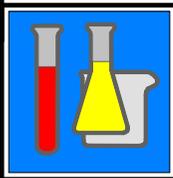




THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 26, No. 3

September, 2009

ISSN 0743-3816



**Joint 26th TSOP and
61st ICCP Annual Meeting**

19-26 September 2009



Natal Luz, Gramado, Brazil

Gramado / Porto Alegre, Brazil

**Host:
Instituto de Geociências,
Universidade Federal do
Rio Grande do Sul**

26th Annual TSOP Meeting with ICCP
September 19-26, 2009
Gramado, Brazil
See pages 8-10

Planned Schedule Includes:

Conference Theme:

**Advances in Organic Petrology and Organic
Geochemistry.**

Meeting Webpage:

http://www.ufrgs.br/ICCP_TSOP_2009

Deadline for Abstract Submission:
May 15th, 2009

Saturday, September 19:
ICCP Council Meetings

Sunday, September 20:
ICCP Registration, Icebreaker
ICCP Assembly Meetings
Palynofacies Short Course

Monday, September 20:
ICCP Commission Meetings

Tuesday, September 22:
ICCP Commission Meetings
Outgoing TSOP Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 23:
ICCP Commission and Plenary Meetings
Visit to Caracol Park
TSOP Registration and Icebreaker

Thursday, September 24:
TSOP/ICCP Technical and Poster Sessions
Evening Conference Dinner

Friday, September 25:
TSOP Technical Sessions
Business Lunch, Incoming TSOP Council Meeting

Saturday, September 26:
Field Trips

The Society for Organic Petrology

TSOP is a society for scientists and engineers involved with coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry and related disciplines. The Society organizes an annual technical meeting, other meetings, and field trips; sponsors research projects; provides funding for graduate students; and publishes a web site, this quarterly Newsletter, a membership directory, annual meeting program and abstracts, and special publications.

Members may elect not to receive the printed Newsletter by marking their dues forms or by contacting the Editor. This choice may also be reversed at any time, or specific printed Newsletters may be requested.

Members are eligible for **discounted subscriptions** to the Elsevier journals *International Journal of Coal Geology* and *Review of Paleobotany and Palynology*. Subscribe by checking the box on your dues form, or using the form at www.tsop.org. You will then be billed by Elsevier. Contact Paul Hackley <phackley@usgs.gov> if you do not receive a bill or have any other problems with a subscription. For the best prices on subscriptions to **AGI's Geotimes**, see their web site at www.geotimes.org/current

TSOP is a Member Society of AGI and an AAPG Associated Society.

The Society for Organic Petrology Newsletter

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**DEADLINES: Dec. Issue: Dec. 5, 2009
March Issue: March 5, 2010**

Writers, Photographers and Associate Editors Needed!

GUIDELINES:

The TSOP Newsletter welcomes contributions from members and non-members alike. Readers are invited to submit items pertinent to TSOP members' fields of study. These might include meeting reports and reviews, book reviews, short technical contributions including those on geologic localities or laboratory methods, as well as creative works such as poems, cartoons and works of fiction. Color illustrations may be possible in some issues.

Please do not embed **graphics** or **photos** in word processor files. You can provide photos or other graphics as slides or prints (which will be returned after being scanned) or as digital files (300 dpi preferred) via email or on cd or dvd. Low resolution images are discouraged as they cannot be reproduced well in print. **Text** is preferred in Microsoft Word, RTF or plain text formats.

Contact the Editor:

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Society Membership

The TSOP Newsletter (ISSN-0743-3816) is published quarterly by The Society for Organic Petrology and is distributed to all Society members as a benefit of membership. Membership in the Society is open to all individuals involved in the fields of organic petrology and organic geochemistry. For more information on membership and Society activities, please see:

www.tsop.org

For purposes of registration of the TSOP Newsletter, a permanent address is: The Society for Organic Petrology, c/o American Geological Institute, 4220 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302-1520 USA

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Officers and Committee Chairs are reminded to provide their records to Ken Kuehn, **TSOP Archivist**. Please contact Ken at kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu for further information.

* * * * *

Industrial Supporters

On behalf of TSOP Council we would like to say thank you to the following Industrial Supporters for their consistent support of the Society and its goals.

- Joseph Curiale, Chevron.
- Bob Cluff, President, The Discovery Group, Inc.

President's Letter

Drum roll please: TSOP election results. I am pleased to announce our new Council members. They include:

Vice President (2010-2012):	Isabel Suarez-Ruiz
Councilor (2010-2012):	Agnieszka Drobnik
Editor (2010-2011):	Rachel Walker
Secretary (2010-2011):	Paul Hackley

Congratulations to all. Our trusty Ballot Committee Chair, Bill Huggett, reported that 29% of our members voted in this election. I'd like to have seen a higher percentage and it may be that we should start sending out a reminder about two weeks after the ballot goes out. And thank you Peter Warwick for agreeing to step in as Nominating Committee Chair.

