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PERMIAN FORAMINIFERA FROM A BORE AT COORABIN, NEW SOUTH WALES

by

Irene Crespin

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PERMIAN FORAMINIFERA FROM A BORE AT COORABIN,
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In 1916 a coal seam was discovered in beds underlying sandstones, grits and clays, near the railway station at Coorabin in the Parish of Cunambil, County of Urana, New South Wales. (Dept. Mines Ann.Rept. for 1916). The locality is 6 miles north of Oaklands and 55 miles north-west of Albury. In 1922, Mr. L. F. Harper, then Senior Geological Surveyor, collected material from the dump of a shaft which contained impressions of typical Permian plants such as Glossopteris and Vertebraria (Loc.cit.1922).

During 1942 and 1943 eight bores have been put down in the district for the Commonwealth Coal Commission by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission of New South Wales. This work was done under the general supervision of the Mineral Resources Survey Branch of the Department of Supply and Shipping. Numerous plant remains have been noted in the cores obtained, but few of them are sufficiently well preserved for specific identification. However, Dr. A. B. Walkom has determined the following in specimens submitted to him - Noeggerathiopsis (?N. Hialopi), Glossopteris sp. and G. ? Browniana.

The cores have also been examined for a micro-fauna. Foraminifera were found in samples taken from below the coal seam in Bore J located 30 feet north of the south boundary of Portion 74, Parish of Clear Hill, and 1950 feet east of the railway track. They were present in a light grey, micaceous shale at the depth of 384 feet and they have been determined as Hyperamminoides cf. acicula Parr and Ammodiscus cf. milletianus Chapman. The specimens are not well enough preserved for exact specific determination, but the forms are common in the Permian rocks of New South Wales. The presence of these foraminifera is the first indication that marine conditions in Permian times extended as far to the south-west in New South Wales as Coorabin.
