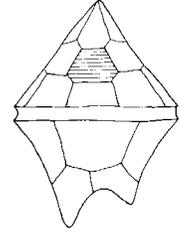


SPECIAL ISSUE

Antarctic Science, Vol. 4, No. 3

Palynology of the James Ross Island area



The James Ross Island area is recognized as one of the geological treasures of Antarctica. It exposes a section of over 6 km of Cretaceous and Tertiary marine sedimentary strata with an important content of reworked Upper Jurassic rocks near the base. This sequence has produced some of the most remarkable fossil finds in the Southern Hemisphere. The list is extensive and includes a wealth of marine invertebrates, plesiosaurs, dinosaurs, land mammals and birds, giant penguins, whales, and fossil leaves and wood. The sediments record a long history of submarine fan, shelf and deltaic deposition in a back-arc environment, and the contained fossils provide valuable information on Cretaceous and Tertiary climates, and biological evolution at high palaeolatitudes.

Critical to the study of such a sequence is a firm biostratigraphical framework, in which palynology plays a major role. This **Special Issue**, to be published as the September 1992 part of the journal, will bring together a collection of papers, resulting from a joint research project by the British Antarctic Survey, the Centre for Palynological Studies of the University of Sheffield, and the British Geological Survey. The papers will describe the palynology (mainly dinoflagellate cysts) of the Upper Jurassic (Tithonian) and Early Cretaceous (Aptian/Albian)–Eocene. The floras contain several new taxa, plus existing species known from other Southern Hemisphere localities, such as Australia and New Zealand. The collection of papers will be introduced with an overview by the Special Issue editors, A. M. Duane, D. Pirrie and J.B. Riding. The Special Issue aims to establish the major elements of the Upper Jurassic–lower Tertiary palynostratigraphy of the northern Antarctic Peninsula region. It is hoped that it will form an invaluable reference work for future stratigraphical studies in this key area.

Extra copies of this part will be available at £19.50/\$36.50 each post free.

Volume 4 parts 1, 2 and 4 will be longer than normal.