This will be the last President's Column that I write, as my term is ending. I will be handing over the reins to our very capable Vice President, Hamed Sanei. He will serve all of you well, and I'm looking forward to passing over the multitude of files, emails, manuals, etc. that have been generated in the last two years.

There are many people that I would like to thank for making the last several years successful. In no particular order:

Sharon Swanson (Councilor, 2007-2009). Sharon has been instrumental in getting TSOP incorporated and helping us to apply for 501c3 tax status. This will allow U.S. citizens to donate tax-deductible contributions to the organization. It will bring in much needed money to our coffers.

Peter Warwick digitized all of our past Annual Meeting Abstracts and Programs Proceedings and negotiated with AAPG to include them in their Datapages system. Our income from AAPG is substantial. As a reminder to all future Annual Meeting Organizing Committee Chairs, all abstract volumes need to be submitted to AAPG, and Peter remains the point-of-contact.

Dave Glick and Mike Avery have made substantial progress on our new website. We now have an internal members-only site that is password protected. It will "go live" in the very near future.

Rachel Walker has done a spectacular job on our newsletter. It is interesting to read and is well organized and formatted. Rachel is also excellent at prodding us to get our submissions in before (well, sometimes after) our deadlines.

Paul Hackley has written some of the funniest meeting notes that I've ever read. They start out very factual, and as you read through them, suddenly there is a comment that makes you laugh out loud. His notes are complete and always, always on time.

Jim Hower won Council approval for two new TSOP awards. The first award, the TSOP Gray Award, is named after founding member Ralph J. Gray and is given for the best refereed paper in coal and organic petrology. The first Gray Award will be presented in Brazil. The second award for best refereed paper in coal, organic geochemistry, and/or mineralogy, will be presented next year after an award Chair is

appointed.

I especially thank the family of Ralph Gray for allowing TSOP to use his name for our new award. We will miss our old friend and he will not be forgotten.

All of the committee chairs deserve accolades for their work. The work they do is critical to the success of our Society.

Thanks to all of you who have chosen to get the TSOP Newsletter delivered electronically. The Newsletter is our most costly on-going expense and your decision to read it online has helped us stay out of the red.

And lastly, Mike Avery is the best Treasurer ever!

I am soon off to Gramado for the 2009 ICCP-TSOP meeting and I hope to see many of you there. Wolfgang and his organizing committee have put together an excellent meeting that will be very well attended. One hundred and eleven people have registered, and this preliminary total includes 29 students.

Thank you for the opportunity to have served you for the last several years. I have enjoyed the job and now look forward to semi-retirement!

Best
Jingle Ruppert

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CATCH UP ON YOUR TSOP DUES!

Are you paid up for 2009? TSOP funding is dependent upon members' dues, so please check to ensure you are up to date. If you are not sure what your dues status is, please contact Mike Avery at mavery@nrcan.gc.ca. Don't forget, members can elect to pay several years in advance by taking advantage of the *5 years for the price of 4* discount.

* * * * *

Ralph Gray Award for the Best Published Petrology Paper, 2009

At the 2009 mid-year TSOP council meeting, approval was granted for two new best paper awards: one for the best refereed paper in coal and organic petrology, the other for the best refereed paper in organic geochemistry or mineralogy. For any given year, the papers considered would have been published in the previous year ie: for the 2009 award, papers published within the 2008 calendar year can be considered.

The geochemistry/mineralogy award will start with the formation of a committee in 2010. The petrology award, with the permission of the Gray family, was named after Ralph Gray.

The committee started the process with evaluations of the abstracts of prospective papers. Papers authored by any of the committee members were not considered. Final evaluation was made of the full papers of the top six selections of the committee.

The 2009 recipient of the inaugural Ralph Gray Award is “Genesis and rank distribution of Upper Carboniferous coal basins in the Cantabrian Mountains, Northern Spain” by Juan Ramón Colmenero, Isabel Suárez-Ruiz, Javier Fernández-Suárez, Pedro Barba, and Teresa Llorens (*International Journal of Coal Geology*, 2008, Volume 76, p. 187-204).

On rare occasions, a second award for an outstanding publication in a non-refereed venue can be considered. The 2008 Academic Press publication of “Applied Coal Petrology,” edited by Isabel Suárez-Ruiz and John C. Crelling, warranted recognition for an award. The editors enlisted Joan S. Esterle, Robert B. Finkelman, Stephen F. Greb, Gareth D. Mitchell, Jack C. Pashin, Nicola J. Wagner, Colin R. Ward, M. Coertzen, R.H. Matjie, J.C. van Dyk as authors or co-authors on the chapters.

