

ICCP NEWS



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FIRST CIRCULAR

International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology

72nd Annual Meeting

September 19 - 25, 2021

Prague, Czech Republic



“Coal and Organic Petrology in the Era of Transition from Fossil to Renewable Fuels”



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Read about the upcoming ICCP Meeting in Prague (from page 6); various updates regarding Working Group activities; student theses abstracts (from page 10); Minutes from an on-line Council meeting (page 4); and much more! Can you identify the ICCP members in the group photograph on p.3?

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER



ICCP WEBSITE

<https://www.iccop.org>

Please send any feedback,
comments, and uploads to
Stavros Kalaitzidis

<mailto:skalait@upatras.gr>

The ICCP Newsletter, ISN 1445-4793 (1445-4858 online) is distributed 3 times a year, & welcomes contributions from members & non-members. The minutes of the Annual Meeting are published in the final issue each year, & the program for the Annual Meeting is included mid-year. The Newsletter is distributed to all members & is available on the open area of the webpage. This enables anyone interested in the science to obtain exposure to the ICCP activities. ICCP application details are available on the website, or contact the General Secretary, Mária Hámor-Vidó hamorvido@gmail.com

REMINDER: HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Update your details online—but please let the Editor have your new email address—otherwise you will miss the next edition of the ICCP Newsletter. Contact Peter Crosdale for all membership payments (peter.crosdale@energyrc.com.au).

Members who can supply
suitable bulk, single coal
samples, for the SCAP Program,
please contact Kimon:
christan@upatras.gr

EDITORS COLUMN

Dear ICCP Colleagues and other readers,.

Welcome to this somewhat belated issue of the ICCP Newsletter. The seasons have changed yet again; COVID-19 cases continue to fluctuate widely globally, and vaccination programs are being rapidly rolled out (or not so rapidly here in South African unfortunately). The students are physically present for practical sessions at most South African universities, but all lectures continue online.

I recently came across a news article published in the (South African) Sunday Times Business section May 22 1977 entitled: How long will the coal boom last? The article commences with a statement: 'coal is about to make a comeback'. And that coal 'provides the best immediate answer to world energy problems', as stated by the United Nation reports, and the USA president at the time, President Carter. Further thoughts in the article are that the demand for coal will decrease after the turn of the century (after 2000) as alternative energy forms come into play. Today, oil is the largest energy source and coal is the largest source of electricity globally. According to the EIA (2018), the world consumes 65% more coal today than in 2000, predominantly due to developments in Asia. However, the share of coal in the power mix has essentially remained steady as coal power capacity continues to decrease outside of Asia due to the growth in the low-carbon fuels and renewable industries. Current news articles suggest that coal demand in terms of the world power mix will not decrease much over the next 20 years, but there will continue to be increasing disparity on use between countries and regions. The development of alternative energy forms, clean energy, has been rapid in recent years. And we must bear in mind that clean energy construction and electric vehicles require a significant amount of reliable, cheap, readily available energy. However, if coal is removed from the need to supply electricity, more coal is available for alternative uses. As coal petrographers, we need to adapt to a changing world, using our skills to assess a variety of organic-based or derived materials. The theme of the 2021 ICCP Meeting in Prague is truly appropriate: Coal and Organic Petrology in the Era of Transition from Fossil to Renewable Fuels.

Our world continues to change rapidly, as we adapt to living in an ongoing global pandemic. The 2021 ICCP meeting in Prague will go ahead, most likely as a hybrid event – please refer to the information provided from page 6, and do keep abreast of developments as posted on the ICCP website and the Meeting website. We realize that travel to Prague may not be possible for many people, unfortunately. The ICCP Council met again on-line to discuss key issues such as electric voting and Council positions which are coming up for election, as well as the future offering of the ICCP Training courses. Please do read the Minutes provided on page 4 The Accreditation programs have been detrimentally affected by the difficulty in moving items between countries; please note updates from some programs contained in the Newsletter.

Maria Mastalerz was awarded the Reinhardt Thiessen Award in 2020; her laudation appears on page 11. The ICCP continues to attract new members, as introduced on page 8. If you would like to submit a career profile that may be of interest to our readers, please do send in an item.

I really encourage all to submit short articles regarding your current research using organic petrology; and to encourage students to submit their thesis abstracts, with images. I am more than happy to highlight your research outputs in terms of promoting the science. Three student synopses are contained in this Newsletter. And, as always, please do continue to submit interesting petrographic images.

Best wishes to all, and enjoy the summer months to those living in the Northern Hemisphere. Nikki Wagner

PRESIDENTS COLUMN

Dear Colleagues,

.Dear Member of the ICCP,

You have in your "hands" (on your screen) the first newsletter of the year with some exciting images of the city of Prague. Prague will be the location of our forthcoming 72nd meeting. A beautiful destination, UNESCO heritage, where we really would like to be able to travel. Worldwide the situation with COVID-19 pandemic is very different and we still do not know how the travelling conditions will be in September when our meeting is planned. In Europe, the location of our forthcoming venue, it is intended to facilitate travelling as much as possible starting in early summer, but the situation is still uncertain. Ivana Sykova and the organizing team are doing every effort to allow for

a meeting that could be at least partially in-person, but at the same time will allow persons who are not able to travel to attend the meeting. It is an additional effort that we appreciate very much. The deadline for deciding whether a dual meeting would be possible is approaching.

We also expect to have elections very soon in electronic mode for Commission I Secretary. This will be the case because the postal services worldwide are experiencing unexpected delays.

I would like to thank also the conveners of the working groups that under these difficult circumstances keep the activities of the groups on-going and very specially the organizers of the Accreditation Programs who have managed to progress with the rounds despite the difficulties to dispatch the samples and the uneven lockdown of the world. We are closer to the end of the pandemic. Please be very careful and take care of you. I wish to see you very soon.

Best wishes,
Angeles

2021 ICCP Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic

Dear ICCP Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

ICCP is delighted to welcome you to the [72nd International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology](#)

taking place in Prague, Czech Republic from **19–25 September 2021**.

Since 1951, it will be the first time in the history of ICCP that the world's leading experts in the field of organic petrology and geochemistry could meet in the capital of the Czech Republic. Due to the continued uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are preparing for a **hybrid format at this moment**.

Going hybrid will allow people who, for a variety of reasons, will not be able to join the in-person meeting in Prague to participate. But it is hard to predict what things will look like in September. If a physical conference in Prague will ultimately not be possible, we may need to move to a fully online meeting.

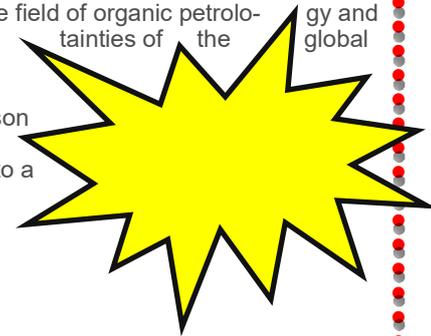
On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I am looking forward to welcoming you in Prague.

