

Coal and Coal-bearing Strata as Oil-prone Source Rocks?

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The role of coal and coal-bearing strata in the formation of oil has long been debated. Increasing evidence is being provided, mainly from geochemical data, that coal and coal-bearing strata, at least of some ages and in some places, may give rise to significant quantities of oil. Most arguments concerning oil formation from terrigenous organic matter have been based on an examination of a single source of data (e.g. geochemistry). Many research areas have, however, an impact on the debate including geochemistry, palaeobotany, petroleum and coal geology. The need for a multi- and interdisciplinary approach to the study of the problem is highlighted by this volume.

Specific attention is paid to research from different areas and disciplines. Key topics addressed include:

- Where do terrigenous-sourced oils exist and what are the limits of our knowledge of them?
- Geochemical characterization and interpretation of terrigenous oils.
- Evolution of plants and implications for oil generation.
- Oil generation and expulsion from coals and coal-bearing strata.

These key topics are covered in major review chapters which incorporate significant new data. In addition, case studies highlight specific problems or areas of study.

This volume will be of interest to all geologists, geochemists and palaeobotanists with interests in petroleum or coal geology, and to both those in industry and academia. It will act as a focus for future research on the general area of petroleum-source rocks and oil-prone coals, in particular.

- 208 pages
- over 100 illustrations
- 11 papers
- index

Cover illustration: Thin section (2 mm width) of Swallow Wood Coal, Middle Coal Measures, Westphalian B, Yorkshire, UK. Natural History Museum V.13511 (red vitrinite ground mass with yellow mega- and microspores (sporinite)).

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