* * * * *

IJCG Impact Factor

We are pleased to report that the 2008 Impact Factor for *International Journal of Coal Geology* was 1.768. This is the highest that the journal has ever been. IJCG ranking among the 64 journals in the Energy & Fuels category is 18th. Among the close competitors, *Fuel* was 11th with a 2.536 impact factor, *Fuel Processing Technology* was 14th (2.066), *Energy & Fuels* was 15th (2.056), *AAPG Bulletin* was 28th (1.364), *Energy Sources: A* was 36th (0.868).

International Journal of Coal Geology is ranked 6th in immediacy index and 24th in cited half life among the 64 journals in the Energy & Fuels category, indicating that papers in the journal have an very immediate importance and have information with a relative lasting value to the readers.

For the sake of comparison, *International Journal of Coal Geology* is ranked 47th out of 143 journals in the Geosciences Multidisciplinary category. Geochemistry journals still have higher impact factors, e.g., *Organic Geochemistry* (2.364), *Chemical Geology* (3.531), *Applied Geochemistry* (1.857).

The ranking of IJCG is a product of the dedication of all the editorial board members in ensuring that we maintain quality manuscripts. We thank them all for their efforts in getting the journal to the level it is today. *International Journal of Coal Geology* is the leader in the number of articles not only on coal petrology and coal mineralogy, but also on coalbed methane, CO₂ sequestration, trace elements, and the geologic aspects of coal mining. Having said that, we are not content with current situation and the big challenge for all of us is not only to maintain our position, but also to strive to improve in the years coming.

Editors-in-Chief

Dr. Shifeng Dai
Dr. Karacan, C. Ozgen
Dr. Ralf Littke

IN MEMORY OF RALPH J. GRAY

Submitted By: Kevin DeVanney (business partner) & Daniel P. Gray (son)

It is truly an honor to write a few words about Ralph J. Gray, who passed away on March 16, 2009 at his home in Monroeville, Pennsylvania at the age of 85. Ralph was undoubtedly the man that contributed the most to the developing industrial applications of coal and coke petrography in the United States.

Ralph was born in 1923 in Wheeling, West Virginia. As a child, he lived on Coal Street – how appropriate! He started out as a baker – how appropriate again! He’d probably still be doing this if it were not for a leg injury suffered in an industrial accident. This accident and difficult rehabilitation led to him furthering his education, paving the way for his destiny. He received a BS & Masters degree in Geology in 1950 & 51 from West Virginia University. After graduation, he served as a Cartographic Photogrammetric Aid for the Army Map Service and then began work for the Geological Survey in Columbus Ohio where he completed his course work for his Doctorate degree at Ohio State University. In 1957, he began his distinguished career with US Steel where he gained international recognition as a coal scientist. In 1984, he retired from US Steel and spent the remaining 25 years working as consultant in the area of coal, coke, and specialty carbons. During that period of time he ran his own company and was also an equal partner with CoalTech Petrographic Associates, Inc. Ralph contributed about 5 decades of service in the field of coal. Some, but not nearly all, of his major accomplishments include:

Ralph was a major contributor to the concept of petrographic V-types, vitrinite as a rank parameter, and to relating coal petrographic analysis to cokemaking and coke stability prediction. He developed microscopic and other techniques for detecting and quantifying oxidized coal, and also for the description of lithotypes for use in coal logging, core processing, washability, property evaluation and mine development. He is also recognized for his contributions to the use of vitrinite reflectance for use in determining the maturity of dispersed organics for oil & gas prospecting. The development of microscopic techniques that related coal rank and type to coke microscopic carbon forms and one of the first automated reflectance systems to rapidly quantify blend proportions in the US are part of his many accomplishments. He applied his knowledge beyond coal and coke and developed microscopic techniques to study extracted residues in tar and pitch as well as other special application carbons. Ralph also was a major contributor to the development of the ASTM D05 procedures for coal and coke petrography and other ASTM methods within subcommittees D5.28 and D5.15. He authored over 70 publications in the field of geology, coal, coke, and specialty carbons throughout his distinguished career.

His contributions did not go unnoticed. In 1986, he received the Iron & Steel Society's prestigious Joseph Becker Award for outstanding achievements to cokemaking. In 1988, he received the Geological Society of America's Gilbert Cady award for outstanding contributions to coal geology. In 1996, Ralph was awarded ASTM's prestigious R. A. Glenn Award and also in the same year was awarded a TSOP award (now called the Castano Award). In 2000, he received the Thiessen Medal from International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology.



The list could go on and on. In short, Ralph was a great educator, a great coal scientist and geologist, and most importantly, a great person. I can't think of anyone that has influenced and trained more industrial coal scientists throughout the world more than Ralph has. Many of us will remember Ralph as "Mr. Science", "The Walking Coal Dictionary", or the "Father of Applied Industrial Coal Petrography". All of us will remember him as a person that always had a great sense of humor and we will miss him as a friend and mentor.

