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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

RECORDS

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MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ROCK SAMPLES FROM THE VICINITY OF THE WATHEROO MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

by

I. Crespin

MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ROCK SAMPLES FROM THE VICINITY OF THE WATHEROO MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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1. Collected by Dr. Wood, May, 1949.

No definite locality given.

Pale buff coloured, finely bedded siltstone, with numerous indeterminate plant rootlets. A thin section shows a fine silty matrix with patches of fine angular quartz grains, rounded bodies probably referable to radiolaria and numerous fine siliceous spicules, probably from radiolaria.

2. Collected by Dr. H.G. Raggatt, September, 1947.

Shallow pit south side of road leading from Moora-Watheroo main road to Observatory and about 3½ miles from the Observatory.

(a) Ochreous siltstone, very finely bedded. A thin section shows a fine silty matrix containing numerous fine angular quartz grains, radiolaria (Cenosphaera, Staurosphaera) and numerous fine siliceous spicules, most probably representing spines detached from spinose genera of radiolaria such as Staurosphaera.

(b) Buff coloured siltstone. No micro-fossils.

These three samples contain no microfossils definitely indicating an age for them. However, the lithology together with the presence of radiolaria in sample 2a collected by Dr. Raggatt, is suggestive of the rocks of Lower Cretaceous age in the Northwest Basin.

In thin section, Sample 1 collected by Dr. Wood, is similar to Sample 2a. It is probable that the plant rootlets were floated into the fine sediments at the time of deposition.

I. Crespin

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CANBERRA, A.C.T.

(I. Crespin)
Commonwealth Palaeontologist