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Newsletter Secretary's Bit

Dear colleagues,

Our first conference chairman was Umberto Colombo (1927-2006) he organized the first edition of our meeting in Milan, Italy from 10-12 September 1962 (Colombo & Hobson, 1964). About 40 papers were presented at this meeting. The next IMOG in Interlaken, Switzerland will be the 25th edition and therefore commemorate half a century of EAOG research in Organic Geochemistry. Deadlines are now approaching and you have the opportunity to early register for the conference ([Register for the 25th IMOG](#)). Details about IMOG 25 organization can be found now at the conference site (<http://www.imog2011.com>).

In this issue, you will find Ger's last news at the Chairman's column, information related with the EAOG Board Meeting, as well as the usual OG events, jobs, OG notes, most cited papers in OG and of course a bit of humour.

We really hope that you find this 28th EAOG Newsletter useful, and enjoy it as much as we enjoy 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.

U. Colombo and G.D. Hobson Eds (1964). Advances in Organic Geochemistry, Proc. of the International Meeting in Milan, 1962, Pergamon Press, London.

Newsletter Secretary's Image: Views of Interlaken and surroundings.



Photograph by JAG

Francisco J. González-Vila & José A. González-Pérez

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.imog2011.org>

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Chairman's Column



Dear friends and fellow geochemists,

This newsletter is largely devoted to next year's IMOG and the Chairman's column is no exception.

Earlier this year, the Board met with the Interlaken organizing committee to review and discuss the plans and preparations for IMOG 2011. For those of you who are interested – and I would like to think that this includes most of you – I can report that we left with a very positive impression of Interlaken in general and the conference facilities in particular. To start with the latter, the conference will be held in the venerable Casino-Kursaal building, dating from the 19th century. This historic building does have several rooms suitable for our purposes, both for the professional activities – oral and poster presentations – and for the various social events like the ice-breaker and the conference dinner.

Interlaken itself is a rather small town, set in beautiful location between two lakes (hence the name) with a stunning mountain view, including the famous Jungfrau mountain. This setting offers great opportunities for the partner program, but I can also recommend that conference participants - whom I assume will be fully occupied with scientific activities from Monday until Friday - consider an early arrival or late departure so they can experience some of the surroundings as well. In fact, I spent a few days of my summer holidays in Interlaken this summer. During those days we did some hiking and we took a trip on the cogwheel train to the Jungfraujoch, the so-called Top of Europe, at 3450 m. A special experience that I can recommend to everyone (for details, see the [IMOG 2011](#) home page).



The EAOG Board* with the IMOG25th organizers in Interlaken

While the organizing committee is well underway with the preparations, the ball is now in your court, as the success of the meeting is totally dependent on the quality of the presentations that will be shown. Hence, I encourage all of you to submit your abstracts before the deadline of February 1, 2011. Even though it will mean a lot of work for the scientific committee, I would like to see a large number of submissions, so the committee can set up an interesting and stimulating scientific program.

Best greetings
Ger

Ger W. van Graas

*) Jose was there but taking the photo

Summary report from the EAOG Board Meeting held in Interlaken in March 2010

The Board Meeting was held in combination with the customary Board visit to the location for the next IMOG.

Board Membership

This was the first Board Meeting for Ian Bull and José Gonzalez-Perez. Next year, the board membership terms of Lorenz Schwark and Philippe Schaeffer end but both are willing to stand for re-election and this is supported by the other board members. Ger van Graas will step down as Chairman and a new Board Member will need to be elected.

Web Site

The EAOG web site is in need of a face-lift / revamp. Ian and José will look into this.

Elsevier

The discussions with Elsevier on membership administration and other issues have been very slow. Unexpectedly (based on earlier input from Elsevier!) the possibility for electronic membership renewal was introduced this year. Discussions on a possible electronic-only subscription have not yet given any results.

Membership

In March 2010 EAOG had 420 members, very much in line with previous years.

A significant number of people, who used the (discounted) member registration option at IMOG 2009, do not appear on our member lists. During IMOG 2011 a stricter control of actual membership will be imposed.

The introduction of a discounted IMOG 2009 registration fee for students who are member of EAOG, has not been very successful, as only a minor fraction of the students have made use of this. We will try this once again during IMOG 2011 before drawing a conclusion.

EAGE Affiliation

A limited affiliation with EAGE will be implemented on Jan. 1, 2011. Apart from mutual links on the web sites, this involves that EAOG members can participate in the EAGE yearly conference at membership rates, while the same goes for EAGE members at IMOG.

