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PLANT FOSSILS FROM THE HODGKINSON FORMATION,
NORTH QUEENSLAND.

by

Mary E. White.



The information contained in this report has been obtained by the Department of National Development, as part of the policy of the Commonwealth Government, to assist in the exploration and development of mineral resources. It may not be published in any form or used in a company prospectus without the permission in writing of the Director, Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics.

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Indeterminate plant fossils were collected from five localities in Hodgkinson Formation in 1959. Details of four localities and descriptions of specimens are given in Records 1959/75. A possibly Devonian age was suggested as some of the stem impressions showed Psilophytalean affinity.

A further collection was made from two localities by K.G. Lucas in 1960.

Specimen A 733, collected 12 miles N.N.W. of Dimbulah township (Atherton run 1/5054) in 1959 (K.G. Lucas), has two clear impressions of small stems of Leptophloeum australe (McCoy) showing rhomboidal leaf bases with leaf trace scars in upper angles.

Specimen M 21, (1960) from a locality on the Mulligan Highway in the Desailly Range contains one medium size stem impression also of Leptophloeum australe (McCoy), illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1.

Leptophloeum australe (McCoy)

Natural size.

Specimens M 167 (1960) were collected from an 8" unsorted bed of Hodgkinson Formation at a locality in Desailly Creek. (Mossman 4-mile sheet, George River run 5/25). Several poorly preserved impressions of Leptophloeum australe are present with an indeterminate stem cast and fragmentary stem impressions.

Leptophloeum australe is a very common plant fossil in Australia in beds of Upper Devonian/Lower Carboniferous age. In North Queensland it occurs in the Star Group (see Records 1958/38) and in Basal Gilberton Formation (see Records 1957/71). Its association with a Psilophyte stem in the Hodgkinson Formation, suggests Devonian age for the Formation.