**Dispersed organic matter in sedimentary rocks WG**

White paper on Dispersed Organic Matter (DOM) in Sedimentary Rocks – Classification, Identification and Thermal Maturity

Dear ICCP Commission II Members,

In the Dispersed Organic Matter in Sedimentary Rocks WG, the Convenors discussed extensively the structure and content of the white paper on Dispersed Organic Matter (DOM) in Sedimentary Rocks – Classification, Identification and Thermal Maturity, based on the last available manuscript and published data. The conclusion reached pointed out that aims and goals set out in 1995 dealing with classification, identification and thermal maturity are by now already covered in length in a high number of different publications. The recurrence of these plentiful statements, data and conclusions made by the numerous authors and regarding so many aspects would go beyond the normal pre-scheduled plan of activities in our WG. Thus, such a compilation would not be successful and its scope and content would not adequately reflect the merits of scientifically reached reports.

Instead, the Convenors identified a new worthy activity. Instead of reiterating the already set standards in organic petrology and the acquired knowledge, the idea is to prepare a Review Publication focusing mainly on the application studies of Dispersed Organic Matter (DOM) in Sedimentary Rocks – Classification, Identification and Thermal Maturity. The application studies may focus on a number of different subjects such as: regional based studies, stratigraphically based studies, thermal maturity, geobiology, fossilization, petroleum exploration/exploitation, organic matter type based studies, etc. This review publication can provide a relevant platform for academia and industrial activities such as HC exploration and development, shallow and deep geothermal energy systems, deep geological disposal programs, coastal hydrogeology, and others. In order to incorporate the relevant topics prepared in the last version of the “DOM in Sedimentary Rocks” manuscript and to back up these topics by current and appropriate citations, the Review Publication will also enclose one chapter condensed to several pages focusing very heavy with references to the published studies: sample preparation, polished pellet preparation, ICCP DOMVR Accreditation Program, calibration procedure, reflectance standards, ISO/ASTM norms for microscopic analyses. The convenors retain the predecessors of the WG as co-authors.

As this discussion and the approval for a change in the formerly established goal for the WG should be discussed by the Commission II members during the ICCP Meeting, and as the Convenors do not want to wait until the next ICCP Meeting in China, the suggestion is to gain here and now your support and comments for the new and above presented approach. Please, send in your comments and suggestions until the 15th of July, 2022, to [J.Kus@bgr.de](mailto:J.Kus@bgr.de).

The idea for a review publication focusing on application studies of DOM has been discussed with the editors of Int. J. Coal Geol. who have responded that they will welcome this contribution.

Thank you,

Convenors: Dr. Jolanta Kus, Dr. Paul C. Hackley, Dr. Paula Alexandra Gonçalves.