

## **Palynological and Paleoenvironmental Study of the Tertiary Formations of the Audouin-Begretto Tertiary and the Bay of ‘Milliardaires’: South-West of The Lagoons Fault (Côte d’Ivoire)**

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**Abstract:** The palynological and paleoenvironmental study of tertiary age deposits are crossed by two hydraulic boreholes located at southwest of the "lagoon fault" on the coastal basin of Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) where fifty (50) pairs of thin palynological blades were examined. This study revealed an exceptional richness of these samples in spores and pollen grains associated with rare dinokysts that revealed an Association with *Danea californica* (Danien), an Association to *Apectodinium quinquelatum* and *Apectodinium homomurphum* (Selandian-Thanélian), an Association to *Kallosphaeridium yorubaense*, *Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum*, (Lutetian-Bartonian), an Association to *Proxapertites operculatus* (Priabonian) and an Association to *Laevigatosporites ovatu* (Aquitanian-Burdigalian). Paleoenvironmentally, sediments have evolved in an internal coastal nerine environment throughout the wells, depending on eustatic movements.

**Keywords:** Paleoenvironment, palynology, Audouin-Begretto, Palynological Association, Côte d’Ivoire

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Date of Submission: 27-12-2019

Date of acceptance: 11-01-2020

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### **I. Introduction**

Since the 2000s, the Laboratory of Marine Geology and Sedimentology of the Training Unit and Research of Earth Sciences and Mining Resources (UFR-STRM) of the Felix Houphouët Boigny’s University of Abidjan has initiated several works research on the Ivorian Sedimentary Basin with a view of better understanding this basin. These studies are carried out in collaboration with PETROCI and since 2017 with the Laboratory of Science and Environmental Techniques of the Training and Research Unit (UFR) Environment University Jean Lorougnon Guédé.

Palynologically, the recent work of [1] identified Oligocene in the Ivorian onshore basin north of the lagoon fault through a dinoflagellate assemblage dominated by the genus *Lejeunecysta*. That same part of the Ivorian sedimentary basin has been biostratigraphically study by [2], which was identified through spores and pollen grains of the Late Eocene and Miocene in sub-surface deposits regions of Bingerville and Assinie. Also, [3] proposed a local palynological scale of the upper Maastrichtian-Eocene interval of the Ivorian offshore sedimentary basin. Other even more recent works by [4] demonstrated Oligocene at Bingerville on the basis of palynomorphs such as *Retitricolporites irregularis*, *Pachydermites diderixii*, *Crototricolporites densus*, *Occulopollis magnoporus*, *Perfotricolporites digitatus*, *Polypodiaceoisporites simplex*, *Striatopollis bellus*, *Operculodinium centrocarpum*, *Spiniferites ramosus*, *Lejeunecysta lata*, *Lejeunecysta globosa*, *Selenopemphix nephroides* and *Selenopemphix quanta*.

These previous studies generally relate to the palynostratigraphy and the reconstitution of the palaeoenvironments of the formations of different wells studied from the palynomorphs, encountered and the lithological characteristics of these formations. However, a better characterization of training repository environments requires new methodological approaches. Indeed, the analysis of the Dinocyst groups characteristic of the Inner Neritic (IN) and Outer Neritic (ON) environments is now an effective means for determining eustatic sea level sediment deposition and variation environments. This method coupled with the sedimentological data was considered necessary in this work to refine the depositing conditions of the Audouin-Begretto (AB) and the Bay of Milliardaires (BM) wells located at southwest of the lagoons fault (Côte d’Ivoire).

## II. Presentation Of The Area And Location Of Wells

The study area is located at the southwest of the lagoon fault in the Ivorian onshore basin between the Ebrié lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean. Two (2) water wells named Audouin-Begretto (AB) and 'Bay of Milliadares (BM) whose coordinates and depths are recorded in Table 1 are drilled in 2017. The two wells are twelve (12) kilometers apart (Figure 1).

**Table 1:** Geographical coordinates in UTM of the studied wells

Well	depth (m)	Longitude	Latitude
AB	109 m	373 699 W	584 821 N
BM	153 m	382 610 W	581 977 N



**Figure 1:** Presentation of the study area and location of the AB and BM wells.

## III. Material And Methods

Fifty (50) cuttings samples from two hydraulic soundings AB (Audouin-Beugretto) and BM (Bay of Miliadares) constitute the bulk of the material used for this study.

These excavations were the subject of a lithological analysis and a palynological preparation for a palynological analysis. The lithostratigraphic analysis consisted of a macroscopic description of the fresh samples and a description with a binocular magnifying glass of the washed samples on a column of four (4) sieves of respective mesh size 500µm, 250µm, 125µm and 63µm and then dried in at 90°C in the oven to determine the levels of sand, clay and sandstone. A detailed lithological log is thus established. This lithological study is coupled to a calcimetric study which aims to determine the calcium carbonate content in the samples. This study calcimetric that can better characterize levels clay, limestone levels and nature of sandstone cements.

The palynological approach consisted in attacking twenty (20) grams of each sample with strong acids (HCl and HF) in order to destroy the mineral matter and conserve the organic matter. After the attacks, each sample is washed on a mesh of 10 µm. The sporopollenic residue obtained is mounted between slides and coverslip and then observed under an optical microscope in order to count and identify the palynomorphs present on the slide.

The palaeoenvironmental determination is based on the relative proportions of dinocysts (marine organisms) relative to spores and pollen grains (continental organisms) in the palynological assemblage [5]. A succeeded, the Sporomorphes ratio (S)/dinocysts Acritarchs and (D) or S/D indicates the continental or marine influence on the deposition environment. It is also calculated with the formula of [6] according to which the ratio (S/D) can be written  $S/D = nS/(nD + nS)$  with n=number. The environment deposition is also determined based on the relative proportions of certain intra-specific groups of dinocysts that have a distribution preference following a neritic to oceanic transect.

The ratio between the number of autotrophic dinocysts and that of the heterotrophic or ratio Peridinioides/Gonyaulacoides (P/G) ( $P/G = nP / (nP + nG)$ ) according to Versteegh (1994) provides information on the productivity of the surface of the sea.

Also, the ratio between the number of dinocysts characterizing the internal neritic media (IN) and that of the dinocysts characterizing the external neritic media (ON) or IN / ON ratio is used to provide information on the paleo-depth and is calculated according to the formula:  $IN / ON = nIN / (nIN + nON)$  [6], [7], [8].

#### IV. Results and discussion

##### IV.1 Lithological Study

##### IV.1.1 Lithologic And Calcimetric Case Study Of The Well BM

Lithological analysis of cuttings from the BM well also revealed three units, B1, B2 and B3 (Figure 2). From the base to the summit, there are:

- Unit B1 consists of gray-dark clay sand (N2) rich in glauconite, pyrite and carbonaceous debris.
- Unit B2 of 104 consists of clay of various colors (black, dark green, light green, gray to dark, yellow-brown) with levels more or less rich in limestone, carbonaceous debris, pyrite, in shell debris and in glaucony.
- Unit B3 consisting of clay sand and sandy clay and some white sandbanks. This unit is poor in limestone, carbonaceous debris, pyrite and glauconite.

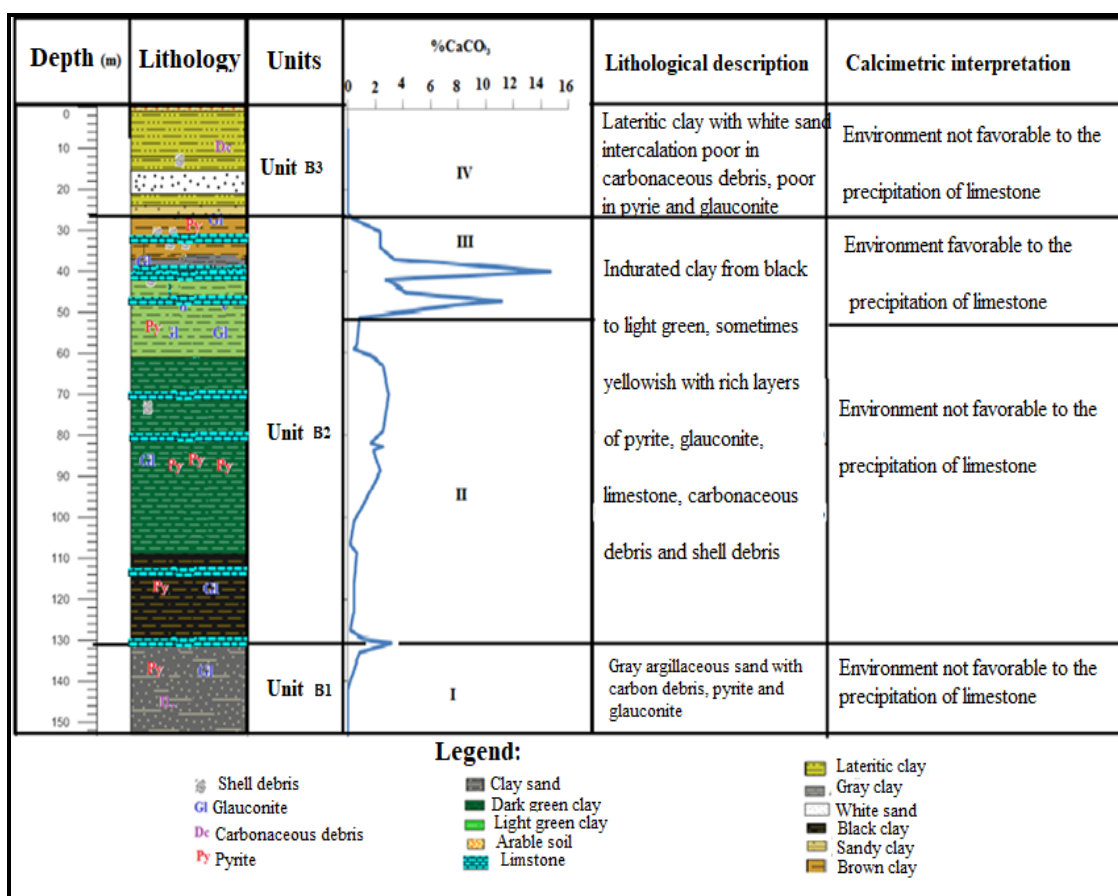


Figure 2: Lithological and calcimetric log curve of the BM well

##### IV.1.2 Study the lithologic and calcimetric wells AB

The lithological analysis of this well revealed three units (A1, A2 and A3) characterized by four lithological facies (Figure 3) including mixed sediments (sandy clays and clay sands), sandy levels, lateritic clays and the bar ground according to the direction of sedimentation. Mixed sediments have a CaCO<sub>33</sub> content of between 2 and 7%. The others are devoid of calcium carbonates (Figure 3).