[Ivana Sýkorová](#)

General Chair of the 72nd ICCP Organizing Committee EMAIL: iccp@irms.cas.cz

Please visit the Meeting webpage <http://design.bsp.cz/ICCP/en/#home> for more information. Link to the post: <https://www.iccop.org/2021-iccp-meeting-in-prague-czech-republic/>

Link to ICCP: <https://www.iccop.org/>



**CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE NEXT
ICCP NEWS BY
30 AUGUST 2021**

HOW MANY ICCP MEMBERS CAN YOU
RECOGNIZE? Any idea of the meeting
year and location?
See page 12



President: Dr. Angeles G. Borrego
General Secretary: Dr. Mária Hámor-Vidó
 Budapest, 15th April, 2021



To: All Members of ICCP, ICCP Newsletter

Minutes of the on-line Council meeting, ICCP, 14th April 2021

Participants: Dr M Ángeles Gómez Borrego, Dr Mária Hámor-Vidó, Dr Stavros Kalaitzidis, Dr Dragana Zivotic, Dr Jolanta Kus, Dr George Siavalas, Dr Magdalena Misz-Kennan, Dr Sandra Rodrigues, Dr Peter Crosdale, Prof Nikki Wagner, Dr Martina Havelcová and Dr Eva Gerslova, Ivana Sykorova (listening in)
 Apologies were received from Prof Joao Graciano Mendonça Filho

Agenda

- Organization of the 72nd ICCP meeting, Prague, September 2021
- Forthcoming election, Secretary of Commission I
- Initiation of nominations in 2021
- Election on the amendment of ICCP Statutes
- Discussion on the on-line course of organic petrography

Minutes

Council expressed its gratitude to the Organizing Committee of the forthcoming ICCP Meeting for their efforts and the work carried out to make possible a dual Meeting. Dual meeting means that those members who can travel have the possibility to participate in-person and others who cannot travel can join on-line. Council discussed with the Organizing Committee the actual situation of the 72nd Annual Meeting organization, the needs and the time frame for taking decisions. The organizing committee is working on the basis of a dual meeting and the final decision about dual or just on-line meeting will be taken by the end of May. Technical details, the registration and relevant information will be provided very soon and posted on the website.

Nomination for the position of the Secretary of the Commission

I was accepted by the General Assembly in 2019. In the pandemic situation Council postponed the election of the officer to 2021 with the prolongation of office for Dr. Dragana Zivotic. The candidates for the position are Dr. Dragana Zivotic and Dr. Keno Luensdorf. In this critical situation in which postal mail does not efficiently work in most countries due to the pandemic, and one of the few things regularly working is the internet connection. Council accepted as extraordinary measure to incorporate electronic voting for officer elections. This situation will last as far as the World Health Organization maintains the pandemic declaration in order to maintain operative our organization. In this critical situation the Council accepted intermediate changes in the voting procedure to keep the continuation as it is required in the Statutes. For this reason, the election of the Secretary of Commission I will take place with electronic voting.

Eligible members in the forthcoming elections are Associate and Full Members of Commission I, which will be contacted by the General Secretary with instructions to carry out the voting procedure.

In 2021 there will be three positions open for nominations: Vice-president, Chair of the Commission II and Secretary of Commission III. All the current officers are eligible for the second term to fill these positions but nominations are welcome by Members. The Honorary Treasurer also completes in 2022 the first period but this position has a different wording for election and only confirmation is required.

The General Assembly in The Hague agreed to put to vote a limited amendment to the statutes to allow for electronic voting. As the current pandemic situation does not allow postal mail voting with minimum guarantees, this procedure will be postponed until the WHO organization declares over the pandemic.

A request to consider the organization of on-line ICCP courses was proposed by Dr. Paul Hackley and discussed. Some problems with the confidentiality, intellectual property and the out-of-control distribution of the lecture content were raised. This will be considered by the Vice-President (in charge of the training activities) and a proposal will be prepared for further discussion.



Online ICCP council meeting, April 2021.

Update from Identification of Thermal Maturity Relevant Organic Matter Working Group of Commission II

After a long delay, the results of an interlaboratory exercise run in this working group in 2015-2016 were published in the journal *Marine & Petroleum Geology* in 2020 (Hackley et al., 2020). The delay was associated to finding the most appropriate means for statistical consideration of the data which permitted a positive outcome, despite wide disparities in the contributed results. The paper discusses thirty-seven independent sets of results from laboratories in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Australia. The samples used for this study were from six thermally mature shale plays under active exploitation for oil and gas production in the United States. This work builds upon a prior interlaboratory study (Hackley et al., 2015) using the ASTM D7708 *Standard Test Method for Microscopical Determination of the Reflectance of Vitrinite Dispersed in Sedimentary Rocks* (ASTM, 2011), which also is a product of the working group.

The new paper has started to receive citation in 2021 whereas the previous work from 2015 has earned 90+ citations, illustrating the importance of ICCP working group results to the scientific community.

Activities of the working group were curtailed in 2020 due to Covid-related lab access restrictions but as conditions continue to improve in the United States, a resumption of working group activity is planned. Please stay tuned for news about an image-based interlaboratory exercise in the coming months.

Please contact Paul Hackley phackley@usgs.gov for any questions or to participate in working group activities.

References

Hackley, P.C., Araujo, C.V., Borrego, A.G., Bouzinos, A., Cardott, B.J., Carvajal-Ortiz, H., Cely, M.R.L., Chabalala, V., Crosdale, P.J., Demchuk, T.D., Eble, C.F., Flores, D., Furmann, A., Gentzis, T., Gonçalves, P.A., Guvad, C., Hámor-Vidó, M., Jelonek, I., Johnston, M.N., Juliao-Lemus, T., Kus, J., Kalaitzidis, S., Knowles, W.R., Li, Z., Macleod, G., Mastalerz, M., Menezes, T.R., Ocubalidet, S., Orban, R., Pickel, W., Ranasinghe, P., Ribeiro, J., Rojas, O.P.G., Ruiz-Monroy, R., Schmidt, J.S., Seyedolali, A., Siavalas, G., Suarez-Ruiz, I., Vargas, C.V., Valentine, B.J., Wagner, N., Wrolson, B., Zapata, J.E.J., 2020, Testing reproducibility of vitrinite and solid bitumen reflectance measurements in North American unconventional source-rock reservoir petroleum systems. *Marine and Petroleum Geology*, v. 114, Article No. 104172, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpetgeo.2019.104172>.
 Hackley, P.C., Araujo, C.V., Borrego, A.G., Bouzinos, A., Cardott, B., Cook, A.C., Eble, C., Flores, D., Gentzis, T., Gonçalves, P.A., Mendonça Filho, J.G., Hámor-Vidó, M., Jelonek, I., Kommeren, K., Knowles, W., Kus, J., Mastalerz, M., Menezes, T.R., Newman, J., Oikonomopoulos, I.K., Pawlewicz, M., Pickel, W., Potter, J., Ranasinghe, P., Read, H., Reyes, J., Rodriguez, G.D.L.R., Fernandes de Souza, I.V.A., Suarez-Ruiz, I., Sýkorová, I., Valentine, B.J., 2015, Standardization of reflectance measurements in dispersed organic matter: results of an exercise to improve interlaboratory agreement. *Marine and Petroleum Geology*, v. 59, p. 22-34, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpetgeo.2014.07.015>.
 ASTM, 2011, D7708-11 (significantly updated in 2014, now D7708-14) Standard test method for microscopical determination of the reflectance of vitrinite dispersed in sedimentary rocks: Annual book of ASTM standards: Petroleum products, lubricants, and fossil fuels; Gaseous fuels; coal and coke, sec. 5, v. 5.06: ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA, <http://www.astm.org/Standards/D7708.htm>.