* * * * *

Tasmanites-enriched Upper Devonian black shales: electron microscopy and chemical characterization (SEM-EDX)

Sarah R. de la Rue
 Thomas J. Williams
 Peter E. Isaacson
 Department of Geological Sciences
 University of Idaho
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Note: The following abstract has been submitted to the GSA Portland annual meeting, Oct. 18-21. If you find yourself at the meeting, please come by my poster booth. Hope to see you! Sarah.

Abstract

Upper Devonian black shales are characterized by large (up to 400 µm), spherical-shaped bodies of the microscopic marine green alga *Tasmanites*, observable on rock surfaces with a reflected light microscope. A major constituent of Paleozoic seas, this photoautotrophic alga dominated surface waters during times of organic-rich mud deposition,

consequently contributing to the high concentrations of carbon within the sediments. This investigation aimed to determine if the algal bodies were chemically differentiated from the elemental composition of the background matrix and if so, of which element they were composed. Here we present relative abundances and distribution patterns of the elemental constituents of the matrix and fossilized algal bodies in three cored shale successions from high and low latitude epicontinental basins acquired using scanning electron microscopy and energy-dispersive X-ray analysis (SEM-EDX), and elemental mapping.

EDX analyses indicate that the matrix of all samples is composed of a suite of elements (Al, Si, O, Na, K, Mg, Fe, and S) derived from aluminosilicates and pyritic-sulfides. Minerals were observed as micron-sized crystals or enmeshed within the disseminated organics, heavy minerals, or clays. Dolomite and calcite were predominant in shales from the Iowa Basin. Micron-sized crystals of the secondary minerals sphalerite and a calcium sulfate, possibly gypsum, were observed in shales from the Illinois Basin. SEM analyses show that tasmanitid bodies cover the entire surface of the shale samples. EDX and elemental mapping revealed that carbon, although evenly disseminated throughout the matrix, was the major elemental constituent of the well-preserved microfossils. Elements other than carbon, e.g., Ni, P, Cu, Mg, etc., occurred at minor concentrations, or were below detection. Organic preservation is most likely due to the highly chemical-resistant structure of the algal cell wall, the fine-grained clay sediments, and the redox conditions at the water-sediment interface. The lack of concentrated elements in association with the algal bodies suggests that the *Tasmanites* were not sites of bacteria-induced mineral nucleation, particularly for pyrite.

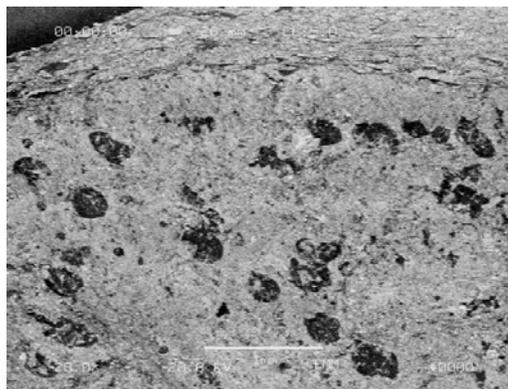


Fig. 1. Photomicrographs of Upper Devonian *Tasmanites* alga. Backscattered SEM image showing dark carbon bodies on the lighter matrix.

* * * * *

Pennsylvanian seed-fern trunk: fusinite, charcoal, or both?

Erwin L. Zodrow, Professor Emeritus in Geology and Curator of Fossil Plants, Cape Breton University, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada. E-mail Erwin_Zodrow@cbu.ca

The “Great Dane” Steno (1669) in his *Prodromus* (constancy of interfacial crystal angles, law of superposition) called the black material he found buried in the rocks in Tuscany, Italy, charcoal because he thought it represented burnt plants, by comparison with man-made charcoal. It is now debatable if fire alone is responsible, as a geochemical origin is also possible, and cannot be ruled out (see Stach, 1927). When Marie Stopes (1919) introduced the concept of macerals, “sounding like minerals in a rock”, an interesting dilemma became evident, as fusinite (Lat. *fuscus*, mother of coal) is *sensu stricto* a coal constituent, though some authors believe that fusinite = charcoal (see Rowe et al., 2000), and Jones et al. (1993) argued that fusain is a transitional fossil. The specimen illustrated provides an interesting case regarding the origin of fibrous coal, which incidentally forms a dust component in coal mines. It was found by the author in the shaley waste rock from the roof of the Hub Seam mined in an open pit operation by Pioneer Coal Limited in Sydney Coalfield, Nova Scotia, Canada, and represents the only recorded fossil plant preserved in this fashion from the Pennsylvanian-age coalfield, probably from the whole of Maritimes Canada.

As the accompanying photograph shows, the surface of the fossil traces out a *quasi* zig-zag pattern across the trunk that resembles a pattern seen on log surfaces that are partially burnt. However, on-going scanning-electron microscopy reveals a distinct fibrous habit, analogous to fusinite, though cell-topographic characteristics are not present.

