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MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES OF MIOCENE LIMESTONE FROM THE WESTERN DISTRICT. VICTORIA

by

I. Crespin.

Micropalaeontological Examination of samples of Miocene Limestone from the Western District, Victoria.

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During a recent visit to Portland, Western Victoria, by the writer in company with Dr. Boutakoff and Mr. Spencer Jones of the Geological Survey of Victoria, samples of limestone were collected at two widely separated localities. Both limestones are of Miocene age.

Sample 1. Scarp above Condor Swamp off Macarthur-Heywood Road

Ochreous to cream limestone with numerous fragments of the worm Ditrupa wormbetiensis McCoy and bryozoa. A thin section of the rock showed numerous tests of small foraminifera, with many of the tests and fragments of bryozoa infilled with brown glauconite (Registered No. MF.3277).

The following foraminifera were recognised:

Anomalina cf. nonionoides Parr
Planorbulina mediterranensis d'Orb.
Calcarina cf. verriculata (Howchin and Parr)
Globigerina bulloides d'Orb.
Orbulina universa d'Orb.
Quinqueloculina spp.

Sample 2. Tyrendarra East, ½ mile W. of School, S. of Princes Highway between Port Fairy and Portland

Ochreous limestone with fragments of Diprupa wormetiensis McCoy. A thin section of the rock showed numerous tests of small foraminifera and a little bryozoa, many of the tests of the foraminifera and fragments of bryozoa being infilled with brown and green glauconite. (Registered No. MF.3278).

The following foraminifera were recognised in thin section:

Anomalina cf. nonionoides Parr
Bolivina spp.
Globigerina bulloides d'Orb.
Planorbulina mediterranensis d'Orb.
Textularia sp.
Orbulina universa d'Orb.

Notes on the Samples.

There is little doubt that these two limestones are on Miocene age and are from the same stratigraphical horizon in the Miocene. It is unsatisfactory to give specific determinations of small foraminifera in this section. However, the lithology of these limestones as seen in thin section, together with the abundance of Anomalina cf. nonionoides, the presence of Orbulina universa, the numerous fragments of bryozoa and fragments of Ditrupa wormbetiensi indicate that the limestones are Miocene in age. Ditrupa wormbetiensis is common in both samples. This fossil is characteristic of the limestones which occur above the Lepidocycline horizon (Lower Miocene) in the Gippsland area and there seems little doubt that the stratigraphical position of these limestones from Western Victoria is similar to those containing Ditrupa in Gippsland.