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Newsletter Secretary's Bit

Dear colleagues,

Now that we are "experts" in the fine art of "newslettering" for your information and entertainment, here we present our second artwork that constitutes number 15.

This coming months are busy ones for organic geochemists. The countdown for our BIG Event, Krakow 2003 IMOG, EAOG's official conference, is just about to start. Hurry up and get your abstracts ready for the 1st December deadline (page 6). Richard has also been busy preparing the EAOG 2002 Online Publishing Survey (page 2). In this issue, you will in addition find a report from Gregor Muri, recipient of our EAOG Travel Award, a news section, and a bit of humour.

With your help and support, in future editions we intend expanding the content of the Newsletter, including general information (people in the news, news briefs, IMOG meeting, etc.) and other contributions of interest to the Organic Geochemistry Community.

We really hope that you find this 15th EAOG Newsletter useful, and enjoy it as much as we are enjoying compiling it for you. However, in order to continue serving information of interest, we would really like to hear from you at eaognews@aljarafe.net, where your feedback, comments and contributions will always be very much appreciated.

Francisco J. González-Vila & José A. González

Find: The EAOG site at: <http://www.eaog.org>

The EAOG Newsletter at: <http://www.eaog.org/newsletters/newsletters.html>, contributions and suggestions to: eaognews@aljarafe.net

All the info about the next EAOG International Meeting at: <http://www.imog.agh.edu.pl/>

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Chairman's Column



Dear fellow geochemists,

As some of you may recall, in 2000 EAOG carried out a survey of organic geochemists' (EAOG members and non-members) views on online publishing. Two years on, we have decided to repeat this in order to find out how or whether opinions have changed. In 2000 we had an excellent total of 182 replies, and I hope we can match or beat that total this time around. So I urge you all to fill this out and return it to me. Please forward it on to your colleagues too. The deadline is 22 November, and the results will be published in January. You can find the questionnaire in MS Excel at: http://www.eaog.org/other/questionnaire_2002.xls.

Thanks very much!

On another, very important, topic, the deadline for submission of abstracts to the IMOG meeting in Krakow is fast approaching. I can assure you that this will be a memorable conference, both scientifically and socially. If nothing else, the conference dinner location will be very special, nay unique. The local organising committee and the Board of EAOG would like to join in urging you all to be active participants in this meeting, whether it be as speaker, poster presenter, session chair or just asking awkward questions after the talks.

Best wishes
Richard Patience
Chairman, EAOG

Richard L. Patience

EAOG Travel Award Report

Gregor Muri
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I received an EAOG Travel Award to visit the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (SkIO), Savannah, GA, USA. I spent three months in the Organic Biogeochemistry Laboratory analyzing lipids in Slovenian alpine lake sediments. I had a fruitful visit to the SkIO and I thank both the EAOG and the SkIO for the opportunity to complete the proposed work. I am especially grateful to Drs. Stuart G. Wakeham and Tamara K. Pease for their valuable comments and support throughout the work.

INTRODUCTION

Organic matter constitutes a minor but important fraction of lake sediments. When assessing the composition, sources and preservation of sedimentary organic matter, lipid biomarker compounds are frequently employed, since they provide historical information about the accumulation of organic matter in the sediments.

The purpose of my visit was to determine the composition and source of lipids in Slovenian alpine lake sediments. Two lakes were chosen, Lake Bled and Lake Planina pri Jezeru, both situated in the NW part of Slovenia. The lakes are typical of different environments. Lake Bled is a lowland area lake, with concurrent oxic and anoxic depositional environments, while Lake Planina pri Jezeru is a remote alpine lake, where anoxic conditions prevail in the water column. Various lipid compounds were analyzed in the sediments, aliphatic hydrocarbons, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), aliphatic alcohols, sterols and fatty acids. Finally, all the data were compared to get an idea of the behaviour of these organic compounds in varied depositional regimes in lacustrine systems.