Travel Scholarships

The number of applicants has been relatively low in recent rounds and the quality variable. An increasing number of students do not send in the obligatory travel report, despite gentle requests (and mild harassments) by the Awards Officer. To improve on this, 25% of future awards will be paid out after submission of the report.



Welcome to the anniversary issue of the International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry (IMOG). The 25th IMOG, the official biennial conference of the European Association of Organic Geochemists (EAOG), will be held in Interlaken, Switzerland from Sunday 18th – Friday 23th September 2011. Full details are available at the IMOG 2011 website: <http://www.imog2011.org>.
– **so now is the time to register!**

This is the largest meeting on Organic Geochemistry and we are expecting more than 500 participants from all over the world presenting more than 80 oral and more than 400 poster presentations.

The deadline for submission of abstracts will be in early 2011.

The guiding principle of the IMOG meetings is to encourage presentation, communication and discussion of research results carried out in academia and industry in the fields of Organic Geochemistry with topics ranging from Petroleum Geochemistry to Biogeochemistry. We are putting together a scientific programme that will fulfil this goal with an outstanding collection of oral and poster presentations and workshops to cover the diverse aspects of organic geochemistry research, its application and its integration into studies highly relevant for Scientists from all over the world.

We plan to achieve a balance among the diverse aspects of organic geochemical research with contributions discussing the latest advances within (but not restricted to) the following broad areas of our subject:

Petroleum Geochemistry

- Petroleum Systems
- Reservoir Geochemistry
- Biomarkers
- Gas Geochemistry
- Unconventional Gas and Oil
- "Geochemical Engineering"
- (flow assurance, oil/water/rock interactions....)

Biogeochemistry

- Microbial Geochemistry/Lipidomics/Genomics
- Intact Polar Lipids
- Proxies for palaeoclimate, palaeoenvironment and palaeoceanography reconstruction
- Biogeochemical cycles of C-, S-, N- organic components

Kerogen, Soil, Peat, and Coal

Environment and pollution

Analytical developments, including modelling



The conference will be held in the Casino Kursaal located in the heart of Interlaken. This venue provides a unique combination of history, modern congress rooms and elegant banquet halls. It will therefore not only be the home of our scientific programme but will also host the conference dinner and the icebreaker party.

In addition to the scientific programme, IMOG 2011 offers opportunities to go on fieldtrips and experience the geology of the breathtaking Swiss Alps. We are planning to organize several events to allow you and your partner to make the most of your time in Switzerland with the option of starting before the actual conference even begins! Trips to key geological features of the Swiss Alps or touristic spots such as the Jungfrau Joch, the Eiger North face, the Schilthorn mountain and Bern are only a few options you can select from.



Important Dates

Deadline for abstract submission	February 1, 2011
Start of registration	March 1, 2011
Deadline for early registration	July 1, 2011
Deadline for online-registration	September 15, 2011
Pre-Conference field trip	September 16 & 17, 2011
Start of IMOG 2011: Icebreaker Party	September 18, 2011
Conference begins	September 19, 2011
Conference Dinner	September 21, 2011
Conference ends	September 23, 2011
Post-conference field trip	September 24, 2011

We look forward to welcoming you in Interlaken.

Dr. Volker Dieckmann, Shell Rijswijk (Conference Chairman)
 Dr. Erik Tegelaar, Shell Rijswijk (Scientific Committee Chairman)

Dr. Pim van Bergen, Shell Aberdeen
 Darren Spragg, RapierGroup
 Prof. Stefano Bernasconi, ETH Zurich
 Dr. Michael Schmidt, UZH
 Dr. Carsten Schubert, EAWAG

EAOG Events

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.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/01466380>).

EAOG membership numbers almost 500, 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 40 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: Pieter Schenck Award *OPEN!*

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.

Previous awardees were:

Jaap S. Sinninghe Damsté (1993)

Mark A. McCaffrey (1995)

Marcel M. Kuypers (2007)

Katherine H. Freeman (1997)

Stefan Schouten (1999)

Helen M. Talbot (2009)

Kliti Grice (2001)

Richard Pancost (2005)

The successful candidate for the 2011 Pieter Schenck Award will be announced at the 25th EAOG International Meeting on Organic Geochemistry in Interlaken (Switzerland) September 18 to 23 2011.

Proposers should send details of their candidate(s) including CV, full list of publications, and a written justification (ca. 2000 words) to the Chairman of the Award Committee before May 31st 2011. The selection will be made by the Pieter Schenck Committee composed of Lorenz Schwark (Chairman, ls@gpi.uni-kiel.de), Joseph A. Curiale, Kliti Grice, Richard P. Evershed and Roger E. Summons. Nominations submitted (as pdf, MS Word, or text files) by email to the committee chair are encouraged.