Marine and Petroleum Geology 114 (2020) 104172



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Marine and Petroleum Geology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/marpetgeo



Research paper

Testing reproducibility of vitrinite and solid bitumen reflectance measurements in North American unconventional source-rock reservoir petroleum systems

Paul C. Hackley^{a,*}, Carla V. Araujo^{b,1}, Angeles G. Borrego^c, Antonis Bouzinos^d, Brian J. Cardott^e, Humberto Carvajal-Ortiz^f, Martha Rocio López Cely^g, Vongani Chabalala^h, Peter J. Crosdaleⁱ, Thomas D. Demchuk^j, Cortland F. Eble^k, Deolinda Flores^l, Agnieszka Furmann^m, Thomas Gentzis^f, Paula A. Gonçalves^l, Carsten Guvadⁿ, Mária Hámor-Vidó^o, Iwona Jelonek^p, Michelle N. Johnston^q, Tatiana Juliao-Lemus^r, Stavros Kalaitzidis^s, Wayne R. Knowles^u, Jolanta Kus^v, Zhongsheng Li^v, Gordon Macleod^w, Maria Mastalerz^x, Taíssa R. Menezes^b, Seare Ocubalidet^f, Richard Orban^y, Walter Pickel^z, Paddy Ranasinghe^z, Joana Ribeiro^{aa}, Olga Patricia Gómez Rojas^{ab}, Ricardo Ruiz-Monroy^{ac}, Jaques S. Schmidt^b, Abbas Seyedolali^e, Georgios Siavalas^{ad}, Isabel Suarez-Ruiz^c, Carlos Vargas Vargas^{ab}, Brett J. Valentine^a, Nicola Wagner^{ae}, Bree Wrolson^{af}, Julian Esteban Jaramillo Zapata^{ag}



THANK YOU FOR THIS GREAT OUTCOME, PAUL!

ICCP: PROMOTING THE STUDY AND ADVANCEMENT OF ORGANIC PETROLOGY SINCE 1953

Update from Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy (CLSM) Working Group, ICCP Commission II

Related to the activities of the CLSM working group, a paper was published in 2020 by WG members on the application of fluorescence spectroscopy via confocal laser scanning microscopy in the *International Journal of Coal Geology* (Hackley et al., 2020). This paper investigated differences in fluorescence emission as a function of excitation wavelength and sample orientation among other topics.

Over the past several years, the CLSM working group members have investigated an immature organic-rich sample of Kimmeridge Clay Formation containing ~44 wt.% total organic carbon, including 2- and 3-D imaging and fluorescence

spectroscopy. The sample was distributed to working group members as whole-rock, kerogen concentrate and strew mounts thanks to the work of João Graciano.

Past and current activities of the CLSM working group are listed on the webpage: <https://www.iccop.org/workinggroup/confocal-laser-scanning-microscopy-clsm>. The working group convenors are meeting regularly via video calls during the global Covid pandemic to discuss new directions and ideas for future working group activities.

Please contact Paul Hackley phackley@usgs.gov and Jolanta Kus jolanta.kus@bgr.de for any questions or to participate in working group activities.

References

Hackley, P.C., Jubb, A.M., Burruss, R.C., Beaven, A.E., 2020, Fluorescence spectroscopy of ancient sedimentary organic matter via confocal laser scanning microscopy (CLSM). *International Journal of Coal Geology*, v. 223, Article No. 103445, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.coal.2020.103445>.

ICCP MEETING: 2021, Prague, Czech Republic

Date: 19 to 25 September, 2021

Meeting Venue: Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics of the Czech Academy of Sciences

V Holešovičkách 94/41, Prague 8 Czech Republic

<https://mapy.cz/zakladni?x=14.4637267&y=50.1181017&z=17&source=addr&id=8992449>

Ice Break Party: Czech Academy of Sciences

Národní 3, Prague 1 Czech Republic

<https://mapy.cz/zakladni?x=14.4142314&y=50.0815823&z=17&source=addr&id=8940048>

Conference Dinner: Vila Lanna (representative residence of the Czech Academy of Sciences) V Sadech 1, Prague 6 Czech Republic

<https://mapy.cz/zakladni?x=14.4072618&y=50.1025269&z=17&source=firm&id=731428>

Others: Prague is city with many possibilities and trips to a wide variety of destinations

Field Trip: Possible excursions is Barrandian Basin and Karlštejn Castle or North Bohemian Basin and Karlovy Vary (or other places)



PLEASE FOLLOW THE ICCP WEBSITE FOR FREQUENT UPDATES

Prague, Czech Republic



Gothic Church of St. Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert Prague Castel



Vltava river in Prague



Baroque Church of St. Nicholas from Lesser Town Square



The Dancing House

FIRST CIRCULAR – Announcement

International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology

72nd Annual Meeting

September 19 – 25, 2021

Prague, Czech Republic



Coal and Organic Petrology in the Era of Transition from Fossil to Renewable Fuels”

ICCP72 – Welcome in Prague

Dear ICCP Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the President of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology, the Director of the Institute Rock Structure and Mechanics AS CR, and the Organization Committee, we would like to invite all engaged in research, geology and processing of coal or sediments with organic matter and other related fields, to participate in the 72nd International Meeting of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP) to be held in Prague, Czech Republic.

Since commencement of the ICCP in 1951, it will be the first time in the history of ICCP that the world’s leading experts in the field of organic petrology and geochemistry can meet in the capital of the Czech Republic. Due to the global epidemiological situation, the continuity of ICCP meetings was interrupted in 2020, so this year’s 72nd Annual Meeting follows on the 70th Meeting that was held in Hague in 2019. However, the situation caused by the COVID 19 pandemic is still complicating in the world. The Organizing Committee is closely monitoring the situation. It is hard to predict what things will look like in September. Given current reports, it seems unlikely that the situation will change much from that of today.

At this moment we are preparing for the both options: to meet [in person or virtually](#). **The final decision will come during May.**

Stay well and safe in these difficult times.

Ivana Sýkorová

General chair of the Organizing Committee

GENERAL INFORMATION

It should be emphasized at the outset that the organization of the ICCP Meetings differs in several aspects from a number of international scientific conferences.

The first three - four days are devoted to the results and findings obtained by the activities of the Working Groups and other activities ICCP during the year, which are discussed at the international plenary. All 3 Commissions (Nomenclature and Classification; Geological Application of Organic Petrology; Industrial Application of Organic Petrology) have their Working Groups. Their topics are expanded every year from basic information on coal and dispersed organic matter to new study instrumental methods and new applications.

In addition to the activities of the Working groups, the ICCP organizes Accreditation Programs and other activities such as the Course of Organic Petrology and its Applications for young people - students and doctoral students. International cooperation and discussion are one of the basic principles of the ICCP activities.