RESULTS

The distributions of PAH were very similar in Lake Planina pri Jezeru and Lake Bled sediments. High molecular weight PAH predominated at all sites. PAH concentrations in lowland Lake Bled were around 4-fold higher than in the alpine lake. Although there are no local pollution sources close to the latter, pollutants can still reach this remote alpine area. The highly industrialized and polluted areas of Central Europe are quite close. Pollutants emitted there can be distributed by the atmosphere over a wide region. Thus, long-range atmospheric deposition is the main source of pollutants in remote mountain regions. In contrast, Lake Bled is situated in an urban area, where anthropogenic impact is much more important than in the mountains. Local sources of pollution are more common and concentrated and, together with pollutants' surface run-off, therefore prevail over atmospheric pollution. As a consequence, concentrations of pollutants in urban lake sediments are usually higher than in remote, relatively unpolluted areas. Similar conclusions were reached in the study on black carbon (BC) in Slovenian alpine lakes. BC and PAH have the same origin; high temperature fossil fuel combustion, and their distributions in sediments were consequently similar. Ratios of BC to OC in lowland Lake Bled were higher than in alpine lakes.

The total lipid (TL) concentrations were higher in the alpine lake. The specific properties of alpine areas (short sinking times of organic matter, low bottom-of-the-lake temperature) resulted in higher TL concentrations and better preservation of organic matter, than in lowland Lake Bled (the anoxic basin), where bacterial activity in the water column and sediment is more intensive. In the deeper sediments, the TL concentrations decreased rapidly. The TL concentrations in the oxic basin of Lake Bled were almost one order of magnitude lower than in the anoxic basin of the same lake. When the water column is saturated with oxygen, much of the lipid is already degraded in the water column.

The composition of lipids was quite similar in the anoxic sediments of Lake Planina pri Jezeru and Lake Bled. Sterols were the most abundant lipids in both surface sediments, comprising around 60% of TL. Sterols and fatty acids together prevailed in the surface sediment layers, contributing between 70 and 80% of TL. On the other hand, aliphatic hydrocarbon and alcohol contents were lower, ranging from 20 to 30% of TL. In oxic sediments of Lake Bled, the lipid composition was very different. Aliphatic alcohols and hydrocarbons prevailed, comprising 65% of TL, while the contents of sterols and fatty acids amounted to 35% of TL. The difference in composition of lipids arose from the lower stability of lipids under oxic conditions. Less degradable lipids (e.g. aliphatic hydrocarbons) are therefore relatively more abundant, while sterols and fatty acids are mostly oxidized in the water column.

In the deeper sediment layers (>20 cm), aliphatic hydrocarbon and alcohol content were relatively enriched, representing around 60 % of TL in all sediments. In contrast, sterol and especially fatty acid contents were considerably lower. The decrease resulted from selective diagenetic processes, in which lipids are degraded. These processes are more effective on the more susceptible lipids.

Lipids of terrestrial origin constituted an important portion of TL in all sediments. In anoxic sediments, where all lipids are better preserved than in oxic sediments, the content of lipids of terrestrial origin was relatively smaller. These lipids accounted for 66 and 46 % of TL in the surface sediments in Lake Planina pri Jezeru and the anoxic basin of Lake Bled, respectively. In the anoxic basin of Lake Bled, lipids of planktonic origin prevailed, since primary production is very intensive. They contributed approximately 50 % of TL. Lipids of bacterial origin were not abundant in any sediment, not exceeding 5 % of TL.

The origin of lipids in the oxic basin of Lake Bled was essentially different. In the surface sediment, lipids of terrestrial origin prevailed strongly and comprised 81 % of TL. Consequently, planktonic and bacterial lipids comprised only 19% of TL. This composition reflects the greater stability of allochthonous as opposed to autochthonous lipids in the oxic environment. Allochthonous lipids are already degraded on the way from the catchment to the lake and only the most stable compounds can enter the lake and are thus relatively less susceptible to further diagenesis.

In the deeper sediment layers (>20 cm), lipids of terrestrial origin predominated in all sediments. Their abundance ranged around 90% of TL. The content of more easily degraded autochthonous lipids was consequently quite low and accounted for approximately 10% of TL.