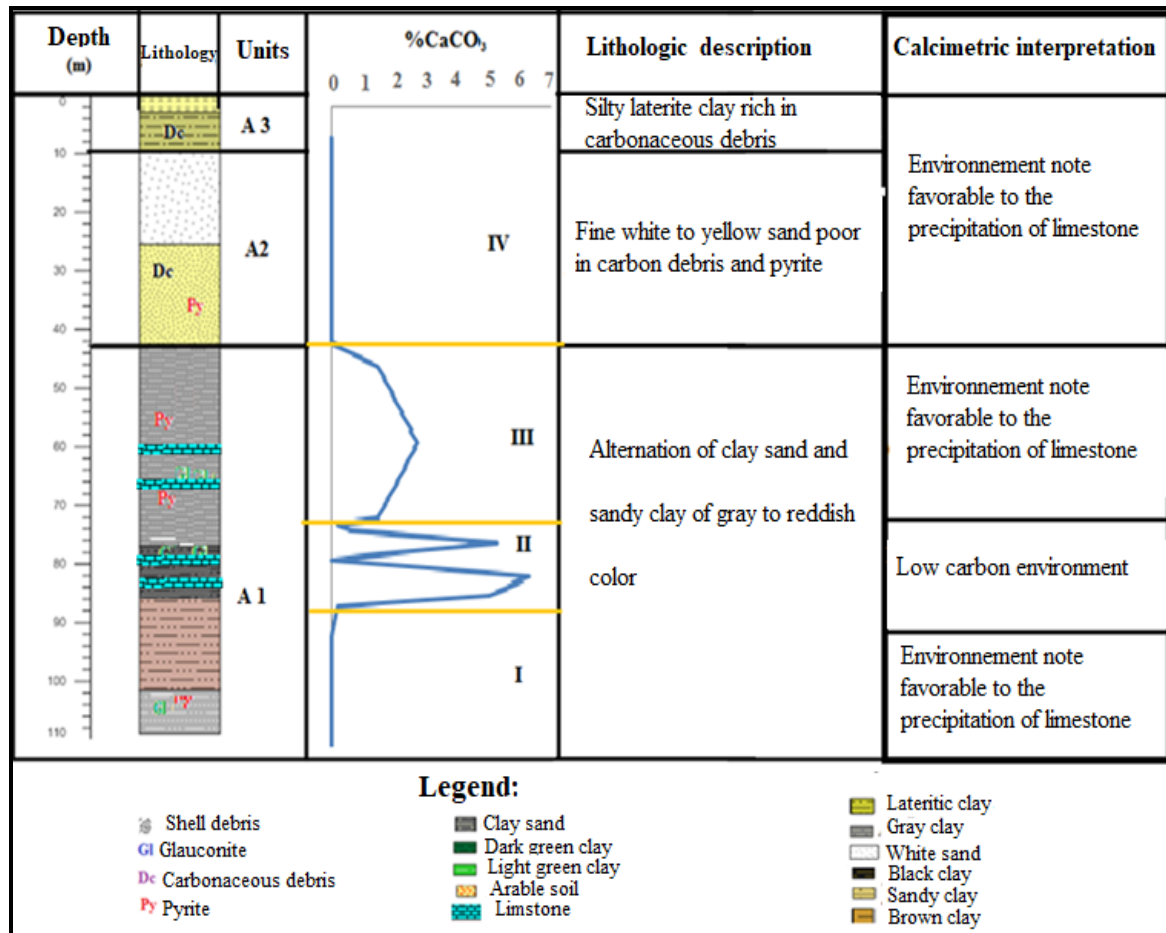


Figure 3: Lithological and calcimetric log curve of the AB well

#### IV.2 Palynological study

Palynological analysis of drill cuttings from the AB and BM study intervals revealed a diverse palynoflora as a whole. Some are of stratigraphic interest and have made it possible to characterize different stages. The others were used to determine palaeoenvironmental conditions.

Quantitative analysis of palynomorphs involving thirty-five (35) pairs of palynological blades of the BM well and fifteen (15) pairs of palynological slides of the AB well made it possible to count 2122 spores and pollen grains, 1484 dinoflagellate cysts and 40 foraminiferal basals whose distribution by well and by type of palynomorphs is given in Table 2. Tables 3 to 5 give details of these accounts of palynomorphs per well and sampled ratings.

Table 2: Inventory of palynomorphs obtained by wells

Well	Dinokystes	Spores and pollen grains	foraminiferal basals	Acritarches
AB	200	668	00	3
BM	1284	1454	40	5
<b>Total</b>	1484	2122	40	8

Table 3: Quantitative Distribution of Dinocysts in the BM Well

STAGES	DEPTH (m)	DINOCYSTS																																
		<i>Cerodinium diebelii</i>	<i>Danea californica</i>	<i>Phelodinium magnificum</i>	<i>Palaeocystodinium austratinum</i>	<i>Senegalinium bicavatum</i>	<i>Palaeocystodinium golzowense</i>	<i>Aeroligera senonensis</i>	<i>Apectodinium</i> spp.	<i>Cortosphaeridium inodes</i>	<i>Homotryblium tenuispinosum</i>	<i>Apectodinium quinquelatum</i>	<i>Homotryblium abbreviatum</i>	<i>Cleistosphaeridium diversispinosum</i>	<i>Apectodinium quinquelatum</i>	<i>Kallosphaeridium yorubaense</i>	<i>Fibrocysta axialis</i>	<i>Cometodinium obscurum</i>	<i>Cortosphaeridium fibrospinosum</i>	<i>Lejeuncysta lata</i>	<i>Lejeuncysta pulchra</i>	<i>Apectodinium homomorphum</i>	<i>Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum</i>	<i>Muratodinium fimbriatum</i>	<i>Cortosphaeridium gracile</i>	<i>Hafniasphaera septata</i>	<i>Operculodinium centrocarpum</i>	<i>Spiniferites ramosus</i>	<i>Cribroperidinium exilicristatum</i>	<i>Batiacasphaera</i> sp.	<i>Polysphaeridium</i> sp.	<i>Polysphaeridium subtile</i>	<i>Microforaminifera</i>	
Aquitaniens-Burdigalien	29																										18	2	10			4		
	37																											22	2	4			2	
	41																											12	4	2	6			4
Priabonien	54																									8	20	2	4	6			2	
Lutétien-Bartonien	61																																	
	85															12	10	12	6	8	8	24	46	12	26	8	22	18	12	30	8	8	6	
Yprésien	96								4	4	2		4	2	58	2	8	2	2	8	10	2	2	2	4	8	10	2	6	2				
	103														28	2	4	6	2	4	4	2	4	4	8	4	4	8	4	12	2	10	4	
Sélandinien-Thanétien	109							2	2	2		2	2		20	8		4	4		6			6	6		4	2	2			2		
	114							2	2	2	4	4	4	2	4	6	2		4		2	6	2		6	8		8	4			2		
	125							2	2	2		12	2		12	2	2	2			4			2	4	4		10	10				2	
Danien	131	2	2	4	4	2	4	2	6		2		10	2	28	2		10	14	2	4	4	4	14	10				2	10		6		
	141									2	2	2		2	18		6	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	6	2				6	4		4	
	153	4	2									4	2		4	4	12	6			8		8	14	18	2			20				4	
TOTAL		6	4	4	4	2	8	8	14	14	12	32	10	18	32	224	34	32	64	30	20	72	60	36	6	84	##	54	46	128	26	18	40	

Table 4: Quantitative distribution of spores and pollen grains in the BM well

STAGES	DEPTH (m)	SPORES AND POLLEN GRAINS																																					
		<i>Camarozonocolpites ambigens</i>	<i>Foveolites margaritae</i>	<i>Longaperites marginatus</i>	<i>Peritrypanocolpites giganteus</i>	<i>Longaperites inornatus</i>	<i>Monosulcites</i> sp.	<i>Margocolpites rauwolfii</i>	<i>Spinizonocolpites echinatus</i>	<i>Tricolpites americana</i>	<i>Bombacacidites bombax</i>	<i>Proxapertites operculatus</i>	<i>Proxapertites cursus</i>	<i>Mauritidites crassibaculatus</i>	<i>Psilatocolpites crassus</i>	<i>Momipites</i> sp.	<i>Crassaroretrites vanraadsivoeni</i>	<i>Fachydemites diderixi</i>	<i>Striatopollis catantibus</i>	<i>Cupressacites triapites</i>	<i>Deltoidospora delicata</i>	<i>Retricolpites irregularis</i>	<i>Polyadipollenites microreticulatus</i>	<i>Polyodiacoisporites regularis</i>	<i>Baculatisporites</i> sp.	<i>Laevigatosporites ovatus</i>	<i>Psilatocolpites laevigatus</i>	<i>Deltoidospora minor</i>	<i>Monocolpites marginatus</i>	<i>Verrucatosporites usmensis</i>	<i>Letitrites ardiensis</i>	<i>Monocolpopollenites</i> sp.	<i>Polygulacidites</i> sp.	<i>Retricolpites</i> sp.	<i>Triotrites festatus</i>	<i>Spirosyncolpites spiratis</i>	<i>Echitricolpites trianguliformis</i>	<i>Retricolpites</i> sp.	
Aquitaniens-Burdigalien	29														2	4	4										6	4											
	37														2	2	6	4	2	10						6	14	2	14		4	2	4	2	2			2	2
	41														2	2	2	4	8	2	2	2	2	2	10	2	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			2	2
Priabonien	54									6	2	14	6	6	2	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	2	8		2	4	2		4	2		2		2	2	2	
Lutétien-Bartonien	61																																						
	85																																						
Yprésien	96																																						
	103	2		16	2	2																																	
Sélandinien-Thanétien	109	8		8	2	2	6																																
	114	12	20	20	10																																		
	125	4	2	12																																			
Danien	131	12	22	26	12	2	4																																
	141	4	8	8	6	6																																	
	153	8	16	14	6	4	40																																
TOTAL		50	68	104	30	16	70	30	16	6	104	162	66	6	14	8	16	16	14	28	12	8	26	16	122	14	90	50	54	20	48	18	56	8	18	24	32		



