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OCCURRENCE OF CRESPININA KINGSCOTENSIS WADE

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ABSTRACT

Report is a reply to Dr. Raggatt's criticism in the Australian Journal of Science to Miss Wade's infringement of the Australian Code of Stratigraphic Nomenclature by publishing names in oral use for undescribed formations in Victoria.

Preparation of a complete glossary of Australian stratigraphic names and wide circulation of the Code among geologists are advocated.

A contribution to the record of distribution of *Crespinina* is included.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

OCCURRENCE OF CRESPININA KINGSCOTENSIS WADE

In his comment (Australian Journal of Science, August, 1955, 18, (1), p. 31) upon Miss Mary Wade's reference, in a paper on the morphology of a new genus of foraminifera, to limestones at Castle Cove and Johanna River, Victoria, Dr. Raggatt has raised points of interest to those who are endeavouring to implement the Australian Code of Stratigraphic Nomenclature (Glaessner et. al., 1948; Raggatt, 1950).

Despite the small initial letter for the lithological part of the name, Miss Wade evidently intended to imply the formal use of the name Castle Cove limestone, since the capital letter was not used (p. 48) also for the Blanche Point Marls, which have been formally defined. She was apparently unaware that neither the limestone at Castle Cove nor that at Johanna River had been described and that in publishing the name Castle Cove limestone without qualification she infringed the Code.

Unless some form of supervision can be exercised by the Standing Committee on Stratigraphic Nomenclature, it is relatively easy for small errors of this kind to result from familiar oral use of formation names.

To lessen the probability of nomenclatural confusion arising from their publication, a complete glossary of Australian stratigraphic names on the lines of a Revised Glossary of Queensland Stratigraphy by W.H. Bryan and O.A. Jones, 1944, University of Queensland Papers, new series, 2, (11), and the Bibliographic Index of New Zealand Stratigraphic Names, 1954, Memoir 9, New Zealand Geological Survey, is badly needed.

It is also desirable that reprints of the Code be widely circulated among geologists.

While there will be agreement with Dr. Raggatt that Australian stratigraphy is "bedevilled" with looseness in nomenclature, there is also a danger that the practical application of the Code may be vitiated by a multiplicity of local names for small outcrops of strata which may, on various grounds, be reasonably if not positively correlated. I take it that while the limestone at Johanna

River may never be positively identified with that at Castle Cove, Victorian workers who have orally applied the same name to both limestones hold the view that there is not sufficient justification for distinguishing formally between them.

I should like to add to Dr. Raggatt's contribution on the occurrence of Crespinina kingscotensis, an interesting genus with a limited stratigraphic range, by placing on record that I recently recovered a worn, glauconite-infilled, probably remanie', specimen from the uppermost 1 foot of the predominantly non-marine Chinaman's Gully Beds at their type locality, Aldinga Bay, and 2 examples from the cross-bedded bryozoal sands at the base of the Port Willunga Beds, thus confirming Professor Alan Wood's collection of the species from this formation. Previously, I had seen it only at about the same stratigraphic level in bore sludges from the Hundred of Alexandrina, not yet studied in detail, but assumed, like the limestone at Castle Cove, to be of late Eocene or early Oligocene age.

References:

- GLAESSNER, M.F., et al 1948: Australian Code of Stratigraphical Nomenclature. Aust. J. Sci., 11, (1), August, 7-9.
- RAGGATT, H.G., 1950: Stratigraphic Nomenclature. Aust. J. Sci., 12, (5), April, 170-173.
- WADE, Mary, 1955: A new genus of the Chapmanininae from Southern Australia. Contrib. Cush. Found. Foram. Res., 6, (1), 126, 45-49.
- RAGGATT, H.G., 1955: Occurrence of Crespinina at Johanna River, Victoria. Aust. J. Sci., 18, (1), August, 31-32.

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