The final day of the Annual ICCP Meeting is devoted to a symposium, which is a traditional format in which individual researches present their results and findings.

The scientific program has been designed on the theme

“Coal and Organic Petrology in the Era of Transition from Fossil to Renewable Fuels”

COMMITTEES (TBC)

Organizing Committee

Ivana Sýkorová, General Chair, *The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Prague*

Martina Havelcová, [The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Prague](#)

Eva Geršlová, *Masaryk University, Faculty of Sciences, Brno; The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Prague*

Karel Mach, *Severočeské doly, Bílina*

Stanislav Opluštil, *Charles University, Faculty of Sciences, Prague*

Daniela Římnáčková, *The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Prague*

Alexandra Špaldoňová, *The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Prague*

Maryna Vorokhta, *The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Prague*

Dominik Vöröš, *The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Prague*

Jakub Stemberk, IT, *The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Prague*

Lujza Medvecká, *The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Prague*

Lenka Borecká, IT, *The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Prague*

Žaneta Hessová, economist, *The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Prague*

ORGANIZERS

The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Prague

Masaryk University, Faculty of Sciences, Brno

Charles University, Faculty of Sciences, Prague

Severočeské doly

The 72nd Annual Meeting of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology will be held in Prague (Czech Republic) in September 19-25, 2021. The meeting venue is the Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Czech Academy of Sciences (Fig. 1), V Holešovičkách 41, Prague, Czech Republic (either in person or virtually).

The Czech Academy of Sciences covers institutes engaging research in all academic disciplines. The research at the Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics is concerned in studies of structure and properties of rock medium, rocks, derived materials and special composite materials.

About Prague

Prague is the capital and largest city in the Czech Republic. Situated on the Vltava river, Prague is home to about 1.3 million people, while its metropolitan area is estimated to have a population of 2.7 million. The city has a temperate oceanic climate, with relatively warm summers and chilly winters. Prague is a political, cultural and economic Centre of Central Europe complete with a rich history. It was founded during the Romanesque

and flourishing by the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque eras. The development of Prague continued in the era of Art Nouveau, Cubism, panel housing estates to present day. The city has more than ten major museums, along with numerous theatres, galleries, cinemas and other historical exhibits.

More information about Prague available at the website: <http://www.prague.com>.

Transport to Prague and accommodation

The Václav Havel International Airport is the main gateway for air travel providing direct flights to other important European and outside European cities. The airport is located 12 km from the Prague center. The connection between the airport and Prague city center is provided by public transport bus lines which operate at regular few-minute intervals. Otherwise, visitors can use a direct taxi or shuttle transport. Prague also has comfortable and frequent railway and bus connection with neighbouring countries. Both main railway and bus stations are located in the city center. Prague has one of the best public transportation systems in Europe combining underground ("Metro"), bus and tram network.

The conference venue can be reached by public transport (bus, tram, metro) and taxi.

Prague, as one of the world's most popular tourist destinations, offers all kinds of accommodation facilities. There are several affordable hotels and guest houses around the conference venue at walking distance.



NEW MEMBERS:



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Email: tsolmon.adiya@gmail.com
MSc in geology, University of Utah
Current manager of the coal petrographic laboratory on the mine site

Please encourage all active organic petrologists to apply for ICCP membership. And, if you are eligible, please apply for full membership. All membership information can be located on the webpage. Only Full Members may vote.

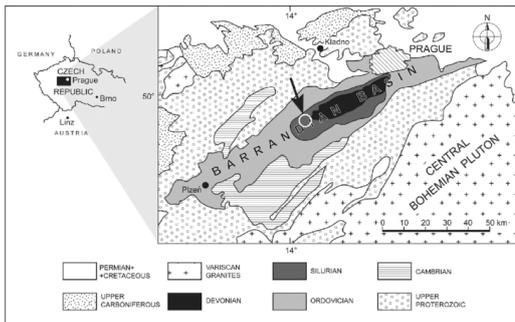
ON-LINE MEETING

In the case of the virtual meeting, the session will take place in the table as planned. We are now discussing how to arrange the on-line meeting; there are many details to be worked out (a meeting schedule, videoconferencing technology, etc.).

We will be happy if the delegates have opportunities to establish professional contacts, and to visit the one of the most beautiful capital in Europe, Prague. The detailed information to this choice of the arrangement will be given after the final decision of the meeting format.

Time	Sunday 19 September	Monday 20 September	Tuesday 21 September	Wednesday 22 September	Thursday 23 September	Friday 24 September	Saturday 25 September
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Time	Sunday 19 September	Monday 20 September	Tuesday 21 September	Wednesday 22 September	Thursday 23 September	Friday 24 September	Saturday 25 September
08:30 - 09:00							
09:00 - 09:30		Registration	ICCP Commission Meeting	ICCP Commission Meeting		ICCP Symposium	
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Dear CBAP participant,

I want to inform you that due to the current Covid 19 Pandemic and the delays regarding the samples distribution for the 2020 Program, the validity of the Current Certificates of CBAP Accreditation Program is extended till 30th September 2021.

If you have any questions related to this information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,
Małgorzata Wojtaszek-Kalaitzidi
- = CBAP Convener - =

<https://www.iccop.org/>

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Dear ICCP,

The present situation related to COVID-19 forced a number of various actions that we could not predict over a year ago, among the others problems with normal operation of post all over the world. As all of us know, a number of people all over the world is facing problems with access to their laboratories and equipment that unable them to keep the deadline of this round exercise in Single Coal Accreditation Program. Due to these restrictions, Kimon Christanis, the organizer of SCAP, agreed to run a supplementary round of this exercise only for those participants who did not get the samples and/or had no access to laboratory. That exercise will be carried out in the summer and Alvaro modified the data base to accommodate it. That round will be done in the summer and participants who failed this round will not be included in the supplementary one. That is a special situation that is not planned to be repeated in the future and forced by the unusual circumstances.

Best regards,
Magdalena Misz-Kennan

The reconstruction of the palaeoenvironment for the Number 4 Lower Coal Seam towards the eastern boundary of the Highveld Coalfield

Student: GJ Scheepers

Supervisors: NJ Wagner; B Cairncross

University of Johannesburg

Degree: MSc in Geology

Abstract

The Highveld Coalfield is found within the northern portion of the Main Karoo Basin (MKB) in the Vryheid Formation, Ecca Group, and Karoo Supergroup. Towards the eastern portion of the Highveld Coalfield, the Number 4 Lower Coal Seam (C4L) was split by associated clastic partings. The deposit was studied to determine the palaeoenvironment under which the coal was deposited. The C4L was divided into four coal units: C4LBA, C4LBB, C4LTC and C4LTD, and two in-seam clastic units, S4LFL and S4LP (Figure 1). Using coal petrography, the microscopic organic and inorganic constituents of coal were assessed to determine the coal type, rank and grade. Detailed maceral analysis was conducted following SANS-ISO 7404-3. The depositional environments for each coal unit were reconstructed by plotting the Tissue preservation index and the Gelification index of each sample on a coal facies diagram (Diessel, 1986; 1992; Kalkreuth *et al.*, 1991; and Singh *et al.*, 2012). The indices are based on the vitrinite and inertinite maceral counts.