Concentrations of shorter chain lipids were much higher in the upper, younger sediment layers. All shorter chain lipids are more easily and rapidly degraded than the longer chain homologues. But the ratios of aliphatic hydrocarbons C_{29}/C_{17} , aliphatic alcohols C_{26}/C_{16} , sterols C_{29}/C_{27} and fatty acids C_{24}/C_{16} , representing allochthonous vs. autochthonous inputs, all changed considerably at a depth of 5 cm in Lake Planina pri Jezeru, as well as in the anoxic basin of Lake Bled sediments. On a time scale, the depth of 5 cm represented around 15 years in Lake Planina pri Jezeru and around 20 years in the anoxic basin of Lake Bled. An evident change of ratios is probably not just induced diagenetically, but also results from intensive primary production in these lakes, contributing larger amounts of shorter chain lipids to the lake, and thus decreasing remarkably the above mentioned ratios in the most recent sediments. It can be concluded that the eutrophication in these two lakes had increased during the last two decades.

In Ljubljana, Slovenia, October 2002

Gregor Muri

Awards

European Association of Organic Geochemists: travel scholarships

Since 1989 the EAOG has offered travel scholarships for young scientists studying in the field of Organic Geochemistry/Biogeochemistry. This offer is being continued. The scholarships are intended to foster international exchange, by providing young scientists the opportunity to undertake research in a country other than their own, through utilizing facilities in a host laboratory and by exchanging ideas, expertise and techniques.

Several scholarships are available each year, the value of each is up to 3800 Euro. Eligible students are those in the last stages of their Ph.D. studies (i.e. within one year of completion of their thesis) or newly qualified Ph.D.s who wish to work on a project related to their thesis. It is the responsibility of each applicant to arrange, in advance, agreement with the host laboratory. Applications are open to both Europeans and non-Europeans.

There are two deadlines for applications per year: March 31st and September 30th. Candidates not selected in March could be considered again at the September session. Applications will be considered by an adjudication committee, comprising: Dr. W. Michaelis (Chairman), Dr. K.H. Freeman, Dr. R. Summons, Dr. J. Connan and Dr. R. Evershed. Applicants are requested to send a specific proposal (not more than 1000 words) outlining their proposed research and budget, together with a CV and letter of recommendation to: Professor Dr. W. Michaelis

Universität Hamburg. Institut für Biogeochemie und Meereschemie. Bundesstr. 55

20146 Hamburg, Germany

Tel.: +49 40 42838 5001; Fax: +49 40 42838 6347; E-mail: michaelis@geowiss.uni-hamburg.de

<http://www.eaog.org/awards/awards.html>

European Association of Organic Geochemists: P. Schenck Award. Call for nominations

The Pieter Schenck Award is given every second year to a scientist normally under 35 years of age who has made a major contribution in any specific area of organic geochemistry or a related field. The 6th award will be attributed at the 21st IMOOG, Krakow, 8-12 September 2003. Proposers should send details of their candidate(s) including CV, full list of publications, and written justification (ca. 2000 words) to the Chairman of the Award Committee before April 30th 2003.

<http://www.eaog.org/awards/awards.html>

Geochemical Society/European Association for Geochemistry Fellows. Call for nominations

Nominations are currently being sought for GS/EAG Geochemistry Fellows. View the call for more details. Nominations should be sent no later than November 15, 2002.

<http://gs.wustl.edu/announce/fell03.pdf>

Geochemical Society Awards. Call for nominations

Nominations are currently being sought for the V.M. Goldschmidt, C.C. Patterson, and F.W. Clarke Awards. View the call for more details. Nominations should be sent no later than November 15, 2002.

<http://gs.wustl.edu/announce/awards03.pdf>

Awards

Jobs

Permanent position at CNRS, Paris. Call for candidates

A permanent position at the French National Science Council (CNRS) will be offered to a fellow at the "Laboratoire de Chimie Bioorganique et Organique Physique" (LCBOP) in "Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Paris", France. We seek candidates with expertise in organic geochemistry or an allied field concerned with macromolecular organic matter in natural environment (sediments, soil or water). This position is expected to be filled at the "chargé de recherche 2ème classe (CR2)" or "1ère classe (CR1)" level, i.e. with a minimum of 2 years of experience after Ph.D. degree. Potential candidates are required to contact Claude Largeau (clargeau@ext.jussieu.fr) or Sylvie Derenne (sderenne@ext.jussieu.fr), as soon as possible for further information and discussion on the research project. Deadline early December 2002.

