

## Accepted Manuscript

Early angiosperm diversification in the Albian of southeast Australia: implications for flowering plant radiation across eastern Gondwana

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PII: S0034-6667(16)30066-5  
DOI: doi: [10.1016/j.revpalbo.2016.04.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.revpalbo.2016.04.005)  
Reference: PALBO 3743

To appear in: *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*

Received date: 8 July 2015  
Revised date: 3 April 2016  
Accepted date: 9 April 2016



Please cite this article as: Korasidis, Vera A., Wagstaff, Barbara E., Gallagher, Stephen J., Duddy, Ian R., Tosolini, Anne-Marie P., Cantrill, David J., Norvick, Martin S., Early angiosperm diversification in the Albian of southeast Australia: implications for flowering plant radiation across eastern Gondwana, *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology* (2016), doi: [10.1016/j.revpalbo.2016.04.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.revpalbo.2016.04.005)

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1 **Early angiosperm diversification in the Albian of southeast Australia:**  
2 **implications for flowering plant radiation across eastern Gondwana.**

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13 **KEY WORDS:** Early angiosperms; angiosperm migration; Cretaceous; palynology; biostratigraphy;  
14 Otway Basin

15 **Abstract**

16 This study provides the first record of the high diversity and abundance of Victoria's earliest  
17 angiosperms from outcrops in the non-marine upper Eumeralla Formation of the Otway Basin. The  
18 biostratigraphic schemes established for the Albian of Australia are re-evaluated using more reliable  
19 and widespread index species, resulting in the construction of a high-resolution Albian  
20 biostratigraphy in the Otway Basin. New localities in the uppermost outcrop of the Eumerella  
21 Formation contain spore-pollen assemblages that cannot be placed in the existing scheme and a new  
22 Upper *Phimopollenites pannosus* Subzone is recognized. The correlation of the *P. pannosus* Zone to  
23 the geochronological timescale was re-assessed and shows that it is 103–101.51Ma, giving a late

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