All four coal units are classified as Medium Rank C bituminous coal (0.63% and 0.66% mean random vitrinite reflectance) (ECE-UN, 1998). The results correlate with previous interpretations as stated in Wagner *et al.* (2018) and Snyman (1998) for the Highveld Coalfield. There is a vertical cyclicity through the succession with wet forest swamps at the base of each cycle (C4LBA and C4LTC), developing into drier forests and open marshes (C4LBB and C4LTD). The two cycles are separated by the in-seam S4LP parting (Figure 1 opposite). There is a decrease in vitrinite from the base of each cycle towards the overlying unit and an increase in mineral matter and inertinite from the base to the overlying unit. The drying-upwards cycle of the peat can be interpreted as terrestrialization cycles as the result of peatland aggradation (Korasidis *et al.*, 2017a,b). The vitrinite content has a direct relationship with the volatile matter, while the calorific value and ash content has an inverse relationship.

The C4LBA at the base formed in a wet forest swamp that experienced moderate flooding events with a high water table and can be classified as containing moderately high vitrinite with favourable vitrinite preservation conditions (Figure 2). The C4LBB formed in a dry forest environment with a lower water table than C4LBA. The equal proportion of vitrinite and inertinite suggests alternating dry and wet conditions. The C4LBB experienced more frequent flooding events, contributing to the high observable mineral matter and high ash content towards the east as the fluvial system moved closer to the study area. The C4LTC formed in a very similar environment as C4LBB but with more variable conditions and higher water table levels, producing wet forests with areas consisting of dry forests along

with the open marshes. The C4LTC is classified as containing only medium vitrinite but has a lower ash % and visible mineral matter content than C4LBA. This can be attributed to fewer flooding events. The C4LTD experienced the driest climatic conditions within an open marsh environment subjected to frequent flooding. The C4LTD is dominated by inertinite macerals consisting of inertodetrinite, supporting the contention of regular flooding and redepositing peat and clastic sediment.

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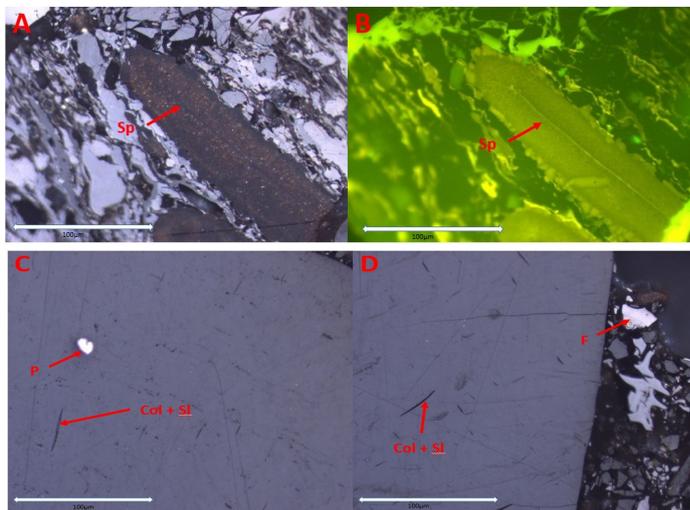
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Figure 2: Photomicrographs macerals of the C4LBA coal (reflected white light, oil immersion, ×500, and scale bar = 100 microns). (A) Sporinite (Megaspore) under normal white-light (Sp); (B) Sporinite (Sp) under fluorescence light; (C) Collotelinite (Col) with desiccation slits (Si) (pseudovitrinite) and pyrite inclusion (P); (D) Collotelinite (Col) with desiccation slits (Si) with a fragmented fusinite (F).



Reinhardt Thiessen Award 2020 Laudation for Maria Mastalerz

Maria Mastalerz received her M.Sc. in Geology from Wroclaw University, Poland with a thesis titled "Geological setting of the Swierzawa Graben, the North-Sudetic Basin, Poland" in 1981 and her Ph.D. in Mining, Silesian Technical University, Gliwice, Poland with the thesis titled "Depositional conditions of the coal seams of the Walbrzych Basin, SW Poland" in 1988.

She has been an Assistant Lecturer from 1981-1987 at Wroclaw University, a Research Fellow from 1986-1987 at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, an Assistant Professor from 1988-1990 at Wroclaw University, a Research Associate at the University of British Columbia, a Senior Scientist - coal geologist from 1994 – present at the Indiana Geological Survey, and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Department of Geological Sciences, Indiana University from 1999-present

Maria's expertise covers a broad range of the properties, provenances and geological ages of organic matter and has involved collaboration with numerous colleagues from around the world. The last point is testament to the high regard in which she is held internationally, as is the long list of awards she has received, including the Geological Society of America's Cady Award, an Honorary Membership of TSOP and the Organic Petrology Award of the ICCP.

Maria's specific areas of expertise are coal geology and organic petrology and geochemistry of hydrocarbon source rocks. She has conducted research on coal and kerogen in sedimentary basins of Poland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and USA. The far-ranging involvement in our science, basic and applied, is demonstrated by Maria's CV and bibliography. Much of her research has concentrated on coalbed methane potential together with the petrology and geochemistry of hydrocarbon source rocks. One technique that she has used very effectively

has been micro-FTIR. Other principal areas of her work have been directed towards the geochemistry of macerals and plant fossils, carbon dioxide sequestration and the surface properties of coals and other organic matter, and metallogenesis. Her publications have dealt with environments of coal deposition and controls of rank as well as mineralogy and trace elements. Her research has had application in coal carbonization (natural and industrial), mineral processing, combustion, coal storage and fires, and rock mechanics.

Her current projects include characterization of Indiana coals, coal gasification, investigation of coalbed methane potential and CO₂ sorption into the coal, and oil and gas shale characterization.

She has an enviable record of advising graduate students and membership of student committees (33), and for serving as an examiner of graduate theses around the world. Her list of publications in refereed publications totals 256, more than half of which were published after 2009. She has been an associate editor of the International Journal of Coal Geology since 1997 and is the co-editor of and contributor to several books and four special volumes of scientific journals. Maria was the chair of an ICCP working group on the environmental applications of organic petrology from 1999 to 2005 and she remains an ICCP member.

Over the years, Dr Mastalerz has demonstrated outstanding professionalism and extraordinary contributions to organic petrology. She has cemented her reputation as a top expert organic petrologist, sought out by colleagues around the world for collaboration and viewpoint. Moreover, through her teaching and guidance of students she is helping to perpetuate the practice of organic petrology. Maria Mastalerz has been selected to be awarded the Reinhardt Thiessen Medal.