Positions at The Research Center for Ocean Margins (RCOM), University of Bremen, Germany

RCOM at the University of Bremen, Germany, will be filling several positions in the general area of marine biogeochemistry including organic geochemistry, geomicrobiology, and geobiology. Senior Research Associate (BAT 1b) for a three years; subsequent extension into a permanent status will be possible. The individual should hold a PhD in Geology, Chemistry, Oceanography, Environmental Sciences, or a related discipline and have several years of postdoctoral experience. Postdoctoral Research Associate (BAT 2a) limited to a term of three years. The successful candidate holds a recent PhD in geochemistry or related disciplines and has research experience in molecular-isotopic biogeochemistry; skills in operation of analytical equipment are advantageous. Research Assistant. The successful candidate holds a recent BS degree in chemical, geological, or environmental sciences or has equivalent experience. Applications and inquiries should be directed to Prof. Kai-Uwe Hinrichs (khinrichs@whoi.edu) and Prof. Joern Peckmann (peckmann@uni-bremen.de) or by mail to: Research Center for Ocean Margins. c/o Gisela Boelen. University of Bremen, Postfach 330 440, D-28334 Bremen, Germany.

<http://www.rcom-bremen.de>

Jobs

The EAOG

Join us

The European Association of Organic Geochemists (EAOG) was founded in 1983. The organisation has strong European roots but boasts an international membership and pursues a global agenda. It seeks to promote organic geochemistry in its broadest sense by encouraging collaboration between its scientists and those from other disciplines. International Meetings (IMOG) are organized every two years and the EAOG official journal is Organic Geochemistry (<http://www.elsevier.nl/inca/publications/store/4/7/6/>).



EAOG membership numbers more than 400, and is still rising. You don't have to be European to be a member of the EAOG. Our members come from around the globe - the Americas, Asia, Australasia, Africa and Europe - more than 30 countries in all.

The process to become an EAOG member is very easy: download the application form, simply fill it out and post it to Elsevier at the address shown. Elsevier will take care of the details, including billing. The application for EAOG Membership form can be found at the following address:
http://www.eaog.org/membership/eaog_app.pdf

Join us


 European Association
of Organic Geochemists


The 21st International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry (IMO) is the official EAOG conference. The Organising Committee has the pleasure of inviting you to participate and to enjoy the beauty of the city. The Local Committee members represent the Univ. of Mining and Metallurgy, Society of Research on Environmental Changes "Geosphere", Institute of Oil and Gas, and Polish Oil and Gas Company. The Conference will be organised under the auspices of the President of Poland Mr. Aleksander Kwaśniewski.

21st IMO Committee

Organising Committee

Conference Chairman: M.J. Kotarba
The University of Mining and Metallurgy, Kraków, Poland
Vice Chairman: B.A. Stankiewicz
Shell International E&P, The Netherlands

Scientific Committee

Chairman: B. Artur Stankiewicz
Tanja Barth
Volker Dieckmann
Paul Farrimond
Maciej J. Kotarba
Mark McCaffrey
Ron Noble
Richard Pancost
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Maciej J. Kotarba
Adam Kowalski
Tomasz Kowalski
Irena Matyasik
Dariusz Więclaw
Jarosław Zacharski

IMO 2003 Permanent Secretariat

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fax (+48 12) 623-78-28
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Web site: <http://www.imog.agh.edu.pl/>

Dates to remember

Deadline for submission of abstracts: December 1st, 2002 (Instructions for authors)
<http://www.imog.agh.edu.pl/website/index.php?id=program/abstracts>
Distribution of second circular: May 15th, 2003
Advance registration & hotel reservation: June 30th, 2003
Conference & submission of manuscripts: September 8-12, 2003

Scientific Programme.