**Table 5:** Quantitative evolution of dinocysts, spores and pollen grains in the well AB

STAGES	DEPTH (m)	DINOCYSTS						SPORES AND POLLEN GRAINS																							
		<i>Batiacasphaera</i> sp.	<i>Cleistosphaeridium</i> sp.	<i>Operculodinium centrocarpum</i>	<i>Fibrocysta axialis</i>	<i>Cortosphaeridium fibrospinosum</i>	<i>Polysphaeridium</i> sp.	<i>Verrucatosporites usmensis</i>	<i>Laevigatosporites ovatus</i>	<i>Letotriletes ardiensis</i>	<i>Pachydermites diederixi</i>	<i>Polyadopollenites microreticulatus</i>	<i>Monocolpites</i> sp.	<i>Psilatricolporites</i> sp.	<i>Inaperturopollenites</i> sp.	<i>Monocolpites marginatus</i>	<i>Proxaperites operculatus</i>	<i>Crassoretitriletes vanraadshooveni</i>	<i>Retiricoprites</i> sp.	<i>Spirosyncolpites spiralis</i>	<i>Baculatisporites</i> sp.	<i>Retiriporites</i> sp.	<i>Proxaperites cursus</i>	<i>Psilastephanocolporites</i> sp.	<i>Striatopollis catatumbus</i>	<i>Mauritiidites crassibaculatus</i>	<i>Cingulatisporites</i> sp.	<i>Camaronocolpites ambigens</i>	<i>Deltoidospora minor</i>	<i>Magnastriatites howardi</i>	<i>Margocolporites rauvolffi</i>
Aquitanién	44	28	10			28	24	20			18	16		6	2		4	8	2		2		2	14		12		4	4		
Burdigalie	52	10	8	18			8	56	2		20			12		4	2						2	4	16	18	2	2			
Priabonien	65	4	2	14		2	8	8	2	2	14	4		2	8	2	2	12	2	8	10	6	6		8	6	10	2			
	68			8			6	12	4	2		6	4			8	4			2		4	2			8	12				
Lutétien-	80	4	6	6	4	2		4	6	4	2	12		2	4	14	16		8		12		2	4	2	6	16				
	85	12	2	2		16	4	2	4		2	4			4	6	2				6			4				2			
Bartonien	102	4	2	8				6	4		2					2					16		2								
TOTAL		62	10	60	16	4	48	50	108	22	8	22	74	8	8	24	36	10	36	14	10	12	44	12	28	8	26	36	60	6	6

**IV.3 Palynostratigraphy**

Palynoflora palynostratigraphic study revealed six (6) palynological associations covering the Danian-Aquitanian interval, based on the presence of reference palynomorphs.

**- Danaea californica Association**

This association is only found in the BM well, between 153 m to 131 m. It is marked by the presence of dinocysts as *Danaea californica*, *Cerodinium diebelii*, *Phelodinium magnificum*, *Palaeocystodinium australinum*, *Palaeocystodinium golzowense* and *Senegalium bicavatum*.

The continental influence in this group is manifested by the presence of *Foveotriletes margaritae*, *Longaperites marginatus*, *Monocolpites marginatus*, *Mauritiidites crassibaculatus* and *Ambiguous Camaronocolpites*.

This head Association dated Danian (lower Paleocene) on the basis of the last apparition of species *Cerodinium diebelii*, *Palaeocystodinium australinum*, *Danaea californica* and *Senegalium bicavatum*. In fact, the species *Cerodinium diebelii* and *Senegalium bicavatum* are, according to reference of author [9], good markers of Maastrichtian and Lower Paleocene (Danian). In Maastrichtian, it is associated with *Andalusiella* and *Cerodinium granulostrata*. The absence of these in the meantime indicates a lower Paleocene age. In addition, the last occurrence of *Cerodinium diebelii* marks the end of the Danian to reference of authors [10 - 11]. This has been confirmed in recent work in Côte d'Ivoire, by Awad and to references of authors [8, 12] and [13] in the Fresco region, and then by reference of author [14] in the Eboinda region.

The species *Danaea californica*, is a characteristic species of Danian in most basins of the world to reference of author [9]. The first appearance of this species is a good marker of the base of the Danian and the K-Pg boundary in the Northern Hemisphere to reference of authors [15 - 20]. In Côte d'Ivoire, the works of reference of authors [8, 13, 14] have highlighted the Danian with the presence of the species *Danaea californica*.

**- Apectodinium. Association**

This palynological association characterized by the abundance of the genus *Apectodinium* spp. Especially *Apectodinium homomurphum* and *Apectodinium quinquelatum*. It is also specific to the BM well where it is encountered in the range 131 m to 96 m. It is marked by the appearance of dinocysts such as *Homotryblium tenuispinosum*, *Cribroperidium exillicristatum* and *Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum*. Some species, present in the preceding interval, persist and develop. This is, *Hafniasphaera Septata*, *Kallosphaeridium yorubaense*, *Muratodinium fimbriatum*, *Paleocystodinium golzowense*, and *Fibrocysta axialis*.

The continental influence in this group is manifested by the presence of spores and pollen grains such as *Foveotrilites margaritae*, *Longapertites marginatus*, *Monocolpites marginatus*, *Mauritidites crassibaculatus*, *Camarozonocolpites ambigens*, *Proxapertites operculatus*, *Proxapertites cursus* and *Margocolporites rauvolfii*. This set is dated Upper Paleocene (Sélandien-Thanétien) on the basis of the disappearance of species characteristic of the lower Paleocene.

The dissociation between the Selandian and the Thanetian could not be done, for lack of characteristic species. However, the recent occurrences of *Cerodinium diebelii* and *Danea californica* mark the Danian-Selandian limit, thus the beginning of the Selandian as evidenced by the works of reference of author [8, 13 and 21]. Regarding the Paleocene-Eocene limit, it is characterized by the assemblage of dinocysts dominated by the genus *Apectodinium* in Argentina and Chile [22]. The FAD of *Apectodinium* spp. Is a well-known global bio-event, recorded between Sélandien and Thanétien of reference of authors [8 and 13].

#### - **Kallosphaeridium yorubaense Association**

This Association is characterized by the abundance of the genus *Kallosphaeridium yorubaense*. It is specific to the BM well and covers the range 96 m to 61 m.

In this Association, some species already present in the first set persist such as *Apectodinium homomurphum*, *Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum*, *Hafniasphaera septata* and *Muratodinium fimbriatum*.

A few rare spores and pollen grains of the genus *Bombaccadites bombax*, *Tricolpites Americana* and *Baculatisporites* sp., make their first appearance.

This set is dated from Ypresian on the basis of the latest occurrences of the species *Apectodinium quinquelatum*, *Apectodinium paniculatum* and *Kallosphaeridium yorubaense*.

In fact, the species *Kallosphaeridium yorubaense* is characteristic of the Danian-Ypresian stages in many works. Its abundance is related to the Ypresian and last occurrence brand Ypresian-Eocene boundary means to reference of authors [18, 23 and 24] and [1, 8, 12, 18, 21, 23 and 24]. Also, this last occurrence coincides with that of the species *Apectodinium quinquelatum* which is related to the Ypresian in the works of references of authors [23, 25, 26, and 27].

#### - **Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum Association**

This set is characterized by both the abundance of the species *Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum* and the disappearance of almost all dinocysts with the exception of *Batiacasphaera* sp, *Hafniasphaera septata*, *Spiniferites ramosus* and *Operculodinium centrocarpum*.

The continental influence in this group is characterized by the appearance of the following spores and pollen grains: *Retitricolporites irregularis*, *Momipites* sp., *Laevigatosporites ovatus*, *Deltoidospora delicata*, *Psilatricolporites* sp., *Psilatricolpites crassus*, *Pachydermites diderixii*, *Cupressacites hiapitites* and *Striatopollis catatumbus*.

This set is dated from the Lutetian-Bartonian (Middle Eocene) and its top is fixed at 54 m in the BM well, and at 80 m in that of AB, on the basis of the last appearances of the dinocysts such as *Cometodinium obscurum*, *Kallosphaeridium yorubaense*, *Muratodinium fimbriatum*, *Hafniasphaera septata*, *Cordosphaeridium gracile*, *Apectodinium homomurphum*, *Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum* and *Fibrocysta axialis*.

The disappearance of most of the lower Eocene dinocysts, namely *Apectodinium quinquelatum*, to reference of author [27], and *Kallosphaeridium yorubaense* to reference of authors [9] at the top of the lower Eocene, confirms the basis of the Middle Eocene. In addition, the last occurrence of the species *Apectodinium homomurphum*, *Muratodinium fimbriatum* and *Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum* is related to the upper Eocene-Eocene limit according to reference of author [28].

The abundant *Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum* species at the base of this interval is, according to Lentin and William (2004), a palynomorph of the Eocene. The reference of author [21] showed that the last appearance of this species in Côte d'Ivoire is in the lower Eocene. This result was also significant in reference of [13] recent work.