A. Davis, W. Pickel, January 2021

FIGURES RELATED TO
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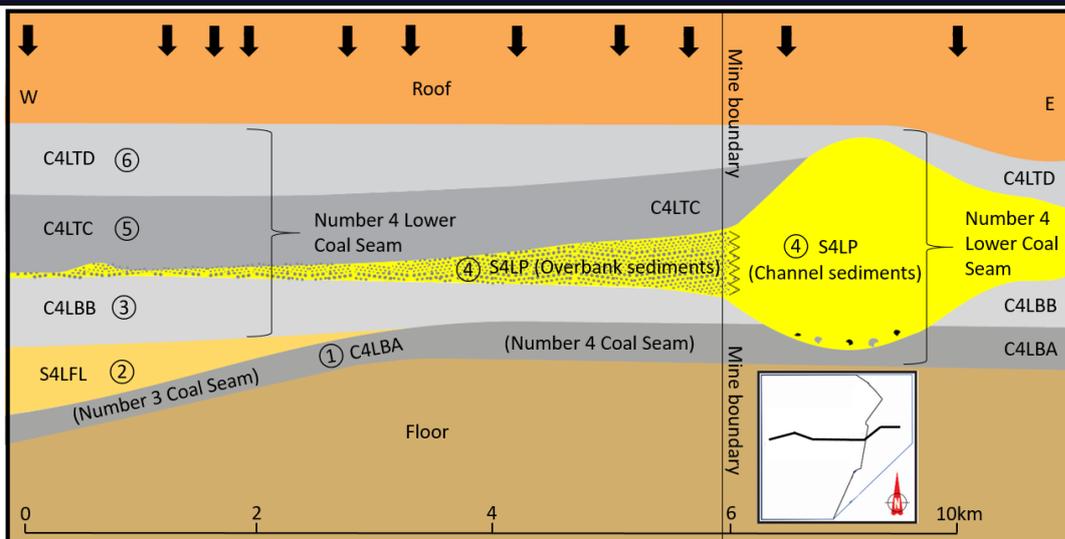
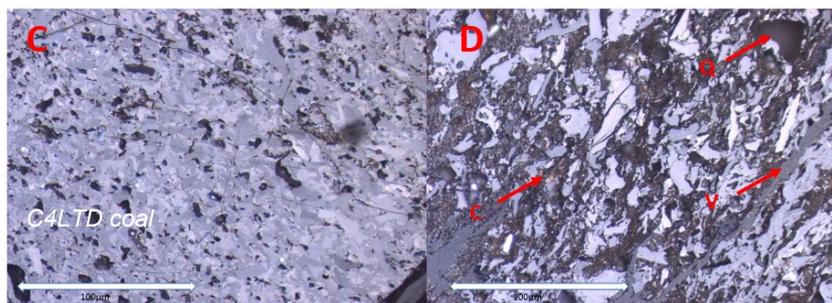


Figure 1: above: Schematic west-east profile through the study area. The six units are indicated from the basal coal (C4LBA) to the top coal (C4LTD) in depositional order. The west-east cross-section line used is indicated in the figure with the black arrows indicating the position of the boreholes used to create the profile. The grey shades represent the different coal units while the colourful shades represent the clastic units, with each unit's name written within. The Number 3 Coal seam merges with the Number 4 Coal Seam towards the east.



Thesis title: "Organic facies variability during the Toarcian and Cenomanian-Turonian oceanic anoxic events: local versus global paleoenvironmental control"

Carolina Fonseca (Université Toulouse III - Paul Sabatier, France)

Supervisor: Carine Lézin (Université Toulouse III - Paul Sabatier, France); **Co-supervisors:** João Graciano Mendonça Filho (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); Luís Vítor Duarte (University of Coimbra, Portugal)

Thesis defense: 8 December, 2020

Jury:

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Ksenija Stojanovic, University of Belgrade
Maria Masterlerz, Indiana University
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Marc de Rafelis, Université Toulouse III - Paul Sabatier
Luís Vítor Duarte, University of Coimbra
Carine Lézin, Université Toulouse III - Paul Sabatier
João Graciano Mendonça Filho, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Abstract:

Oceanic anoxic events (OAEs) mark periods of profound climatic, paleoenvironmental and paleoceanographical changes at a global scale, representing major disturbances in the global carbon cycle. OAEs are usually associated to major chemical changes in the Mesozoic Ocean, and the occurrence of organic-rich sediments, namely during the early Toarcian (T-OAE) and Cenomanian—Turonian (OAE2) events. Although global control mechanisms have a great influence in the shaping of these sedimentary records, their regional variability is extremely high. This heterogeneity is mostly related to regional constraints, being the organic record key to assess the extension of the influence of these mechanisms. Thus, organic petrographic and geochemical techniques were used to analyze a N—S transect of the Toarcian epicontinental seaway for the T-OAE, and, sections recording the Atlantic and Tethyan affinities for the OAE2.

The T-OAE organic record is characterized by a N—S variation in total organic carbon (TOC) content, associated with a change in the organic matter (OM) origin (bacterial-animal-terrestrial), a decrease in the degree of amorphization, and a change in redox conditions (euxinic-anoxic-dysoxic-oxic). Studies on the evolution of the OM maturity demonstrate similar thermal histories for the Grands Causses and Quercy basins (immature to early mature). The South Pyrenean Zone underwent a more complex evolution (late mature to early overmature), while, in a laterally equivalent succession in the

Eastern Corbières, solid bitumen, secondary OM products, were identified.

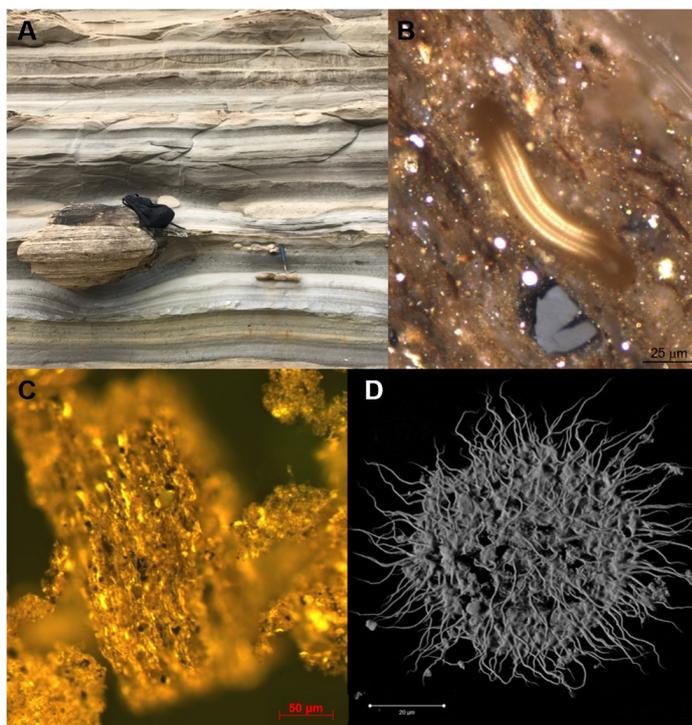
The OAE2 organic record is extremely heterogenic, especially related to differences in oceanic circulation dynamics between the Tethyan and Atlantic domains. TOC content of OAE2 reaches higher maximum values than the ones associated with T-OAE, with the organic associations being dominated, in the majority of the studied sections, by amorphous OM.

This study demonstrates, therefore, that the T-OAE and OAE2 organic facies variability is, in great part, explained by the diversity of the local paleoenvironmental contexts. Paleogeography, paleogeomorphology and oceanic circulation patterns variability are considered the main factors responsible for the organic signature of these events.