Petroleum and coal geochemistry: All topics related to petroleum formation and systems, with emphasis on geochemical controls on reservoir fluid properties, generation and migration of petroleum and gas, basin modelling, reservoir and production geochemistry, organic solids, kinetics, source rocks, fluid inclusions, and oil-rock interactions. Subjects in the areas of coal geochemistry and petrology, and coal-bed gases are also welcomed.

Biogeochemistry: all aspects of the field of biogeochemistry will be considered, including preservation and transformation of organic matter in the biosphere and geosphere, degradation of organic matter, palaeoenvironments, stable isotopes, C and N cycles, marine chemistry.

Environmental Geochemistry: industrial pollution and natural pollution, sources and effects on environment. Organic matter alteration by pollution of the air, water, soil and sediments.

New Trends in Organic Geochemistry: application of organic geochemistry expertise and tools to new disciplines. Interdisciplinary aspects of geochemistry (archaeology, biochemistry, DNA, oceanography), integrated and revolutionary studies.

Organic Geochemistry Events

3rd European Meeting on Environmental Chemistry (EMEC3).

Geneva, Switzerland, 11-14 December 2002.

EMEC3 will address the current and future status of environmental chemistry. The program will include keynote lectures and podium and poster sessions covering recent developments on undisturbed (eco)systems and anthropogenic impacts, pollution treatment, development of new environmental tools and Teaching environmental chemistry. We sincerely hope that the Scientific Program will allow each of you to take part in creative discussions while also enjoying our beautiful city, its people and its surroundings.

<http://www.unige.ch/cabe/filella/emec3/>

European Research 2002. The European Research Area and the Framework Programme.

Brussels, Belgium, 11-12-13 November 2002

The European Commission will hold a major conference to mark the launch of the EU's Sixth Framework Programme for research, which will cover the period from 2002 to 2006. Based on the experience of a similar event in February 1999 which attracted over 5 000 participants the conference will be a major forum to present the objectives and priorities of the Framework Programme and to explain rules for participation. At the same time the conference is meant to create opportunities for scientific debate and exchange of best practice beyond those subjects addressed in the Framework Programme

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/index_en.html

Third Italian-French Meeting on Organic Chemistry: Organic Chemistry Toward Interfaces

Pisa, Italy, 20-23 November 2002

Contemporary organic chemistry is a fully developed discipline displaying a crucial role as a hinge between different sciences. We wish to draw our attention to the interfaces between organic chemistry and other disciplines such as biomedicine, food chemistry and materials science, where progress is guaranteed by rational insight into the chemical and structural properties of organic moieties. Indeed, we believe that these fields will represent expansion areas for future interest and applications. Thus, we will welcome contributions demonstrating the impact of organic chemistry in other disciplines and stressing the most modern aspects of theory, synthesis, reactivity, separation, structure and spectroscopy, including mass spectrometry. Integration of research at an European level is a goal that must be pursued at all times and in this respect, we extend our invitation to people from other European Countries in order to construct the bases for a new pan-European conference.

<http://server1.dcci.unipi.it/~elit/tifmoc/tifmoc.html>

EURESCO Conferences

Geochemistry of Crustal Fluids: The Role and Fate of Trace Elements in Crustal Fluids.

Seefeld in Tirol, Austria, 14-19 December 2002

Atmospheric precipitation and the weathering processes on soils and bedrock control the concentrations of trace metals in crustal fluids. As these pathways and processes have been significantly altered by humankind, the flux and distribution of trace metal in freshwater resources has largely increased. Consequently, anthropogenic releases of heavy metals have increased threefold compared to their background pre-industrial fluxes. Therefore, there is a growing need to understand the processes that control metal cycling in the crust and predict the consequences associated to the increased metal fluxes, particularly their effects on the biosphere. In this context, the objective of this fourth Euresco Conference on the Geochemistry of Crustal Fluids is to present, review and discuss the most recent advances in the field of trace element mobility and fate in crustal fluids, with special emphasis on processes occurring at the border between geosphere and the biosphere.

http://www.esf.org/esf_euresco_conference.php?language=0&conference=106&meeting=4&page=1

Geological Society of London: Petroleum Group.

