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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES  
GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

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RECORDS

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1952/62

MICRO-EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF DIATOMITE FROM BEACH RANGE, QUEENSLAND

by

I. Crespin

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The sample of diatomite submitted for micro-examination came from a low bed on Beach Range at 1,110 feet above sea-level.

The rock is hard, dense and finely bedded and has a much higher specific gravity than a good grade diatomite. Only two broken frustules of the diatom, Pinnularia, were observed as well as fragments of smooth and prickly siliceous sponge spicules.

The diatomite is of very poor grade and quite unsuitable for filtration purposes. It is of freshwater origin and is most probably Pliocene in age.

It is possible that a better grade diatomite may be present in another part of the deposit. This could be readily proved by making a comparison of the specific gravity of several samples. A good diatomite is very light in weight, the true specific gravity being 1.19 to 2.35.