In addition, this study constitutes the first record of *Closterium* in sediments from the Cretaceous, and the first identification of choanoflagellates, the closest living relatives of Metazoa, in the fossil record.

Figure caption:

A - Amma Fatma sedimentary succession (Lower Turonian, Tarfaya Basin); B - Telalginite (Lower Toarcian, Paris Basin); C - Bacterial-derived amorphous organic matter (Lower Toarcian, Paris Basin); D - Choanoflagellate (Cenomanian, South Iberian Paleomargin).



GROUP PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT THE ICCP MEETING HELD IN BUCHAREST (Museu de Geologica), 1999.

From left to right: Krystina Schwab, Petra David, Carla Araujo, Zuleika Correa da Silva, Lemos de Sousa, Lopo Vasconcelos, Isabel Suarez-Ruiz, Alexandra Guedes, Diego Alvarez, Bruno Valentim (front)

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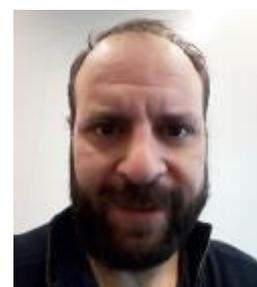
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A Geometallurgical Characterisation of the Hwange Coalfield: How does coal formation affect coal Exploitation?

Student: O.J Maponga^{a+c}.

Supervisors: RMS Falcon^a NJ Wagner^b , S Bada^a

Affiliation: ^aSchool of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa; ^bDepartment of Geology, University of Johannesburg, South Africa; ^cGeology Department, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe.

Degree: PhD in Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering (Wits)

ABSTRACT

The Hwange Colliery located in northwest Zimbabwe hosts significant coal resources. The mine produces thermal coal for power generation, as well as some of southern Africa's best coking and blend coking coals.

However, since the commissioning of two mining blocks (Chaba Opencast and 3 Main Underground Mine) in 2005, certain anomalies, which have technological implications, have arisen, and there is need to establish the reasons for these anomalies. Questions posed included: a) Why does the Chaba coal reserve previously classified as coking coal based on cut-offs of a cumulative ash maximum of 15% and cumulative volatile matter minimum of 23.5% fail to produce coking coal in the plant?; b) Why do good coking properties of coal produced in some areas of Hwange Colliery not respond well to conventional coking tests? A compelling need arose to characterize the Hwange coals and estimate the tonnages of the mineable reserves for each of the three coal categories, namely: thermal coal, general purpose coal, and coking coal. Thus ensuring Hwange Colliery's preparedness to meet the coal quality demands for a variety of users.

Historical geological data generated by previous exploration programs and new coal samples representative of the future mining areas and anomalous coals were examined. Coal samples were collected from Hwange Colliery's Chaba and 3 Main Underground mines and key analyses and tests were conducted, including: proximate, ultimate, and total sulphur analyses for basic characterization; petrographic analyses to determine coal rank, maceral composition and mineral matter in the coal; XRF analysis was undertaken to determine the ash oxide composition; XRD to determine mineral composition; combustion prediction and coking tests were also conducted.

The geological mapping exercise conducted as part of study revealed that faulting is dominantly listric normal and increases in intensity westwards. The main coal seam becomes progressively deeper westwards. The footwall of the seam plunges from 850m above-sea-level in the northeast, to approximately 490m above sea-level in the south-west. Localized topographic

highs and lows occur within the coalfield. The coal seam is significantly thicker in the pre-coal forming topographically low-lying areas, but thins out over topographic highs.

Proximate and petrographic analyses of the coal samples revealed that a low-ash, vitrinite-rich coal band occurs near or at the base of the seam, and that the overlying coals passing progressively up through the seam become richer in ash and inertinite. Based on this sequence, it is suggested that the maceral profile reflects an initially wet swamp environment in early coal-forming times which was progressively replaced by increasingly drier forest swamps. The low-ash basal horizon is significantly thicker in the topographic depressions (up to 6m) but is thinner (1-2 m) where the seam abuts over or against topographic highs, namely, in locations in excess of 600 m above-sea-level. Hwange coals are Medium Rank B and C bituminous coal. No heat effect from sills and dykes was observed, nor any regional trend in rank. The mineral matter comprises silicates, sulphides and carbonates, with clay the dominant mineral, particularly towards the top of the coal seam. Combustion tests reveal that the vitrinite-rich basal samples devolatilise at lower temperatures, have lower peak temperatures and burn out more rapidly than the inertinite-rich samples found higher in the seam.

With regard to coking attributes, the study revealed that volatile matter is not a good indicator of coking properties. Some Hwange coals yield high volatile matter contents, but possess a free swelling index lower than the 3.5, the minimum for most coking coals; other Hwange coals possess relatively low volatile matter contents and swell to some extent. Proximate analyses alone are, therefore, insufficient to indicate coking capacity in these coals. Of all coals tested, only the lowest part of the seam (1 m) in the Chaba Opencast location yielded a sufficiently high vitrinite content and free swelling index to qualify as a coking coal. The samples higher up the seam, although high in the volatile matter (23.5% and above), have low free swelling indices and vitrinite contents insufficiently high to qualify as coking coal.

The reason for the anomalous swelling capacity in coals that showed good swell, but low volatile matter content appears to be associated with the presence of exudatinitite in association with reactive semi-fusinite, fusinite and secretinitite. Exudatinitite, is a high volatile, viscous material that would have emanated from liptinite and vitrinite at specific levels of rank during coalification, and as a consequence of regional heating. Coals that have high volatile values, but do not show swelling capacity, simply have vitrinite contents that are too low in proportion to provide any degree of swelling and coking properties.

Figure 1 presents some of the macerals and minerals encountered in the Hwange coals during the study.

Based on the data generated and the resource and reserve calculations undertaken in this thesis, it is estimated that the remaining life of mine for the high grade coking coal could supply the metallurgical industry for up to 43 years. In addition, thermal coal for power generation as well as coal used in the agricultural, cement and brick making industries could be sustained for another 39 years, at the current production rate.

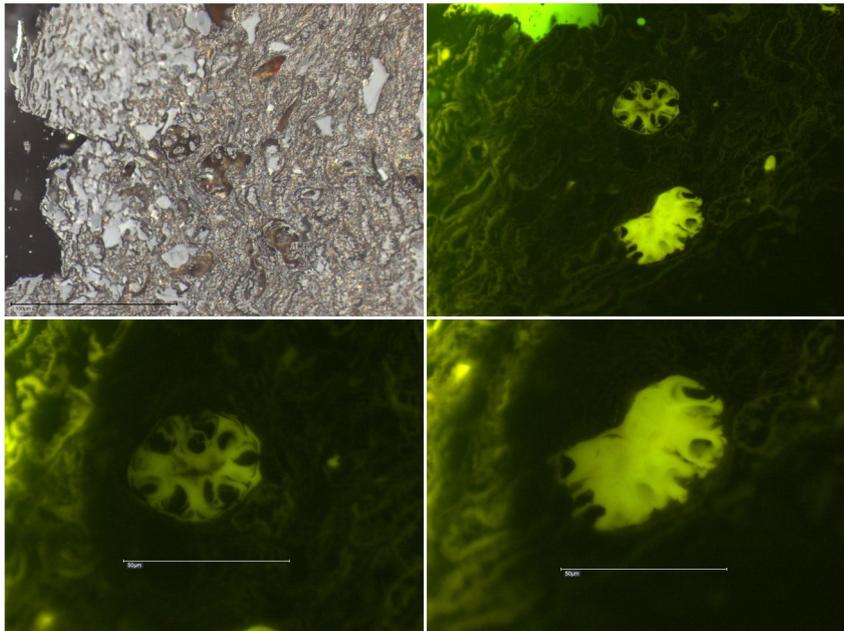
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LET'S SHARE PETROGRAPHIC IMAGES!