Taxonomic identity cannot be definite, but in the absence of lycophyte- or sphenophyte-surface markings, a lucky guess is a seed-fern trunk as foliage of this group dominates the fossil flora in the roof rocks of the Hub Seam from where the fusinite? charcoal? specimen originated.

Further work is in progress that includes ¹³C NMR and FTIR investigations.

References cited:

Jones, T.P., Scott, A.C., Matthey, D.P. 1993. Investigation of “fusain transition fossils” from the Lower Carboniferous: comparison with modern partially charred wood. *International Journal of Coal Geology* 22, 37-59.

Rowe, N. P., Jones, T.P. 2000. Devonian charcoal. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 164, 331-338.

Stach, E. 1927. The origin of fusain. *Fuel* 6, 403-410.
 Steno, N. (Stenonivs). 1669. *De solido intra solidum naturaliter contento. Dissertationis Prodromvs, Florentiae*. English version, retaining original pagination and plate numbering by John Garrett Winter, Foreword by William H. Hobbs. Hafner Publishing Co., Inc. London (1968), 169-283 pp.

Stopes, M.C. 1919. On the four visible ingredients in banded bituminous coal. *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, 90B, 4-13.

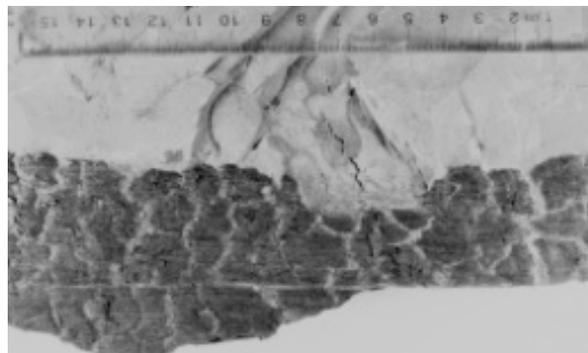


Figure 1: Part of the fusain/charred seed-fern trunk on a shale matrix. Hub Seam, Late Asturian age, Pioneer Coal Ltd., Sydney Coalfield, Nova Scotia, Canada.

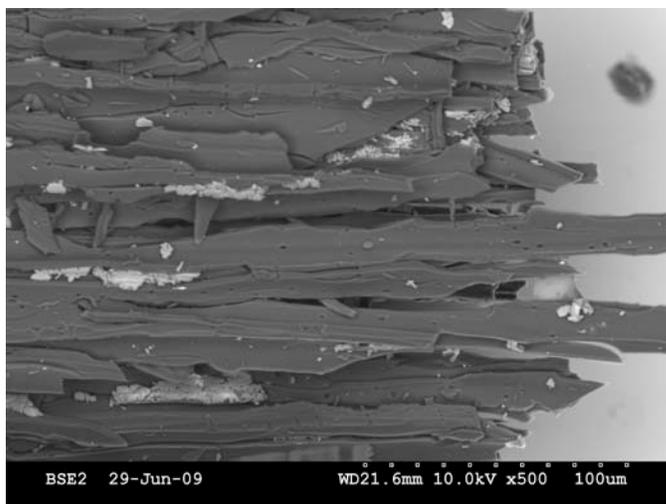


Figure 2: Shown is the fibrous nature of the specimen. SEM thankfully provided by Mr. D. O’Neil, NRC, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

* * * * *

Vitamin E-like structures in seed coats? Pennsylvanian Sydney Coalfield, Nova Scotia, Canada.

José A. D’Angelo^{1,2} and Erwin L. Zodrow³

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Detached trigonocarpalean (Medullosales) ovules are known from a number of different preservational stages and states of the biological ovules, and occur in the Euramerican and Cathaysian Floral Provinces, from the Pennsylvanian to early Permian Periods. In the Sydney Coalfield the ovules are commonly compression-preserved, particularly in the Point Aconi strata, and assigned to *Trigonocarpus* Brongniart, 1828. Despite the abundance, their paleobiochemistry is unresolved.

Of particular interest are two ovular compressions of the type *T. grandis* (Lesquereux) Cleal and Zодrow 2009, measuring 8-10 cm in length and 4-6 cm in width, from which cuticular-type of membranes (integument, or sporangial cover) could be obtained for the first time. These cuticles are analyzed by Fourier infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and yielded unusually high CH_2/CH_3 ratios from which long and unbranched hydrocarbons chains could be estimated (Lin and Ritz, 1993a, b). Fourier self-deconvolution procedures (Kauppinen et al., 1981) are applied to the spectra (Figure 1) to improve information, specifically to separate overlapping bands in the aliphatic C-H stretching region (approx. 2825-3000 cm^{-1}) so that the areas of individual CH_2 and CH_3 peaks can be measured.