European Association of Organic Geochemists: travel scholarships *OPEN!*

Since 1989 the EAOG has offered travel scholarships for young scientists studying in the field of Organic Geochemistry/Biogeochemistry. 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.

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. Applications are open to both Europeans and non-Europeans. At the end of the scholarship it is expected that a short report on the work performed in the host laboratory will be submitted to the Award Committee.

In recent years, the EAOG has been able to increase the yearly number of awards and their maximum amount thanks to the generous support by **Chevron**, **Geoservices**, **Schlumberger** and **Shell**.

There are two deadlines for applications per year: 31st March and 30th September. Candidates not selected could be considered just once more at the following session. Applications will be considered by the adjudication committee: Dr L. Schwark (Chairman), Dr. W. Michaelis, Dr R. Summons, Dr J.A. Curiale and Dr R. Evershed.

Applicants are requested to send a specific proposal (preferably by email as pdf, MS Word, or text files with not more than 1000 words) outlining their proposed research and budget, together with a CV and letters of recommendation from the host and home laboratories to Dr Lorenz Schwark, Institute of Geosciences (Department of Geosciences), Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel (CAU), Ludewig-Meyn-Straße 10, Otto-Hahn-Platz 1, 24118 Kiel, Germany.
E-mail: ls@gpi.uni-kiel.de, Tel.: +49 431 880 2850 • Fax +49 431 880 4376

For more info: <http://www.eaog.org/awards/awards.html>. Last Awards were to:

March 2009

- * Christiane Eiserbeck (Curtin University of Technology, Australia) – EAOG Award
- * Preeti Kaur (University of Bristol, U.K.) – EAOG Award
- * Christopher Knappy (University of York, U.K.) – EAOG Award

September 2008

- * Jo Helawell (Trinity College, University of Dublin, Ireland) – EAOG Award
- * Caroline Jaraula (University of Illinois at Chicago, U.S.A.) – EAOG Award

March 2008

- * Kevin Mueller (Pennsylvania State University, U.S.A.) – EAOG Award
- * Dominique Tobler (University of Leeds, U.K.) – EAOG Award



Organic Geochemistry Events

1st International Chemical and Environmental Engineering Conference (ICEEC 2010)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 26-28 Nov 2010

ICEEC is sponsored by WARP, World Academy of Research and Publications. The objective of ICEEC 2010 is to provide a platform for researchers, engineers, academicians and industrial professionals to present their research results and developments in Chemical and Environ. Engineering. This conference provides opportunities to exchange new ideas and application experiences face to face, to establish business or research relations and to find global partners for future collaboration. Press and selected papers, peer reviewed will be published in Int. J. Chem. & Environ. Engineering. Topics: Chemical, Environ. & Process Engineering, Chemistry & Chemical Engineering Fundamentals, Environ. Engineering & Technol., Integration of Life Sciences & Engineering, Multi-scale and/or Multi-disciplinary Approaches and Systematic Methods and Tools for Managing the Complexity.

All the information is available in the web page: <http://www.warponline.org/conferences.htm>

Second International Symposium on Arctic Research: Arctic System in a Changing Earth

Tokyo, Japan. 07-09 Dec 2010

The symposium will address topics ranging from changes in the Arctic's climate and sub-systems and process studies on the atmosphere-ocean-land system in the Arctic, to global/regional modeling with a focus on the Arctic

All the information is available in the web page: <http://www-arctic.nipr.ac.jp/isar2/toppage/isar2top.htm>

11th European Meeting on Environmental Chemistry (EMEC11)

Portorož, Slovenia. 8-11 December 2010

The conference theme is Chemistry for the Environment which gives emphasis on the fields of research on development and application of new materials and clean technologies, where might chemistry with its applications make the environment cleaner and more friendly to all of us who live on this planet. EMEC11 continues the tradition of ten annual meetings providing a forum for exchange of ideas on recent advances in research and development in environmental chemistry and technology for people from industry, research and academia. In addition, other topics, such as atmospheric chemistry, soil chemistry, aquatic and marine chemistry, photochemistry and photocatalysis, biodegradation and bioremediation, ecotoxicology and biomarkers, emerging contaminants, water treatment and waste management, analytical methods for environmental science and biomonitoring, waste and wastewater treatment, pollution and cultural heritage, will be covered within the conference keynote, oral and poster sessions.