#### - **Proxapertites operculatus Association**

This association, which extends from the 54 m to 41 m interval in the BM well and 80 m to 65 m in the AB well, is marked by the presence of species such as *Proxapertites operculatus*, *proxapertites cursus*, *Pachydermites diderixii*, *Verrucatosporites usmensis*, *Psilatricolporites crassus*, *Retitricolporites irregularis*, *Deltoidospora minor*, *Deltoidospora delicata*, *Baculatisporites* sp. characterizing the continental influence in these intervals. The marine influence is marked by the species *Operculodinium centrocarpum*, *Batiacasphaera* sp., *Cribopterodinium excilicristatum* and foraminiferal test linings.

This Association is dated from the Priabonian (Upper Eocene) on the basis of the disappearance of characteristic Lutetian-Bartonian species in this interval.

Most of the species present in these two wells are cosmopolitan Eocene and Miocene. However, species such as *Verrucatosporites umensis*, *Pachydermites diderixii* and *Psilatricolporites crassus* were used in Cameroon by reference of authors [29, 30], in Côte d'Ivoire, to reference of authors [2] and [21] to characterize the Upper Eocene. In addition, the species *Proxapertites cursus* and *proxapertites operculatus* are used by reference of author [30] in Ghana to characterize the upper Eocene to confirm this stage.

**- Laevigatosporites ovatus Association**

This association is characterized by an abundance of *Laevigatosporites ovatus* and the presence of the following spores and pollen grains: *Polyadopollenites microreticulatus*, *Psilatricolporites laevigatus*, *Striatopollis catatumbus*, *Retitricolporites irregularis*, *Verrucatosporites umensis*, *Retitriporites* sp., *Monocolpopollenites* sp. and *Crassoretitriletes vanraadshooveni*.

To these spores and grains of pollen are associated marine palynomorphs consisting of *Batiacasphaera* sp. and *Cribroperidinium exilicristatum*. This set is dated lower Miocene.

Species such as *Polyadopollenites microreticulatus* and *Psilatricolporites laevigatus* were used in Cameroon by reference of author [32] and in Côte d'Ivoire by reference of author [2] to characterize the lower Miocene.

In addition, species such as *Striatopollis catatumbus* and *Retitricolporites irregularis* were used in Côte d'Ivoire by reference of authors [33] and [2] to characterize the lower Miocene. These results were approved in the recent work of reference of author [14].

From this palynological study, a local palynostratigraphic scale of the Danian - (Aquitanian-Burdigalian) interval was established (Tables 6 and 7)

**Table 6:** Distribution of spores and pollen grains and local palynostratigraphic scale of the Danian - Aquitanian-Burdigalian interval of the studied wells

Danien	Sélandinien-Thanétien	Yprésien	Lutézien-Bartonien	Priabonien	Aquitanien-Burdigalien	STAGES	
						<i>Foveotriletes margaritae</i>	SPORES POLLEN GRAINS
						<i>Longapertites marginatus</i>	
						<i>Monosulcites</i> sp.	
						<i>Spinizonocolpites echiniatus</i>	
						<i>Bombacacidites bombax</i>	
						<i>Proxapertites operculatus</i>	
						<i>Proxapertites cursus</i>	
						<i>Mauritiidites crassibaculatus</i>	
						<i>Psilatricolporites crassus</i>	
						<i>Tricolpites americana</i>	
						<i>Momipites</i> sp.	
						<i>Crassaroretitriletes vanraadshooveni</i>	
						<i>Striatopollis catatumbus</i>	
						<i>Cupressacites hiapitites</i>	
						<i>Retitricolporites irregularis</i>	
						<i>Magnastriatites howardi</i>	
						<i>Polyadopollenites microreticulatus</i>	
						<i>Baculatiporites</i> sp.	
						<i>Margocolporites rauvolffi</i>	
						<i>Polypodiaceosporites regularis</i>	
						<i>Laevigatosporites ovatus</i>	
						<i>Pachydermites diderixii</i>	
						<i>Psilatricolporites laevigatus</i>	
						<i>Deltoidospora minor</i>	
						<i>Monocolpites marginatus</i>	
						<i>Camarozonocolpites ambigens</i>	
						<i>Verrucatosporites umensis</i>	



**Table 7:** Dinocyst distribution and local palynostratigraphic scale of the lower Danian-Miocene interval of the studied wells

Danien	Sélandinien-Thanétien	Yprésien	Lutétien-Bartonien	Priabonien	Aquitaniens-Burdigalien	STAGES	
						<i>Cerodinium diebelii</i>	DINOFLLAGELLATE CYSTES
						<i>Danea californica</i>	
						<i>Phelodinium magnificum</i>	
						<i>Paleocystodinium australinum</i>	
						<i>Senegalinium bicavatum</i>	
						<i>Paleocystodinium golzowense</i>	
						<i>Apectodinium spp.</i>	
						<i>Areoligera senonensis</i>	
						<i>Cordosphaeridium inodes</i>	
						<i>Homotryblidium abbreviatum</i>	
						<i>Homotryblidium tenuispinosum</i>	
						<i>Kallosphaeridium yorubaense.</i>	
						<i>Apectodinium quinquelatum</i>	
						<i>Cleistosphaeridium diversispinosum</i>	
						<i>Muratodinium fimbriatum</i>	
						<i>Lejeunecysta lata</i>	
						<i>Lejeunecysta pulchra</i>	
						<i>Cometodinium obscurum</i>	
						<i>Apectodinium homomorphum</i>	
						<i>Cordosphaeridium fibrospinosum</i>	
						<i>Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum</i>	
						<i>Fibrocysta axialis</i>	
						<i>Hafniasphaera septata</i>	
						<i>Operculodinium centrocarpum</i>	
						<i>Cribopteridinium excilicristatum</i>	
						<i>Spiniferites ramosus</i>	
						<i>Polysphaeridium sp.</i>	
						<i>Batiacasphaera sp.</i>	
						<i>Microforaminifères</i>	Other

**IV.4 Palynological correlation of AB and BM wells**

Palynological data from the wells revealed three (3) storeys in the AB well (Lutetian-Bartonian to Aquitanian-Burdigalian) and six storeys in the BM (Danian to Aquitanian-Burdigalian).

Danian, Sélandinien-Thanétien and Yprésien were not found in well AB (Figure 4). Also, Oligocene was not found in both wells. This stage is completely eroded in this zone as indicated by references of authors [33] and [1] which show that the Oligocene is much eroded in the Ivorian sedimentary basin and appears only in shreds in places.