Geochemistry of Reservoirs II - Linking Reservoir Engineering & Geochemical Models.

London, U.K., 4-5 February 2003

Geochemistry is playing an increasingly important role in understanding the complexities of reservoir performance. However since the successful inaugural meeting at the Geological Society on the Geochemistry of Reservoirs in 1993, the technology and applications have changed markedly. It is therefore timely to revisit Reservoir Geochemistry but this time concentrating on the areas of potentially greatest benefit to E&P, namely geochemical controls on rock and fluid properties and the integration of reservoir engineering and geochemical fluid assessments. This two-day meeting will be hosted by the Petroleum Group to promote the latest advances in organic and inorganic geochemistry and their applications in the evaluation and study of reservoirs. In particular the following themes will be addressed: Geochemical controls of reservoir fluid properties; Geochemical control of reservoir rock properties; Integrated reservoir engineering and geochemical fluid assessments.

<http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/template.cfm?name=ResGeochem>

The American Chemical Society 225th ACS National Meeting

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, 23-27 March 2003

The headquarters hotel is the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, Two Poydras Street. The exhibition, Career Resource Center, registration and technical sessions will be held at the Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Boulevard. Overflow technical sessions will be held at the nearby hotels. Several symposia organized by the Geochemistry Division will take place during the meeting.

<http://membership.acs.org/g/geoc/upcoming.html>

Geofluids IV: International conference on fluid evolution, migration and interaction in sedimentary basins and orogenic belts

Utrecht, The Netherlands, 12-16 May 2003

Geofluids IV is designed specifically to build bridges between fields of geofluids research, and to generate effective interactions between academic and applied geofluids researchers from petroleum, mineral and groundwater sectors. The Geofluids IV provides a forum for fundamental, strategic and applied geofluids research. It also provides a venue to discuss state of the art concepts, methodologies, case histories and future directions in geofluids research. We believe this exchange of concepts and methodologies is the basis for generating ideas for improving the effectiveness of research in exploration, use and sustainable management of natural resources (ore minerals, petroleum, groundwater, geothermal energy), storage of energy carriers and energy wastes, and prediction of natural geohazards and their consequences.

<http://www.nitg.tno.nl/eng/geofluids/index.shtml>

9th Nordic IHSS Symposium on Abundance and Functions of Natural Organic Matter Species in Soil and Water

Sundsvall, Sweden, 19-21 May 2003

The Nordic Chapter of the International Humic Substances Society (IHSS) has the pleasure to invite members and non-members to participate in the 9th Nordic Symposium on Humic Substances to be held at Mid Sweden University

http://www.ntm.mh.se/nordic_ihss/

2nd International Symposium on Contaminated Sediments: Characterisation, Evaluation, Mitigation/Restoration, Management Strategy Performance

Quebec, Canada, 26-28 May 2003

The Symposium will cover the areas of sediment characterization, contaminant evaluation, mitigation / restoration methods and management strategy performance from the geological, geotechnical, biological and geophysical perspectives. It will review advances on contaminated sediments management related research and focus on engineering aspects of contaminant transportation, erosion, stability, monitoring and modelling. The primary goal of the Symposium is to identify both established and innovative physico-chemical and biological tests and methods used to characterize and evaluate properties and behaviour of contaminated sediments as well as the potential for contaminant transfer.

http://www.scs2003.qql.ulaval.ca_top/

**Int. Association of Geochemistry & Cosmochemistry: Applied Isotope Geochemistry Group
Fifth International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry (AIG-5).
Heron Island, Queensland, Australia, 26-30 May 2003**

The International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry is intended to bring together researchers from academic institutions, industry and government regulatory bodies who specialize in the application of isotope geochemistry to the Earth Sciences. The main goal is to promote discussion and the exchange of information between scientists working in this area. Recent developments in technology play an important role in AIG meetings and it is for this reason representatives from the instrument manufacturers are encouraged to attend and contribute.