The presence of the aliphatic macromolecules in *T. grandis* specimens is in agreement with previously published information from Py-GC (van Bergen et al., 1994). Furthermore, and according to the theoretical CH_2/CH_3 ratios calculated for vitamin E structures, the CH_2/CH_3 ratios obtained for *T. grandis* cuticles could be indicating the presence of δ -tocopherols (and δ -tocotrienols). If confirmed by studies in progress using Py-GC/MS and ^{13}C NMR, this is the earliest record of δ -tocopherol compounds as part of identifiable fossil remains (as opposed to dispersed chemical fossils in sedimentary organic matter) in the geological record. At the same time, the study demonstrates the potential FTIR has in the studies of Carboniferous phytochemistry to promote phytochemotaxonomy.

References:

Brongniart, A. 1828. Prodrôme d'une histoire des végétaux fossiles. Dictionnaire des Sciences Naturelles, 223 p.

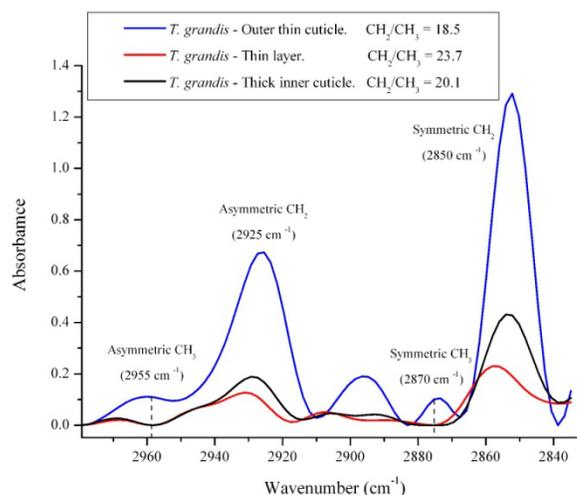
Cleal, C.J., Zодrow, E.L. 2009. An association of *Alethopteris* foliage, *Trigonocarpus* ovules and *Bernautilia*-like pollen organs from the Middle Pennsylvanian of Nova Scotia. *Palaeontographica Abt. B*. In press.

Kauppinen J. K., Moffatt D. J., Mantsch H. H., Cameron D. G., 1981. Fourier transform in the computation of self-deconvoluted and first order derivative spectra of overlapped band contours. *Analytical Chemistry* 53, 1454-1457.

Lin, R., Ritz, G.P., 1993a. Reflectance FT-IR microspectroscopy of fossil algae contained in organic-rich shale. *Applied Spectroscopy* 47, 265– 271.

Lin, R., Ritz, G.P., 1993b. Studying individual macerals using i.r. microspectroscopy, and implications on oil versus gas/condensate proneness and "low-rank" generation. *Organic Geochemistry* 20, 695–706.

van Bergen, P.F., Collinson, M.E., Damste, J.S.S., de Leeuw, J.W., 1994. Chemical and microscopical characterization of inner seed coats of fossil water plants. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 58(1): 231-239.



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Joint 61st ICCP/26th TSOP Meeting Advances in Organic Petrology and Organic Geochemistry 19-26/09/ 2009

Host: Instituto de Geociências,
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul
Location: Gramado/PortoAlegre, Brazil

Meeting Place: Centro de Eventos – Gramado –RS, Rua São Pedro, 663

Homepage of the meeting:
www.ufrgs.br/ICCP_TSOP_2009

1. Organizing Committee:

Prof. Wolfgang. Kalkreuth, Chair, Instituto de Geociências, UFRGS, Porto Alegre, RS
M. Sc Carla Araújo, CENPES, Petrobras, RJ
Prof. Eduardo Osório, Centro de Tecnologia, UFRGS, Porto Alegre, RS
Prof. João. Graciano Mendonça Filho, Instituto de Geociências, UFRJ, RJ
Prof. Maria do Carmo Peralba, Instituto de Química, UFRGS, Porto Alegre, RS
Prof. Maristela Bagatin Silva, Instituto de Oceanologia, FURG, Rio Grande, RS
Dr. Miriam Cazzulo-Klepzig, Instituto de Geociências, UFRGS, Porto Alegre, RS
Dr. Lizete Senandes Ferret, CIENTEC, Porto Alegre, RS

Dr. Leandro Dalla Zen, CIENTEC, Porto Alegre, RS

2. Location:

Shuttle Bus service (Porto Alegre (airport) – Gramado) will be provided on the two days prior to the meeting (Sept. 18 and 19, 2009), and on Sept. 23, 2009 (for TSOP Members only attending the ICCP/TSOP Symposium and the TSOP Technical Session on Sept. 25).