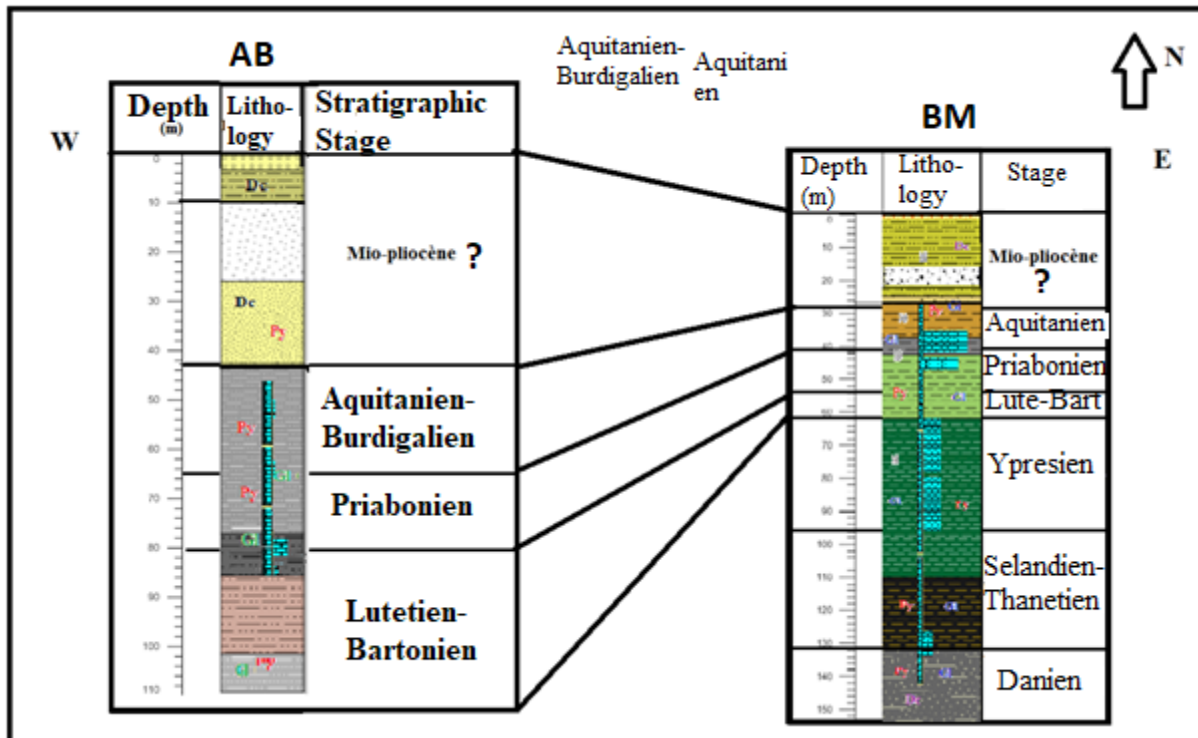


Figure 4: West-East Palynostratigraphic Correlation of AB and BM Wells

#### IV.5 Paleoenvironment

##### IV.5.1 Paleoenvironment of the BM well

##### IV.5.1.1 Evolution of Paleoenvironment in Danian (Lower Paleocene) and Sélandinien-Thanéétien (Late Paleocene)

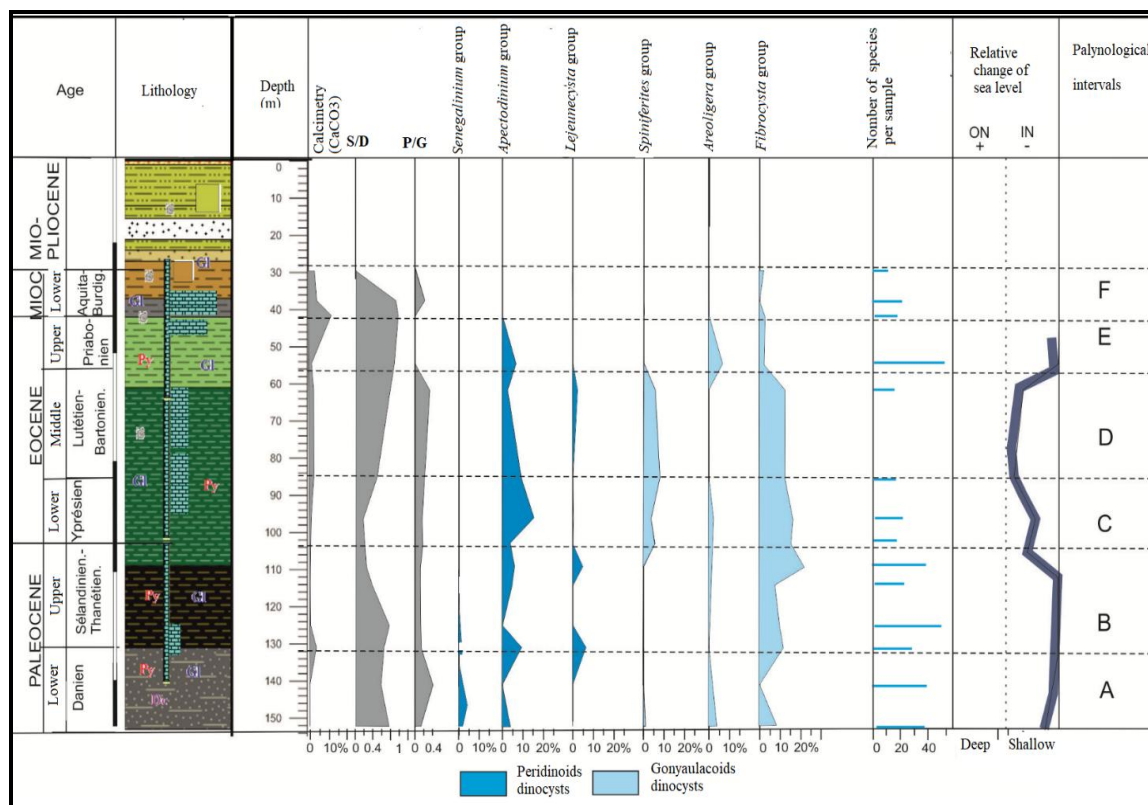
In these two stages, the organic matter is dominated by spores and pollen grains with a S/D ratio that varies from 0.57 to 0.65 (Figure 5) which reflects a mean continental influence on the depositional environment. The marine influence is characterized by the predominance of Gonyaulacoid group dinokists with a low Peridinioid/Gonyaulacoid (P/G) ratio ranging from 0.03 to 0.17 indicating low paleo-productivity of the sea surface in a small area deep. This shallow depth is indicated by a very high IN/ON ratio of between 0.94 and 0.97 (Figure 5). The most representative groups of dinocysts are the Fibrocysta groups (10% to 20%), the Aeroligera group (0 to 5%), the Lejeunecysta group (0 to 5%) and the Senegalinium group (0 to 5%).

The Fibrocysta Group (dominant group) typically characterizes an inner neritic depositional environment of references of authors [34, 35, 36, 37 and 38] and reference of author [7].

Also, the Areoligera Group that accompanies this group of Fibrocysta characterizes the inner and coastal neritic depositional environments reference of authors [7, 18, 34, 39, and 40].

The Lejeunecysta Group characterizes areas of high productivity references of authors [7] and [41 - 44] that of Senegalinium marking an environment of neritic deposit at oceanic. This group is associated with nutrients and high productivity levels [39, 40, 45, and 46].

Considering the high proportion of the Fibrocysta group associated with small proportions of the Areoligera, Senegalinium and Lejeunecysta groups, the depositional environment is inner neritic with low productivity.



**Figure 5:** curve of calcimetry; curve of the Sporomorphs report on Dinoflagellates; Peridinoid to Gonyaulacoid curve (productivity), relative abundances of morphologically and ecologically related dinoflagellate cysts; species diversity by sample; relative sea level change (IN / ON) curve and palynological intervals

**IV.5.1.2 Palaeoenvironment evolution in Ypresian (lower Eocene) and Lutetian-Bartonian (middle Eocene)**

In Ypresian and Lutetian-Bartonian, organic matter is still dominated by dinocysts with a S/D ratio of 0.24 to 0.6, indicating a low to medium continental influence. The marine influence is characterized by the presence of dinocysts with a very low Peridinoids/Gonyaulacoids (P/G) ratio between 0.2 and 0.3 (Fig. 5) indicating a low paleo-productivity of the surface of a shallow sea, with a higher sea level than the previous one (IN/ON = 0.69 mean).

The group Fibrocysta (15% to 17%), Spiniferites (5% to 7%) and Apectodinium (8% to 15%) are the most abundant than that of Areoligera (Fig. 5) suggesting an inner neritic Paleoenvironment deeper than the previous and warmer, favorable to the proliferation of the genus Apectodinium.

In fact, the group of Spiniferites present in this environment characterizes an outer neritic environment reference of authors [7, 18, 40, 41, 47, 48, 49 and 50]. However, its low proportion reduces the environment to an inner neritic environment.

**IV.5.1.3 Evolution of Paleoenvironment at Priabonian (Upper Eocene) and Aquitanian-Burdigalian (Early Miocene)**

This environment is poor in organic matter and is marked by a strong continental influence with a high S/D ratio of up to 1 or more (Fig.5). Spores and pollen grains are abundant.

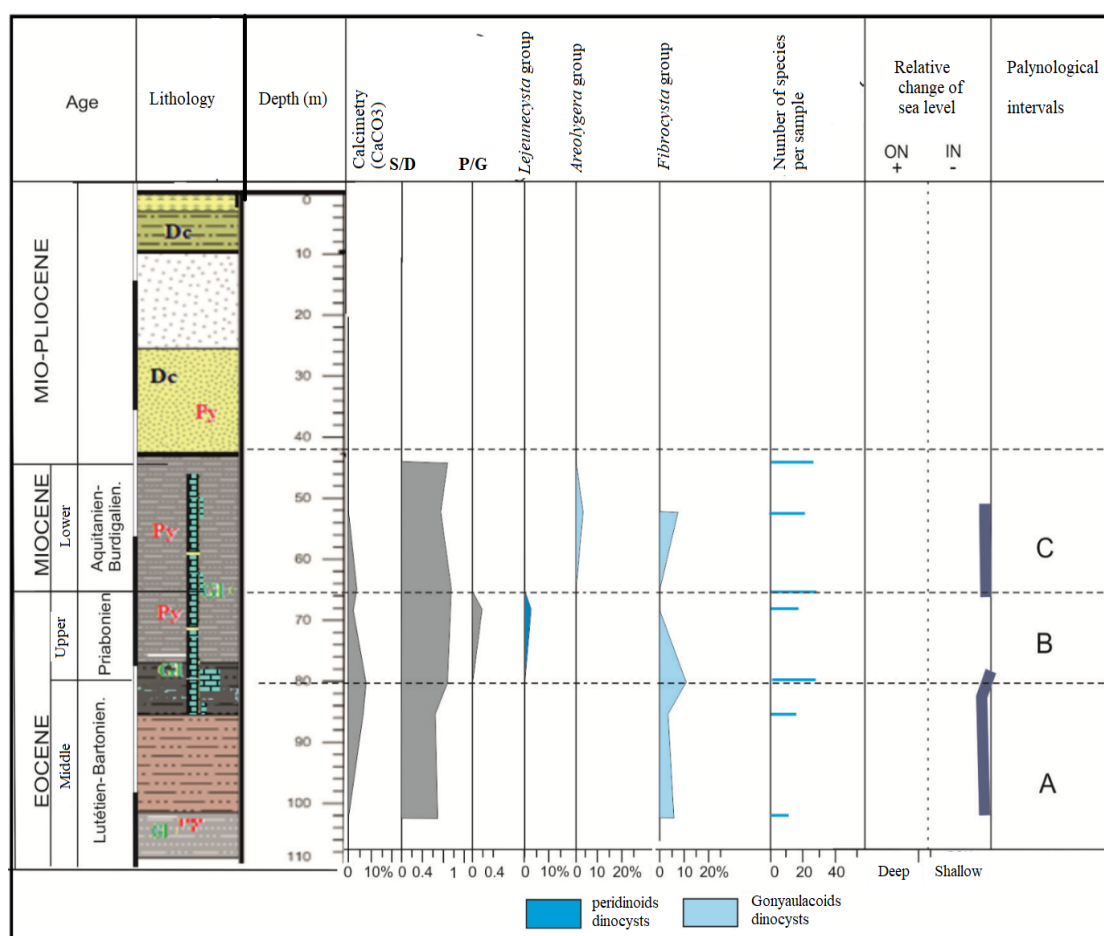
The ratio of Peridinoids / Gonyaulacoids (P/G) is very low, less than 0.2%, thus indicating almost non-existent paleo-productivity in a shallow sea with an IN / ON ratio greater than 1. Fibrocysta group and Areoligera group are the groups of dinocysts most representative of this environment although that their rates are very low suggesting an inner neritic to coastal environment.

**IV.5.2 Paleoenvironment of the AB Well**

The palaeoenvironments of the different stages (Lutetian, Bartonian and Aquitanian-Burdigalian) of this well are characterized by a strong continental influence with a S/D ratio between 0.8% and 1.1% (Fig. 6). Palynomorphs remain dominated by spores and pollen grains more than 70% against less than 30% of dinocysts. We also note that dinocysts of the group of Peridinoids are rare compared to Gonyaulacoids with a P/G ratio

between 0 and 0.2%. This very weak report shows that the paleo-productivity of the sea surface is very weak or non-existent.

Noticing that, the ratio IN / ON is greater or equal to 1 and characterizes a shallow sea. The presence in these environments of Fibrocysta group (5%) and a few rare representatives of Areoligera group and that of Lejeunecysta group (Fig.6) shows that the sediments of these stages were set up in an inner neritic to coastal environment.



