

ANTARCTIC SCIENCE (Special Issue)

Palynology of the James Ross Island area, Antarctic Peninsula

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The James Ross Island area is recognized as one of the geological treasures of Antarctica. It exposes a section of 5–6 km of Cretaceous and Tertiary marine sedimentary strata with an important content of reworked Upper Jurassic rocks near the base. This succession is probably one of the most important Cretaceous sequences in the Southern Hemisphere.

A collaborative project between the British Antarctic Survey, Centre for Palynological Studies, University of Sheffield and the British Geological Survey was established in 1988 to investigate the palynostratigraphy of the basin. This collaborative project culminated in the completion of 16 M.Sc. theses between 1988 and 1990. The results of this work are summarized here, along with a review of the stratigraphy and sedimentology of the basin.

All samples, residues and slides are curated at the British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge.

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