Shuttle Bus service (Gramado – Porto Alegre/Airport) will be available on the evening of Sept. 25 and in the morning of Sept. 26 for those participants returning to Porto Alegre. The fieldtrips will leave Gramado on the morning of Sept. 26 and will finish by late afternoon in Porto Alegre on the same day (it is recommended to book a hotel for the night of Sept. 26, 2009 in Porto Alegre).

4. Conference Theme:

Advances in Organic Petrology and Organic Geochemistry

5. Call for Papers:

Abstract Submission is now closed. The International Journal of Coal Geology will publish a special volume on the meeting proceedings.

6. Registration Fee, Conference Dinner, Fieldtrips

Note: All fees to be paid in cash (R\$- Brazilian Currency) upon arrival in Gramado.

Exchange Rate (09/07/2009): 1 Euro = R\$ 2.65; 1 US\$ = R\$ 1.85

	Registration Fee (R\$)	Registration Fee (R\$)
	Before April 30, 2009	After April 30, 2009
ICCP and TSOP Members	250,00	350,00
Guests	250,00	350,00
Students	50,00	70,00

Registration includes: Ice-Breaker, participation in ICCP and TSOP sessions and ICCP/TSOP symposium, coffee breaks, light luncheons. TSOP business luncheon is included for TSOP Members, and optional for ICCP Members (R\$ 20,00), see also registration form.

Short Course Fee: Professional: R\$ 60,00; Student: R\$ 20,00

Title: Palynofacies and Organic Facies: Principles, Methods and Applications

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Short Course Abstract:

The concept of organic facies, as well as the definitions and means of the different facies have become a very important tool to depositional environmental characterization and petroleum exploration. The application of this concept is the best way to integrate microscopy and geochemical techniques to study kerogen contained in sedimentary rocks. Thus, palynofacies analysis and bulk geochemical methods are used to characterize the total particulate organic matter. Palynofacies analysis involves the integrated study of all aspects of the kerogen assemblage: identification of the individual particulate components, assessment of their absolute and relative proportions and preservation. The correlation between palynofacies and geochemical data provides the organic facies models that point out the depositional environmental conditions and hydrocarbon source rock potential.

FIELDTRIPS:

Note = Fieldtrip participants need to book 1 night accommodation in Porto Alegre on Sept. 26, 2008

Fieldtrip 1: Excursion to the Leão – Butiá Coalfield, Rio Grande do Sul

Fieldtrip Leaders: Maristela Bagatin Silva, Eduardo Osório, Margot Sommer, Miriam Cazzulo-Klepzig, Wolfgang Kalkreuth

Date: September 26, 2009, 08.30 – 17.00 h

Fee: R\$ 120,00

Summary: This one-day fieldtrip will examine Permian coal seams of the Paraná Basin in one of the open pit mines in the Leão – Butiá Coalfield, RS. The coals are subbituminous in rank and are at present time predominantly used for power generation in the nearby power plants of Charqueadas and São Jerônimo.

Fieldtrip 2: Excursion to examine the relationship of soil type and climate to champagne and wine quality in the region of Vale dos Vinhedos, RS. Fieldtrip Leaders: Wolfgang Kalkreuth, UFRGS, Eduardo Giovannini, IF CET, Campus Bento Gonçalves

Date: September 26, 2009, 08.30 – 18.00 h

Fee: R\$ 170,00

Summary: This one-day fieldtrip will examine the relationship of soil type and climate to champagne and wine quality in the region of Vale dos Vinhedos, RS. The Vale dos Vinhedos (Valley of the Vinyards) is located between the towns of Garibaldi and Bento Gonçalves, where wine and champagne making dates back to the year 1875, when Italian immigrants settled in the area.

Caracol Park Trip: Sept. 23, 2009, including luncheon: R\$ 65,00.

Conference Dinner: Sept. 24, 2009, including bus transport: R\$ 95,00

8. Accommodation:

Please see website for details:

http://www.ufrgs.br/ICCP_TSOP_2009/

Joint ICCP-TSOP Meeting, September 19-26, 2009 - Gramado/Porto Alegre, Brazil														
Time	Saturday 19/sept	Sunday 20/sept	Monday 21/sept	Tuesday 22/sept	Wednesday 23/sept	Thursday 24/sept	Friday 25/sept	Saturday 26/sept						
8:30-9:00		Registration and Short-Course: Palynofacies and Organic Facies: Principles, Methods and Applications	Registration			Registration		Fieldtrips						
9:00-9:30	Council Meeting ICCP		ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP/TSOP Symposium	TSOP Technical Sessions							
9:30-10:00			Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break							
10:00-10:30			ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP/TSOP Symposium	TSOP Technical Sessions							
10:30-11:00														
11:00-11:30	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Visit to Caracol Park And lunch	Lunch		Business Luncheon					
11:30-12:00														
12:00-12:30														
12:30-13:00	ICCP Council	Welcome	ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP/TSOP Symposium	TSOP Technical Sessions							
13:00-13:30														
13:30-14:00								ICCP General Assembly	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	ICCP/TSOP Poster Session	Coffee Break	
14:00-14:30														
14:30-15:00		ICCP General Assembly	ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP Plenary Session		TSOP Technical Sessions							
15:00-15:30														
15:30-16:00														
16:00-16:30														
16:30-17:00		ICCP General Assembly	ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP Commission Meetings	ICCP Plenary Session		TSOP Technical Sessions							
17:00-17:30														
17:30-18:00														
18:00-18:30														
18:30-19:00		Registration & Ice-Breaker	Council Meeting ICCP	Outgoing Council Meeting TSOP	TSOP Registration & Ice-Breaker	Conference Dinner	Incoming Council Meeting TSOP							
19:00-19:30														
19:30-20:00														
20:00-20:30														
20:30-21:00														
21:30-22:00														