**Figure 6:** Calcimetry curve; curve of the Sporomorphs report on Dinoflagellates; Peridinoid to Gonyaulacoid curve (productivity), relative abundances of morphologically and ecologically related dinoflagellate cysts; species diversity by sample; relative sea level change (IN/ON) curve and palynological intervals along the AB well.

### V. Conclusion

This study has highlighted six stages including Danian, Sélandian-Thanélian, Yprésian, Lutétian-Bartonian, Priabonian and Aquitanian-Burdigalian in the BM well through specific palynological associations. In the AB well only the last three stages of the BM well are highlighted.

The palynostratigraphic correlation established between the two wells shows that the Danian, Selandian-Thaneian and Ypresian stages are not reached by AB drilling because of high sedimentation in this area. This correlation also demonstrated the absence of Oligocene in the two wells as it was completely eroded in this study area. Also, the study of palaeoenvironments of BM and AB well deposits shows that these palaeoenvironments have known little variation over geological time. In fact, sediment deposition environments have evolved in an inner neritic to coastal environment in all wells, depending on eustatic movements.

### References

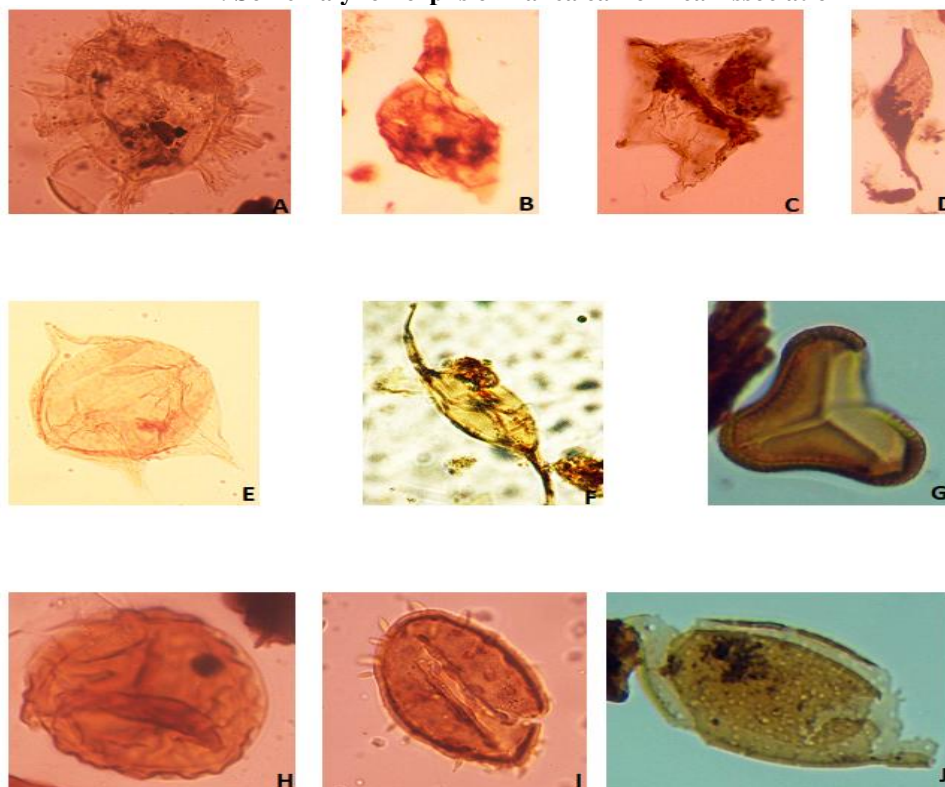
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**PLATE 1: Some Palynomorphs of *Danea californica* Association**

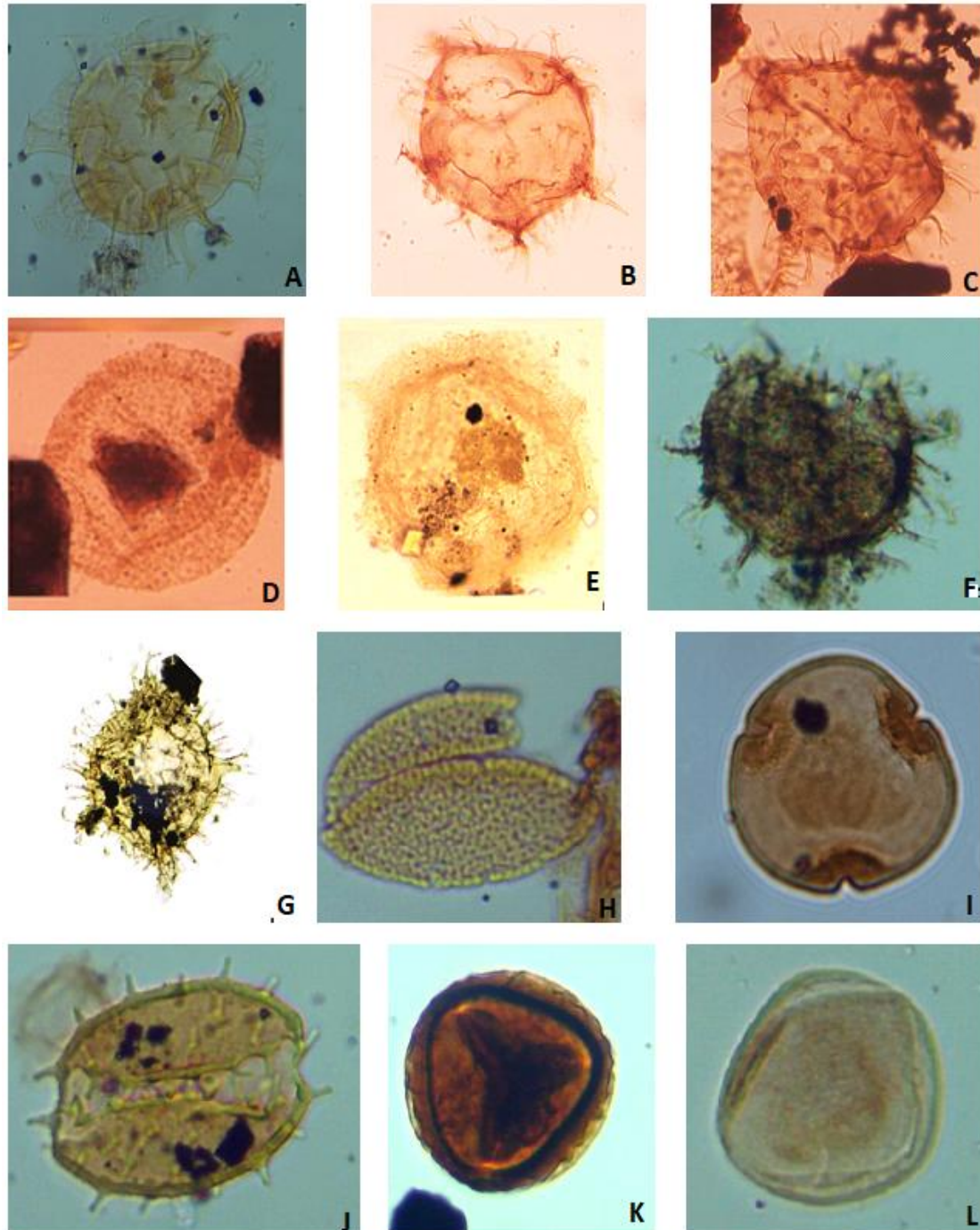


A- *Danea californica* (Drugg, 1967) Fensome et al., 1993; BM, 131 m; B- *Cerodinium? diebelii* Alberti 1959; BM, 131 m, P 52; C- *Phelodinium magnificum* (Stanley 1965) Stover et Evitt 1978; BM, 153 m; D- *Palaeocystodinium australinum* (Cookson, 1965) Lentin et Williams, 1976; BM, 153 m, B 37; E- *Senegalium bicavatum* Jain et Millepied, 1973; BM, 153 m, V 37/3; F- *Palaeocystodinium golzowense* Alberti, 1961; BM,



125 m, U 22/1; G- *Foveotriletes margaritae*, (Van der Hammen 1954) Germeraad & Muller, 1968, BM, 141 m ; H-*Camarozonosporites ambigens* Playford, 1971, BM, 131 m, C 35; I- *Mauritiidites crassibaculatus* Van Hoeken-Klinkenberg, 1964, BM, 131 m, L 40/4; J- *Longapertites marginatus* Van Hoeken-Klinkenberg, 1964, BM, 141 m, N 49/4.