Take time to look through your photographs and submit your most comical, unusual, imaginative, or beautiful. Perhaps we can even consider a competition?????

George Siavalas has volunteered to run a competition—but we need submissions please.

Send all photographs and short caption to nwagner@uj.ac.za.



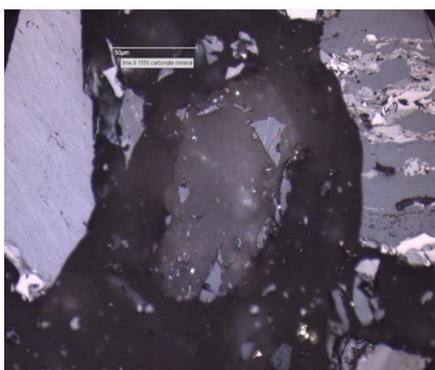
Images of colonial algae (*Botryococcus braunii*): appears reddish brown in white light (top left), fluorescing bright yellow under blue light excitation. Top row at X500; bottom rows X100— magnification; oil immersion. Ermelo Coalfield, South Africa;

Images courtesy of N. Wagner

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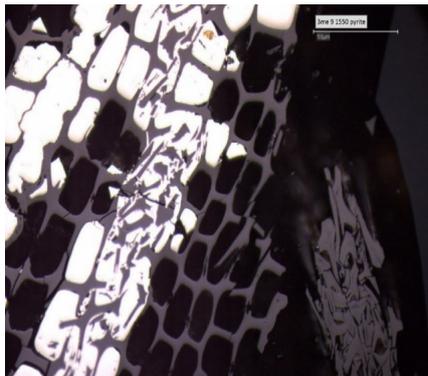
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PHOTOMICROGRAPHS RELATED TO THE ARTICLE ON OPPOSITE PAGE, PAGE 14:

Figure 1: Examples of macerals encountered in the Hwange coal samples

(S=semifusinite; E=exudatinite; F=fusinite; C=cutinite; CO = collotelinite; Se=secretinite) (reflected white light, oil immersion, x500, scale bar indicated = 100 µm)



UPCOMING EVENTS

17- 20 May, 2021. World of Coal Ash (WOCA), Northern Kentucky Convention Centre, USA. Abstract submission until 31 December, 2020. <http://worldofcoalash.org/>. **postponed**

01- 03 July, 2021: International conference on Mining and Mineralogy (ICMM), Munich, Germany. The Exploring Modern Technologies and Challenges in Mining & Minerals. <http://immnetworks.com/> ; mining_conf@immcong.com

12 –14 September, 2021: 38th Annual TSOP Meeting (The Society for Organic petrology); Sofia, Bulgaria. On-line only conference. <http://www.tsop2021.org/>

12-17 September, 2021. 30th International Meeting of Organic Geochemistry; organized by the European Association of Organic Geochemists. Online only conference. <https://eage.eventsair.com/imog-2021/>

19- 5 September, 2021, 72nd ICCP Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic. <https://www.iccop.org/2021-iccp-meeting-in-prague-czech-republic/>

20-23 September, 2021. Thirty-Eighth Annual International Pittsburgh Coal Virtual Conference. Call for papers deadline May 31, 2021, submit to ipcc@pitt.edu; virtual Conference. <http://www.pccpitt.org>

4 - 6 Oct, 2021. Geology and Earth Science (Geo-Earth-2021); blended conference. Osaka Japan. <https://geology-earthscience.com/>

15- 20 May, 2022. 10th International Freiberg Conference on IGCC & Xtl Technologies; Marriot Hotel, Shanghai, China. www.gasification-freiberg.com; gasification@iec.tu-freiberg.de

16-19 May, 2022. World of Coal Ash (WOCA); **Registration, Housing Reservations Now Available;** <https://worldofcoalash.org/>

WOCA 2022

We can't wait to see everyone in Northern Kentucky in May 2022, and now you can reserve your spot at what promises to be the biggest and best World of Coal Ash yet. [Register for WOCA 2022!](#) The new hotel reservation block is open again, too. You can reserve your stay at either [Cincinnati Marriott RiverCenter](#) or [Embassy Suites Cincinnati RiverCenter](#) here.

WOCA Abstract Deadline November 19

With us moving WOCA from 2021 to 2022, we wanted to provide an update on the abstract process. If you submitted an abstract for 2021 and still want to present that work at 2022, you can do so. If you want to update your work, remove your abstract from consideration, or alter it entirely, you can do that, too.

If you are wanting to submit a new abstract for 2022, the abstract deadline for WOCA 2022 is November 19, 2021. Learn more about [submitting an abstract and speaking at WOCA](#).

Should you have any questions about the abstract process, please contact Anne Oberlink at the UK Center for Applied Energy Research at anne.oberlink@uky.edu.

New Management Company, Same ACAA

The American Coal Ash Association (ACAA) has changed association management providers. Following a competitive bidding process that was initiated last fall, ACAA's Board of Directors approved an agreement with John Ward, Inc., to provide association management services beginning March 1,

2021. These services, which were previously provided by American Concrete Institute's subsidiary Advancing Organizational Excellence, include "back office" functions such as accounting, information technology, event planning, human resources, and graphics and web design. ACAA Executive Director Thomas Adams and Executive Assistant Alyssa Barto will remain with the association and are transitioning to JWJ. Under the new structure, ACAA's official office address will be 1616 17th Street, Suite 266, Denver, CO 80202. ACAA email addresses and the 720-870-7897 telephone number will remain the same.

For any **exhibitors and sponsors**, Alyssa Barto will be your contact going forward. If you have any questions or concerns with your exhibit space or if you are interested in sponsoring WOCA 2021, please contact Alyssa at (248) 660-1361 or at alyssa.barto@acaa-usa.org.

WOCA Attendee List Scam: Be Aware

We are aware of a company trying to sell the WOCA attendee mailing list. Please note that this is a scam. This company has been reaching out to past WOCA attendees, sponsors, exhibitors, etc. to sell them a fabricated list (in fact, they are selling a WOCA 2021 attendee list and we are not hosting WOCA in 2021). WOCA never sells our attendee list and the list is only available to registered attendees. If you see this email, please delete it.

The ICCP Newsletter provides a forum for students, young and advanced researchers, petrologists, petrographers, and any one else, to present results, submit short reviews or articles, post notifications, request assistance, announce relevant conferences / workshops / courses. Please submit all documents for inclusion into the next ICCP Newsletter.

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