2009 Pittsburgh Coal Conference

September 21 - 24, 2009

The Westin Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Throughout the world, coal is a major energy source, providing nearly 25% of the world's primary energy consumption. Although coal's share of total energy use was previously expected to decline in the future, the recent high cost of natural gas and petroleum together with projected increasing demand and decreasing reserves of both have created a heightened interest in the use of coal within the United States. However, to maintain this growth, the industry must be responsive to increasing pressures on environmental emissions and global warming as well as improve its public image.

The Twenty-Sixth Annual International Pittsburgh Coal Conference focuses on environmental emissions issues and technologies surrounding the continued use of coal and the development of future coal-based energy plants to achieve near-zero emissions of pollutants, reduced costs, and high thermal efficiency while producing a suite of products to meet future energy market requirements.

2009 Sessions include **Coal Science**: Chairs - [Jim Hower](#), [B.K. Parekh](#), and [Frans Waanders](#). Topics include Chemistry, Geoscience/Coal Resources, Coal Mining and Reclamation, Trace Elements/Emission, Processing and Coal Preparation.

www.engr.pitt.edu/pcc/2009%20Conference.htm

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North American Coalbed Methane Forum

October 21-22, 2009

Lakeview Conference Center,
West Virginia, USA.

The North American Coalbed Methane Forum Inc. will hold its Fall Session from October 21-22, 2009 at the Lakeview Conference Center, near Morgantown, West Virginia, USA.

For more information, please contact Ihor Havryluk @ 412-445-5803 or havryluk@zoominternet.net or Dr. Kashi Aminian @ 304-293-7682 ext. 3406 or Khashayar.aminian@mail.wv.edu.

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ICCP Course in Organic Petrology

November 16-20, 2009

The International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP), in conjunction with Geolab, DGG (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geowissenschaften), the Teichmüller Foundation and GFZ (the German Research Centre for Geosciences), is pleased to announce a training course in Organic Petrology to be held in Potsdam in

November, 2009.

The course is centered on the petrology of coals with a particular emphasis on their petrography. Practical applications and technological importance will be stressed. While a basic geological understanding will be assumed, the course is designed for those with little or no particular knowledge of coal. It is therefore suitable for undergraduate or post graduate students as well as established professionals who require a more thorough understanding of coal.

A detailed course outline will become available soon at www.iccop.org. Further information is available from: Lopo Vasconcelos at lopovasconcelos@gmail.com or Nikki Wagner at Nicola.Wagner@wits.ac.za

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Calendar of Events

2009

September 19-26, 2009: Joint Meeting of TSOP/ICCP, Gramado, Brazil. www.tsop.org

September 21 - 24, 2009: 26th International Pittsburgh Coal Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. www.engr.pitt.edu/pcc/2009%20Conference.htm

September 27-30, 2009: 42nd Annual AASP- The Palynological Society meeting, East Tennessee State University, Tennessee, USA. www.palynology.org

October 18-21, 2009: 2009 GSA Annual Meeting, "From Volcanoes to Vineyards: Living with Dynamic Landscapes", Portland, Oregon, USA. www.geosociety.org

October 21-22, 2009: North American Coalbed Methane Forum Fall Session, Lakeview Conference Center, West Virginia, USA.

November 16-20, 2009: ICCP Course in Organic Petrology, Potsdam, Germany. www.iccop.org

2010

March 21-25, 2010: American Chemical Society Spring Meeting, San Francisco, California. <http://portal.acs.org/>

April 11-14, 2010: AAPG Annual Convention & Exhibition, in New Orleans USA. www.aapg.org

June 13-18, 2010: Goldschmidt Conference, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. www.goldschmidt2010.org/

July 11-16, 2010: Carbon 2010, the Annual World Conference on Carbon, Clemson University, South Carolina, USA. <http://caeff.ces.clemson.edu/carbon2010/>

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PHOTO GALLERY



Lago Negro, Gramado, Brazil.