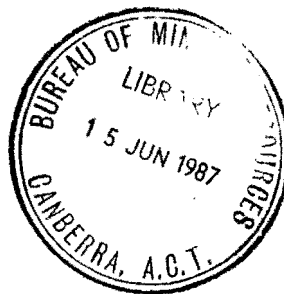


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REPORT ON A SAMPLE OF DIATOMITE FROM QUEENSLAND.

by I. Crespino.

Canberra.

5.5.50.

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REPORT ON A SAMPLE OF DIATOMITE FROM QUEENSLAND.

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The diatomite received from Mr. J.S. Craig for micropalaeontological examination comes from an unnamed locality in Queensland. The rock is snow-white in colour and very finely bedded. It is of freshwater origin and is Pliocene in age.

The rock is very pure and is composed almost entirely of boat-shaped diatoms belonging to the genera Cymbella and Navicula. Other genera include the long ovate Pinnularia and the cylindrical Melosira. A few small siliceous sponge spicules are also present.

This diatomite should have excellent filtering properties because of the variation in size of the numerous frustules of Cymbella and Navicula. It is quite unlike any diatomite of Tertiary or Recent age previously examined from Eastern Australia.

The sample of American Diatomite also sent for comment is of marine origin and is of Miocene age. It has high grade filtering properties. It most probably comes from the extensive deposits of marine diatomite at Lompoc, California. It is composed almost entirely of complete and broken frustules of the disc-shaped, honeycombed structured genus Coscinodiscus.

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