.5	M	SWC-4			

Year	Month	Swamp Code	Abundance	Relative Abundance	Lowest Appearance
2290.0	M	SWC-20			
2291.5	M	SWC-19			
2297.0	M	SWC-18			
2300.5	M	SWC-17			
2305.0	M	SWC-16			
2307.5	M	SWC-15			
2328.5	M	SWC-8			
2357.5	M	SWC-7			
2358.5	M	SWC-6			
2364.0	M	SWC-5			
2365.5	M	SWC-4			

Format: Relative Abundance By Lowest Appearance

Key to Symbols

- W = REWORKING
- D = CONTAMINATION
- M = PRESENT
- R = RARE
- F = FREQUENT
- C = COMMON
- A = ABUNDANT
- ? = Questionably Present
- = Not Present

SPECIES LOCATION INDEX

CHART COLUMN	SPECIES
40	ARAUCARIACITES AUSTRALIS
1	BACULATISPORITES SPP.
45	BANKSIABIDITES ELONGATUS
2	BASOPOLLIS OTWAYENSIS MS
3	CLAVIFERA TRIPLIX
46	CONRACULITES APICULATUS MS
47	CUPANIENIDITES ORTHOICHIUS
4	CYATHEA PALCOSPORA
62	CYATHEACIDITES ANNULATUS
5	CYATHIDITES SPLENDENS
6	DICOTETRADITES CLAVATUS
7	DILMNITES GRANULATUS
8	DILMNITES TUBERCULATUS
9	DRYTOPOLLENITES SEMILUNATUS
64	ERICIPILES SCABRATUS
66	FOVEOTRILETES CRATER
65	FOVEOTRILETES LACUNOSUS
10	GLEICHENIIDITES CIRCINIDITES
11	HALORAGACIDITES HARRISII
67	HERCOSPORITES ELLIOTTII
68	ILEXPOLLENITES SPP.
31	ISCHYOSPORITES GREMIUS
48	ISCHYOSPORITES IRREGULARIS MS
32	LAEVIGATOSPORITES OVATUS
12	LAEVIGATOSPORITES MAJOR
13	LAEVIPOLLENITES SPP.
33	LATHROPOLLENITES CRASSUS
34	LYGISTEPOLLENITES BALMEI
33	LYGISTEPOLLENITES FLORINII
49	MALVACIPOLLIS DIVERSUS
59	MALVACIPOLLIS ROBUSTUS MS
16	MALVACIPOLLIS SUBTILIS
68	MATONISPORITES ORNAMENTALIS
50	MICROCACHRYDITES ANTARCTICUS
34	MIRACIDITES PARVUS/MESONESUS
35	NOTHOFAGIDITES BRACHYSPINULOSUS
69	NOTHOFAGIDITES DEMINUTUS
17	NOTHOFAGIDITES EMARCIDUS/HETERUS
63	NOTHOFAGIDITES FALCATUS
18	NOTHOFAGIDITES FLEMINGII
51	NOTHOFAGIDITES GONIATUS
60	NOTHOFAGIDITES VANSTENISII
41	PARVISACCITES CAVASTUS
52	PERIPORPOLLENITES DEMARCATUS
42	PEROMONOLITES BOWENII
43	PHYLLOCLADIDITES MAMSONII
19	PODOCARPIDITES SPP.
36	PODOSPORITES MICROSACCATUS
20	PROTEACIDITES ADENANTHOIDES
21	PROTEACIDITES ANNULARIS
53	PROTEACIDITES ASPEROPOLUS
54	PROTEACIDITES CRASSUS
22	PROTEACIDITES INCURVATUS
24	PROTEACIDITES GRANDIS
23	PROTEACIDITES ORSCURUS
61	PROTEACIDITES PACHYPOLUS
55	PROTEACIDITES PSEUDOMOIDES
25	PROTEACIDITES RECTUS
44	RETITRILETES SPP.
26	RETITRILETES CRATER
27	RUGULATISPORITES MALLATUS
56	SANTALUMIDITES CAINOZOICUS
57	SAPTACOIDAEPOLENITES ROTUNDUS
37	STEREISPORITES (TRIPUNCTISPORIS) SP.
28	STEREISPORITES ANTIQUISPORITES
38	TETRACOLPORITES MULTISTRIXUS MS
29	TETRACOLPORITES ADELADENSIS
39	TRICOLPORITES MOULTONII MS
58	VERRUCATOSPORITES ALIENUS
30	VERRUCATOSPORITES KOKUKUENSIS