
**Petrological and Organic Geochemical Characteristics of Oil Sands from the Middle Jurassic Yan’an Formation in the Southern Ordos Basin, China**

Liang Ye¹,², Shan Xuanlong¹, Hao Guoli¹*, Yousif M. Makeen², Wan Hasiah Abdullah², Habeeb Ayoola Ayinla³, Tong Lihua⁴ and Zhao Rongsheng¹

¹ College of Earth Sciences, No. 2199, Jianshe street, Jilin University, Changchun 130061, China.
² Department of Geology, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
³ Department of Geology, Federal University Lokoja, P.M.B 1154 Nigeria
⁴ Oil and gas resources survey center of China Geological Survey, No. 10, Xiaoguandongli, Beijing,100000, China.

**Abstract**

An integrated petrological and geochemical analysis of surface and drilled oil sands was conducted to assess the organic matter origin/type, thermal maturity and paleoenvironment. Petrographic analysis of the oil sand used to establish the relationships between porosity and permeability with bulk density, RQI, NPI and FZI. The strong correlation between reservoir quality index (RQI) and permeability ($R^2 = 0.98$) reveal that porosity has a good correlation to RQI. The biomarker signatures of the analyzed oil reveal predominance of subaqueatic-derived source input with mainly land plant materials. This was indicated based on the average concentration of $\alpha\alpha\alpha$C27:C28:C29 sterane 20R of about 38%, 22% and 40% respectively. This interpretation is also supported by high values of tricyclic terpane/$\alpha\beta$C30 hopane and regular sterane/$\alpha\beta$C30 hopane. An anoxic condition of deposition within a lacustrine paleoenvironment that attributed to the enhancement of the preservation of the organic matters in the area were indicated based on the low Pr/Ph ratios (average 0.74), low values of $\alpha\beta$C31-22R-hopane/$\alpha\beta$C30 hopane ratios and high C26/C25 tricyclic terpane ratios as well as the presence of gammacerane and a low water salinity. Biomarker maturity parameters show that the extracted oil sand has entered the early oil window stage.

**Key words**

Reservoir quality; porosity and permeability; organic geochemistry; biomarker; lacustrine environment

* Corresponding author. E-mail: haoguoli@jlu.edu.cn