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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES
GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

RECORDS

1948/53

MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES
FROM BONDSPRINGS STATION, ABOUT 16 MILES
EAST OF 16 MILE GOVERNMENT BORE. "
ALICE SPRINGS, NORTHERN TERRITORY

By

I. CRESPIN

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4

MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES
FROM BONDSPRINGS STATION, ABOUT 16 MILES
WEST OF 16-MILE GOVERNMENT BORE,
ALICE SPRINGS, NORTHERN TERRITORY.



Report No. 1948/53
(Pal. Ser. No. 20)

The samples received from the bore at Bondsprings Station for micropalaeontological examination came from the depth of 200-250 feet. The greyish rock is composed almost entirely of minute, sphaerical siliceous tests of radiolaria belonging to the group Spumellaria. These bodies are so numerous that they probably represented a radiolarian ooze. The rock which is being classed as a radiolarite, is regarded as of Lower Cretaceous age.

Rocks containing numerous radiolaria occur at numerous localities throughout Northern Territory and North West Australia and occur both in surface and subsurface sections. The surface samples which frequently have the lithology of a porcellanite, often contain characteristic Lower Cretaceous megafossils, while in the subsurface samples, the radiolaria are associated with Lower Cretaceous species of foraminifera.

The exact relationship of the radiolarites and porcellanites to the foraminiferal bearing beds in the Great Artesian Basin and elsewhere to the west of that area is still uncertain. Consequently it would be invaluable for stratigraphical purposes if samples above the depth of 200 feet in the Bondsprings Bore were available for micro-examination. The only bore examined in the Great Artesian Basin in which radiolaria were common was at Charlotte Waters where at the depth of 440-450 feet they were associated with arenaceous foraminifera.

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8th September, 1948.
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