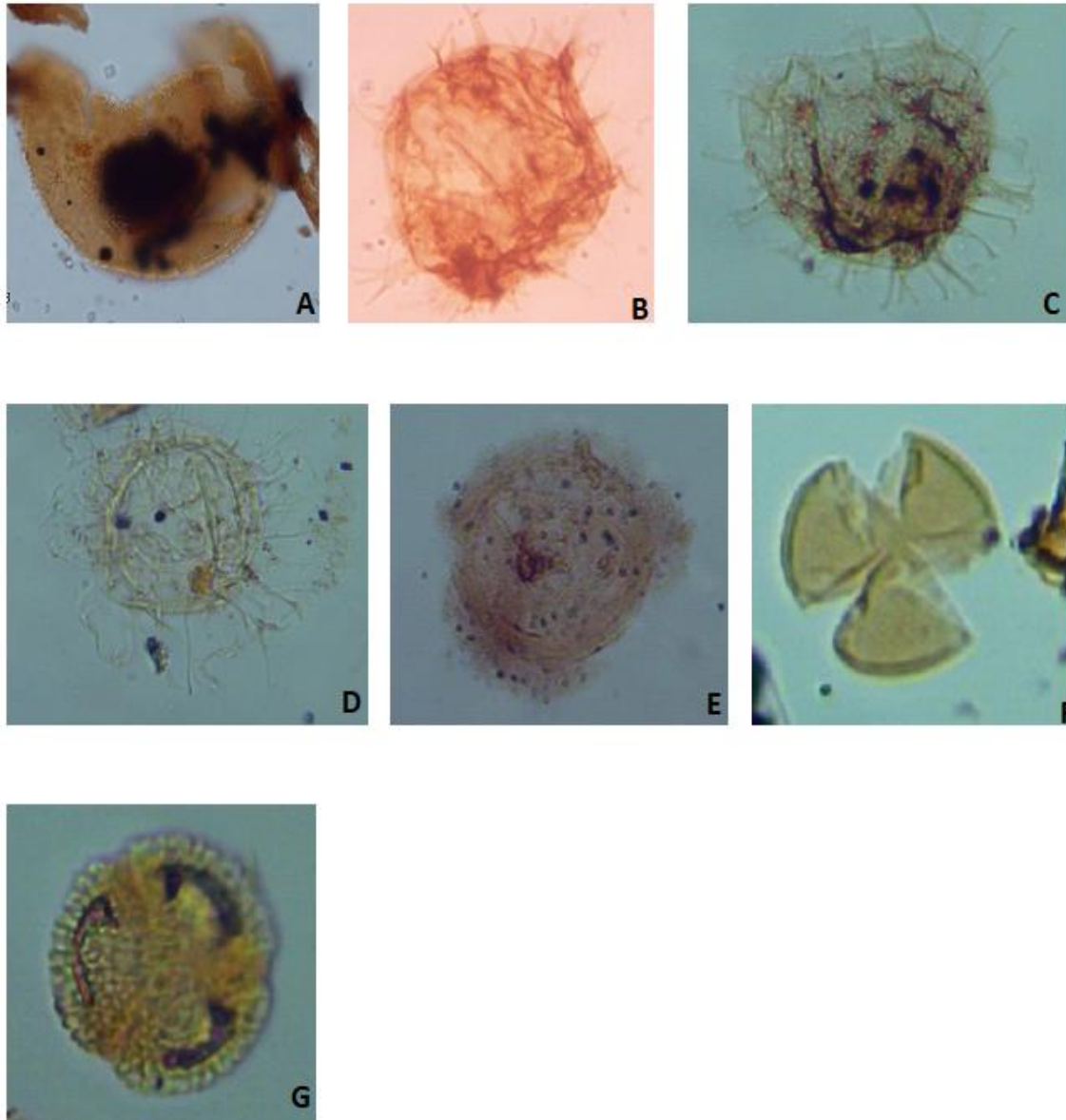
**PLATE 2: Some Palynomorphs of Apectodinium Danaea Association**



A-*Homotryblium tenuispinosum*, Davey et Williams 1966; BM, 114 m, O 43/3; B- *Apectodinium homomorphum* (Deflandre et Cookson, 1955) Lentin et Williams, 1977; BM, 114 m, E 40; C- *Apectodinium quinquelatum* (Williams et Downie 1966) Costa et Downie 1979, BM, 114 m, T 33/4; D- *Kallosphaeridium yorubaense* Jan Du Chêne et Adediran, 1985; BM, 109 m, U 46/3; E- *Muratodinium fimbriatum*. (Cookson et Eisenack, 1967) Drugg, 1970; BM, 109 m; U20/1; F- *Hafniasphaera septata* (Cookson et Eisenack, 1967) Hansen, 1977; BM, 109 m, L 48/4 ; G- *Fibrocysta axialis* (Eisenack, 1965) Stover & Evitt, 1978, BM, 109 m, Q 32/3; H- *Longapertites marginatus* Van Hoeken-Klinkenberg, 1964, BM, O40/2, 109m ; I- *Margocolporites*

rauvolfii Salard, 1978, BM, 109 m, P52/1 ; J- Mauritiidites crassibaculatus Van Hoeken-Klinkenberg, 1964, BM, 114 m, T32/2 ; K- Camarozonocolpites ambiguus Playford, 1971, BM, 114m, U36/3 ; L- Proxapertites operculatus (Van Der Hammen, 1954) Germeraad & Muller, 1968, BM, 109, P40/1

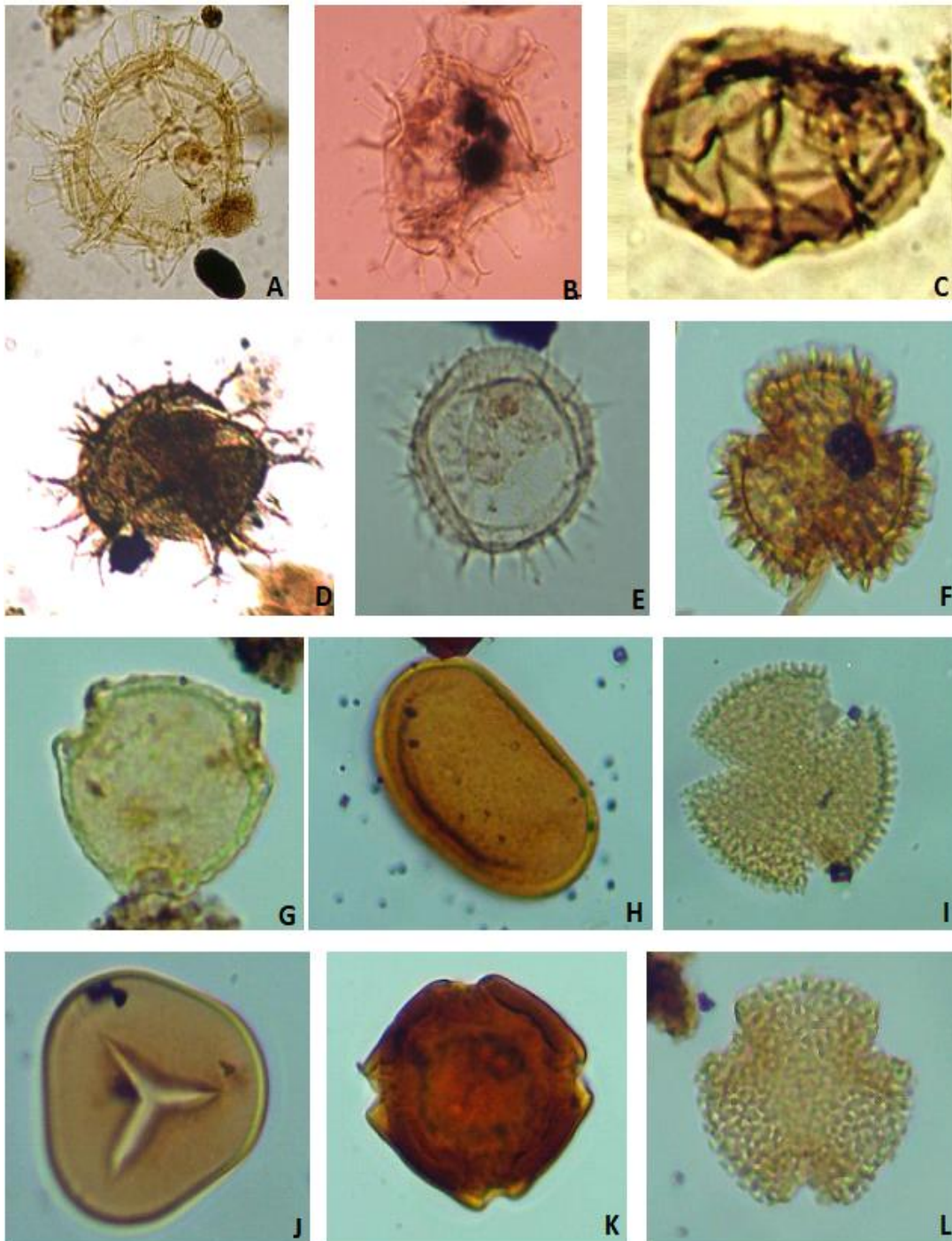
**PLATE 3: Some Palynomorphs of Kallosphaeridium yorubaense Association**



A- *Kallosphaeridium yorubaense* Jan Du Chêne et Adediran, 1985; BM, 96 m, F 16/3; B- *Apectodinium homomorphum* (Deflandre et Cookson, 1955) Lentin et Williams, 1977; BM, 96 m, P 41/3; C- *Hafniasphaera septata* (Cookson et Eisenack, 1967) Hansen, 1977; BM, 96 m, G 48/4 ; D- *Spiniferites ramosus* (Ehrenberb,1938) Loeblich 1966, BM, 96, F 22 ; E- *Muratodinium fimbriatum*. (Cookson et Eisenack, 1967) Drugg, 1970; BM, 66 m; T 20; F-*Tricolpites Americana*, BM; 66 m, R42; G- *Bombaccacidites bombax*, BM, 66 m, Q52/3.