<http://www.chem.mq.edu.au/aig-5/overview.html>

**17th Biennial European Current Research on Fluid Inclusions (ECROFI XVII)
Budapest, Hungary, 4-6 June 2003**

The Meeting will be held at the Department of Petrology and Geochemistry located on the Lagymanyos Campus of Eötvös University in Budapest. The conference provides an international forum for the exchange of research and new ideas of geoscientists from East to West focusing on studies of fluid and silicate inclusions. Current results will be presented during oral and poster sessions, whereas informal discussions are encouraged during breaks, hosted receptions, meals and social events. Conference participants include scientists from academy, government and industry. A lot of students are also expected to attend the meeting, as they are encouraged to come to Budapest, too.

<http://ecrofi17.geology.elte.hu/>

**American Association of Petroleum Geologists and Institute of Petroleum
Hedberg Conference: Origin of Petroleum
London, UK, 9-12 June 2003**

An understanding of the origin of petroleum is a crucial element in the design of successful hydrocarbon strategies and in their production. Such knowledge is also important in estimating sedimentary basin resources, in determining field reserves, and in predicting the future availability of petroleum supplies globally. Most members of AAPG have been taught and accept that the origin of petroleum is organic. What if the source of petroleum is not from sedimentary source rocks, but from an abiogenic source that is not limited by the physical, chemical, and biological constraints that effect the type, quality and volume of petroleum derived from an organic source?

<http://www.aapg.org/education/hedberg/london/index.html>

**Gordon Research Conference: Permeable Sediments
Lewiston, ME, USA, 15-20 June 2003**

The study of permeable sediments represents important scientific and technical challenges. The purpose of the proposed conference is to bring together the isolated, individual disciplinary groups that are currently working on permeable sediments and thereby increase the awareness of new developments in the field. The conference is needed in order to facilitate dialog on pressing problems and effective research strategies, and to promote interest in the field of permeable sediments within the larger community of earth, ocean and environmental scientists.

<http://www.skio.peachnet.edu/grc/>

**International Association of Geoanalysts & Geological Survey Finland (GEOANALYSIS 2003)
5th International Conference on the Analysis of Geological and Environmental Materials
Rovaniemi, Finland, 16 - 18 June 2003**

The Conference will bring together scientists, analysts and laboratory managers in all fields of the geosciences - analytical chemists working in the mining industry, government research laboratories, and geoanalytical and environmental laboratories involved with the analysis of various terrestrial materials. As a must, Rovaniemi is the hometown of Santa Claus. You can visit his workshop at the Arctic Circle and meet him personally even in the middle of summer.

<http://www.gsf.fi/geoanalysis2003/>

**International Union for Quaternary Research & GSA
XVI INQUA Congress: Shaping the Earth, A Quaternary Perspective
Reno, Nevada USA, 23 - 30, July 2003**

Held every four years, the INQUA Congress is the largest gathering of scientists studying the Quaternary period, the last 2.6 million years of Earth's history. The theme for this Congress is "Shaping the Earth: A Quaternary Perspective." INQUA has linked with the Geological Society of America (GSA) to provide management services including registration, abstract submission, and meeting services.

http://inqua2003.dri.edu/inqua_home.htm

**XVth International Congress on the Carboniferous and Permian
Utrecht, The Netherlands, August 10-16 2003**

The Congress on Carboniferous and Permian Stratigraphy will be organised by the Netherlands Institute of Applied Geoscience TNO - National Geological Survey (TNO-NITG) and the Faculty of Earth Science of the Utrecht University, in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The theme of the XV ICC-P is the 'Permo-Carboniferous around the Southern North Sea Basin'. Permian and Carboniferous deposits are of great economic importance around this basin. Numerous gas fields occur in these deposits in this mature exploration area. In addition, this area has a long tradition of mining activities related to Carboniferous coal and Permian copper and salt. This led to a good understanding of the geology and stratigraphy of these deposits. Despite the fact that recent oil and gas exploration studies contributed to several new insights, few of these have been published to date. The objective is to bring these new results to the attention of the participants of this Congress.

