

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

RECORDS

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NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF SOME TERTIARY LARGER
FORAMINIFERA ON BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND.
(SOLOMON ISLANDS)

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During the two trips to Mt. Balbi (Bougainville) made in 1950 by Mr. G. A. Taylor, Volcanologist of the Bureau of Mineral Resources and in 1951 by the late Mr. A.K.M. Edwards, Senior Geologist of the same Bureau, a few limestone samples were collected which added to the knowledge of the distribution of Tertiary Indo-Pacific foraminifera.

The sample collected by Mr. Edwards from the Wakunai River east of Mt. Balbi, No. MF969, a compact pink limestone yielded:

Spiroclypeus sp. indet. (abundant)
Lepidocyclina (N) perornata H. Douville (abundant)
Lepidocyclina cf. verbeeki Newton & Holland (abundant)
Miogypsinoides sp. indet.

Spiroclypeus ranges in the Indo-Pacific Region from "b" to "e" stages (of the Dutch "letter" classification) inclusive. Miogypsinoides is known only from "e" and "f₁₋₂" stages, and the same range is given by Caudri (1939) for Lepidocyclina perornata. This fauna belongs to the "e" stage (Aquitanian).

Three samples collected by Mr. Taylor (Nos. R.6686-6688) on the track between the Sisivi and Lesopaia villages (11 miles south-east from Mt. Balbi) are grey compact silty limestones containing:

Lepidocyclina (N) verrucosa Scheffen (frequent)
Gypsina globulus Reuss (frequent)
Elphidium craticulatum Fichtel & Moll (v. rare)
Operculinella sp. indet (common)

The only diagnostic form in this assemblage is Lepidocyclina verrucosa. It was described from Java where it ranges from the upper "e" to "f₂" stage inclusive. In eastern Borneo and Papua it occurs abundantly in the "f₂" stage associated with L. (N) angulosa Provale, L. (N) inflata Provale and L. (N) sumatrensis Brady.

This assemblage most likely represents the lower "f" stage (Burdigalian).

References:

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