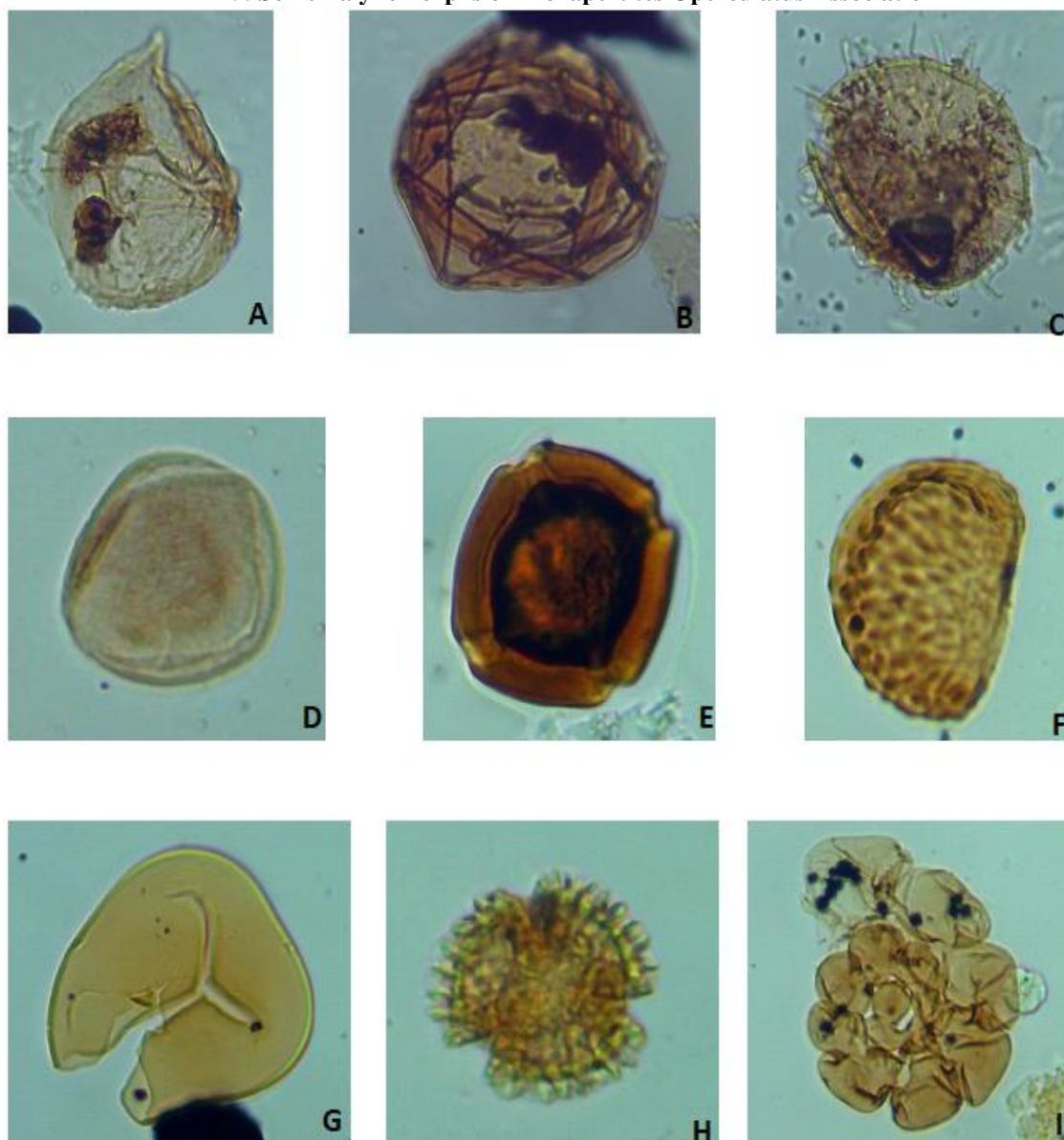


PLATE 4: Some Palynomorphs of *Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum* Association



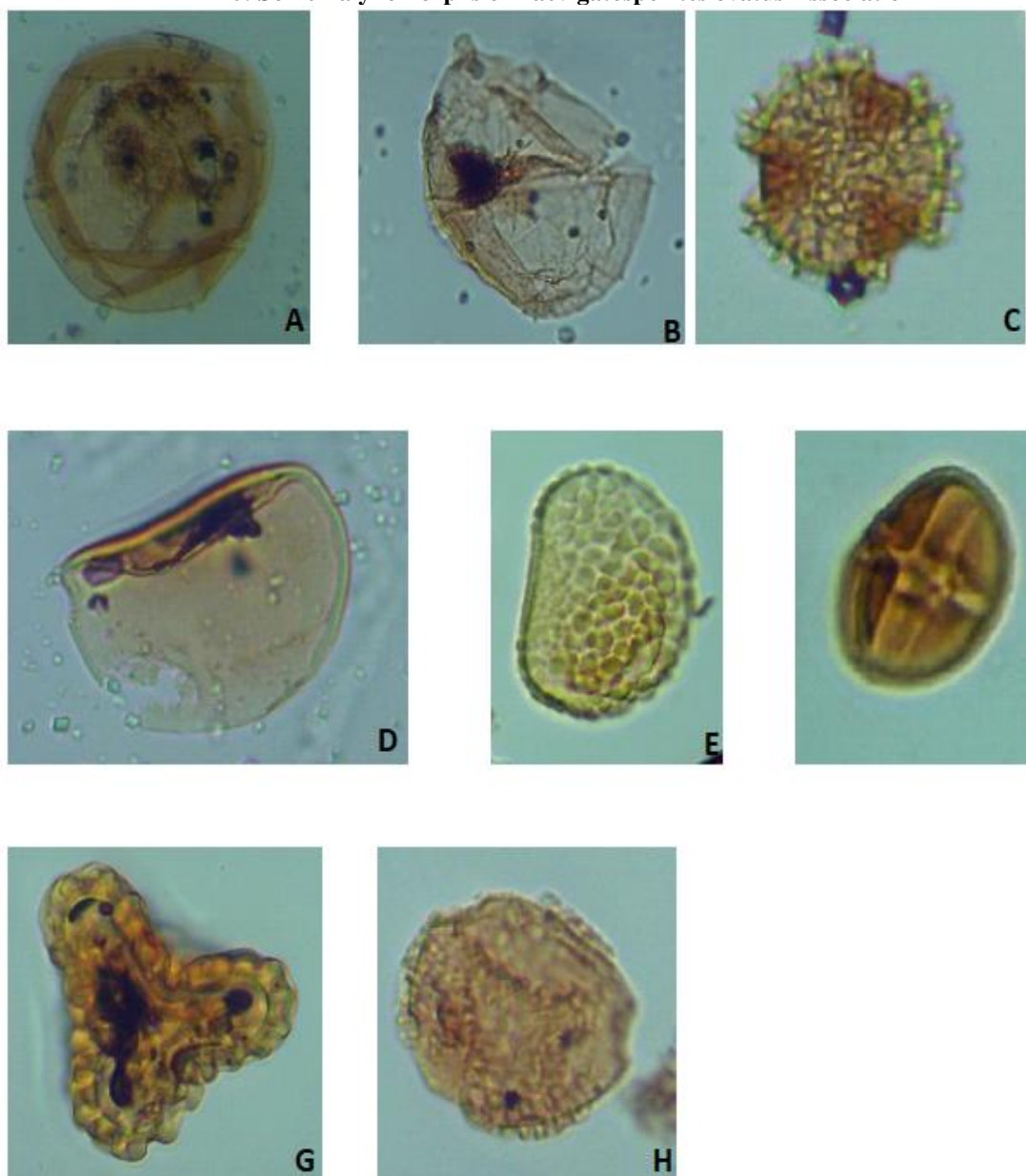
A- *Adnatosphaeridium multispinosum* Williams et Downie, 1966; BM, 61 m, D 48; B- *Spiniferites ramosus* (Ehrenberb,1938) Loeblich 1966, BM, 61m, F 48/2 ; C- *Batiacasphaera* sp., BM, 61 m, K43/1, G 42/1 ; D- *Hafniasphaera septata* (Cookson et Eisenack, 1967) Hansen, 1977; BM, 61 m, F35/1 ; E- *Operculodinium centrocarpum* (Deflandre & Cookson, 1955) Wall, 1967, BM, 61 m, J26/3 ; F- *Retitricolporites irregularis* Van der Hammen & Wijmstra, 1964, BM, 61 m, D32/4 ; G- *Momipites* sp., AB, 85 m, J32/4 ; H-*Laevigatosporites ovatus*, Wilson & Webster, 1946 , AB, 85 m, O42/1 ; I- *Psilatricolpites crassus* Van der Hammen & Wijmstra, 1964 , AB, 85 m, J32 ; J- *Deltoidospora minor* (Couper, 1953) Pocock, 1970, AB 85 m, K45/1, K-*Pachydermites diderixii* Germeraad & Muller, 1968, AB, 85 m, J26/2 ; L- *Psilatricolporites* sp., AB, 85 m, K25/3.

**PLATE 5: Some Palynomorphs of Proxapertites Operculatus Association**



A- *Cribopteridinium excilicristatum* (Davey, 1969) Stover & Evitt, 1978, AB, 65 m, K30/1 ; B- *Batiacasphaera* sp., AB, 65 m., Q30/1 ; C- *Operculodinium centropurum* (Deflandre & Cookson, 1955) Wall, 1967, AB, 65 m, Q26/1 ; D- *Proxapertites operculatus* (Van Der Hammen, 1954) Germeraad & Muller, 1968, BM, 51 m, J22 ; E- *Pachydermites diderixii* Germeraad & Muller, 1968, AB, 65m, O50/1 ; F- *Verrucatosporites usmensis* (Van der Hammen, 1956) Germeraad & Muller, 1968, AB, 65m, Q24/1, G- *Deltoidospora minor* (Couper, 1953) Pocock, 1970, AB, 65 m, N 22 ; H- *Retitricolporites irregularis* Van der Hammen & Wijmstra, 1964, AB, 65 m, J52/4 ; I- Basale de Microforaminifère.

**PLATE 6: Some Palynomorphs of *Laevigatosporites ovatus* Association**



A- *Batiacasphaera* sp., AB, 52 m., J36/1; B- *Cribooperidinium excilicristatum* (Davey, 1969) Stover & Evitt, 1978, AB, 52 m, O32/1 ; C- *Retitricolporites irregularis* Van der Hammen & Wijmstra, 1964, AB, 52 m, Q26/4; D- *Laevigatosporites ovatus*, Wilson & Webster, 1946 , AB, 52 m, J32/2 ; E- *Verrucatosporites usmensis* (Van der Hammen, 1956) Germeraad & Muller, 1968, AB, 52 m, I34/1 ; F- *Psilatricolporites laevigatus*, AB, 52 m, Q28/1 ; G- *Baculatisporites* sp., AB, 52 m, J22/3 ; *Retitriporites* sp. AB, 52m, H32/1.

BIÉ Goha René.et.al. "Palynological and paleoenvironmental study of the tertiary formations of the audouin-begretto tertiary and the bay of 'milliardaires': south-west of the lagoons fault (Côte d'Ivoire)". *IOSR Journal of Applied Geology and Geophysics (IOSR-JAGG)*, 8(1), (2020): pp. 01-19.