<http://www.nitg.tno.nl/eng/iccp.shtml>

**55th Meeting of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (55th ICCP)
Utrecht, The Netherlands, August 10-16 2003**

The International Committee of Coal and Organic Petrology is a professional organisation of scientists representing more than 40 countries. Its members are engaged in many different branches, fundamental and applied, of coal and organic petrology. The sciences interests of ICCP involve the study, of the organic constituents of coal and other rocks. Their efforts have resulted in major contributions to the understanding of the origin of coal, the behaviour of coal in industrial processes, the exploration for petroleum, and the thermal/burial histories of sedimentary basins. The ICCP has begun a program of Standardisation, Training and Accreditation through which laboratories can obtain ICCP accreditation in petrographic analysis

<http://www.nitg.tno.nl/eng/55iccp.shtml>

**International Conference on Mechanisms and Regulation of Organic Matter Stabilisation in Soils
Schloss Hohenkammer, Munich, Germany, October 6-10 2003**

Soil organic matter (SOM) influences all soil functions and is a central element in the global carbon cycle. The understanding of organic carbon storage has been of major interest for soil- and geoscientists. Soil scientists from all over Germany participate in a priority program of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft: "Soils as a source and sink for CO₂ – mechanisms and regulation of organic matter stabilisation in soils". The conference shall provide a forum to discuss results from 3 years of research in Germany with an international audience. Scientists from soil physics, organic chemistry, geochemistry, sedimentology, mineralogy, zoology, microbiology, ecology, agronomy, and geography, are invited to participate and share their ideas with us.

The conference topics are: • SOM stabilisation due to structural properties (recalcitrance) • Interactions of SOM with the mineral phase • SOM stabilisation through physical separation • The turnover of different C pools and modelling of environmental and management effects • New analytical tools.

<http://www.wzw.tum.de/bk/hk/>

**11th Int. Symposium Water-Rock Interaction
Saratoga Springs, NY, 27 June - 2 July 2004**

Will provide a forum to discuss ideas, research, and new theories in the areas of geochemistry, hydrogeology, environmental water science, environmental mineralogy, and related disciplines and offers a unique opportunity for international scientific cooperation. The 2004 symposium is organized by Penn State in cooperation with the Working Group on Water-Rock Interaction of the International Association of Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry (IAGC). The IAGC is one of twenty-four organizations affiliated with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

<http://app.outreach.psu.edu/wri/>

**7th INTECOL. International Wetlands Conference
Utrecht, The Netherlands, 25-20 July 2004**

It is the mission of this conference to highlight the newest developments in Wetland Science with all its major disciplines and to review this knowledge in the perspective of integrated water resources management world-wide. Wetlands are ecosystems with abundant wildlife and high biodiversity. They provide natural functions with high potential values for mankind, such as water storage, water quality improvement, food chain support and carbon storage. Wetland ecosystems are of great scientific interest because they are inhabited by plants and animals with special adaptations, are governed by hydrological flows and are characterised by specific biogeochemical processes.

<http://www.bio.uu.nl/intecol/>

**32nd International Geological Congress (IGC): From the Mediterranean Area Toward a Global Geological Renaissance. Geology, Natural Hazards, and Cultural Heritage
Florence, Italy, 20-28 August 2004**

The Scientific Program of the 32nd IGC consists of Plenary Lectures, Special Symposia, Topical Symposia, General Symposia, Workshops, Short Courses and Field Trips. The structure and the list of sessions below are preliminary and are open to suggestions for improvement from the scientific community.

<http://www.32igc.org/default1.htm>

Organic Geochemistry Events

GeoFun

Organic Geochemistry Humour

THE CRUDE OIL STORY from our friends from the JAPT

<http://www.japt.org/html/english/animation/01intro.html>

HUMOR from our colleges at the ACS' Geochemistry Division

<http://membership.acs.org/g/geoc/fun/GEOCFun.html>

WE MUST GET ONE, Some may be already nominated

<http://www.improb.com/ig/ig-top.html>

Humour