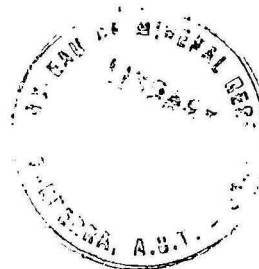


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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.
BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES
GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS.

RECORDS.

1959/98



FORAMINIFERA FROM THE WEST DARLING AREA,

NEW SOUTH WALES

by

Irene Crespin

Foraminifera from the West Darling Area,
New South Wales

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Five samples were submitted by Mr. T. Rose of the Geological Survey of New South Wales for micropalaeontological examination. Four of these (Bags 777, 780, 781, 793) came from White Cliffs and one (P. 278) from near Tibooburra. Foraminifera of Lower Cretaceous age were present in 780 and 793.

A detailed account of the examination is as follows:

P. 278. Wampi Gate road, 20 miles N. of Tibooburra
Sandstone. No microfossils.

777. Top band in underground workings in shaft on eastern edge
of the "Blocks Area", White Cliffs

Cream to pinkish siltstone with ? foraminifera.

780 West side of "Blocks area" (on Dump), White Cliffs

Cream sandy siltstone with bands of opal and opal replacement of shell fragments. Washings contained arenaceous and calcareous tests of foraminifera, opalized shell fragments and ostracoda. The arenaceous tests of foraminifera were crushed, whilst the calcareous ones were replaced with opal.

Foraminifera: Bigenenerina sp.

Haplophragmoides chapmani Crespin

Haplophragmoides aff. excavata Chapman

Lenticulina australiensis Crespin

Marginulinopsis australis Crespin

Ostracoda: Genus indeterminate

781. Locality as for 780.

Cream siltstone with opaline patches and indeterminate shell fragments. No foraminifera were present in the washings.

793. Bottom of south tractor cut on Turley's Hill, White
Cliffs.

Sandy siltstone with arenaceous foraminifera, very crushed.

Haplophragmoides cf. chapmani Crespin

Spiroplectammina sp.

Trochammina aff. raggatti Crespin

Trochammina aff. depressa Lozo

Note on the Samples

The present record of foraminifera in the opal-bearing beds around White Cliffs, is the first from that area. All species recognisable are characteristic of the Lower Cretaceous deposits of the Great Artesian Basin (Crespin, 1953, 1956). All arenaceous tests were crushed and distorted as is frequently the case with the foraminifera found in the Lower Cretaceous deposits. However, the calcareous species Marginulinopsis australi and Lenticulina australiensis have become opalized and have retained their original shape. This is the first occurrence in which the writer has observed this type of preservation of foraminiferal tests.

References

- Crespin, I., 1953 - Lower Cretaceous foraminifera from the Great Artesian Basin, Australia. Cush. Fdn. Foram. Res. 4 (1), 26-36.
- Crespin, I., 1956 - Distribution of Lower Cretaceous foraminifera in bores in the Great Artesian Basin, Northern New South Wales. J. Roy. Soc. N.S.W. 89, 78-84.