All the information is available in the web page: <http://sabotin.ung.si/~EMEC11/>

American Geophysical Union — AGU 2010 Fall Meeting

San Francisco, California, USA. 13-17 Dec 2010

The Fall Meeting provides an opportunity for researchers, teachers, students, and consultants to present and review the latest issues affecting the Earth, the planets, and their environments in space.

All the information is available in the web page: <http://www.agu.org/>

AGU Chapman Conference on Source to Sink Around the World and Through Time

Oxnard, California, USA. 24-27 Jan 2011

This conference will seek to articulate the ideas that are the foundation for a holistic understanding of sediment dispersal from land origins to marine accumulation, and to explore the theoretical and observational studies that support them.

All the information is available in the web page: <http://www.agu.org/meetings/chapman/2011/acall/>

Environmental Health 2011 "Resetting our Priorities"

Salvador, Brazil 6-9 February 2011

2010 is the 40th anniversary of the first Earth Day, marking the end of the first decade of the 21st century. It is a critical benchmark of remarkable change in environmental health perspectives and policies. As the first Earth Day responded to both science and popular concerns, this conference is designed to look retrospectively at major accomplishments as well as prospectively to use this experience in assessing our ability to deal with future challenges. The conference will provide an interdisciplinary platform to exchange knowledge and learn about the latest issues in environmental health. 'Environmental Health 2011 - Resetting Our Priorities' will provide the opportunity to present your research, hear from leading experts in the field, network with a wide delegation of international researchers with common interests and concerns and enjoy the wonderful spirit of Salvador, Brazil.

All the information is available in the web page: www.environmentalhealthconference.com

XIV Conference on Humic Science & Technology

Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA. 9-11 March 2011

HS&T Conferences focus on the structures, properties and uses of humic substances from any source. The Honorary Chair is Dr. Baoshan Xing of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and HS&T Conference 14 is dedicated to Dr. George Aiken of the US Geological Survey in Denver, CO. The program will consist of oral presentations in English. Providers of humic substances products and services are encouraged to advertise their company.

All the information is available in the web page: www.hagroup.neu.edu

Symposium on Analytical Pyrolysis at PittCon 2011

Pittsburgh Conference and Exposition, Atlanta, Georgia (USA) 12-18 March 2011

A full-day symposium on Analytical Pyrolysis has been scheduled for March 17 at the 2011 Pittsburgh Conference, which is the premier annual North American meeting on instrumental analysis. A very large exposition, featuring essentially all vendors of analytical instrumentation, is an integral part of the conference. Symposia, general oral and poster sessions, short courses, and an employment bureau are all part of the program. For detailed information, including travel and registration, visit the PittCon website. The Analytical Pyrolysis symposium is being organized by Robert Helleur, Robert Lattimer, and Kent Voorhees. A symposium or workshop on this topic has not been held for many years in North America, and time was long overdue for a session in this area. Analytical and applied pyrolysis practitioners have traditionally held an international symposium in even-numbered years since the 1960s. The 2010 biennial meeting was scheduled for Montreal, Canada, but unfortunately the conference had to be cancelled. This would have been the first of these international meetings to be held in North America since 1982. The PittCon session is not part of the biennial international symposium series. Nevertheless, this will be an excellent opportunity for pyrolysis practitioners (particularly those in North America) to learn about recent developments in the field.

All the information is available in the web page: www.pittcon.org

**SAGEEP — Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Environ. & Engineering Problems
Charleston, South Carolina, USA. 10-14 Apr 2011**

The symposium will provide geophysicists, engineers, geoscientists and end-users from around the world an opportunity to meet and discuss near-surface applications of geophysics and learn about recent developments in near-surface geophysics. All the information is available in the web page: <http://www.eegs.org/sageep/index.html>

**World Congress of Petroleum Microbiology-2011 (WCP-2011)
Dalian World Expo Center, China. 25-27 April 2011**

The "BIT's 2nd Annual World Congress of Petroleum Microbiology (WCP) 2011", with a theme of "To Establish a Pharmacy for the Earth" promises to be very interesting for both basic scientists and executives who are working in the field of petroleum microbiology, they will offer complete updates of recent developments and present the latest products and technologies which can be used to make our lives less polluted. Through the active involvement, you can support our international colleagues and friends to bridge west and east for sustainable development in career, making new friends, exploring new markets and seeking targeting partners or collaborators for the potential industrialize biotech projects for oilfields and stimulating the grow of green economy. The conference has broad petroleum industrial support and has the additional goal of enhancing international collaborations and integrating all possible intelligence resources to seek the green solutions to the global technology and engineering Challenges of Fossil Energy recovery toward great potentials and implications of petroleum microbiology. This congress will help you to network with more than 1500+ professionals who participate from both academic and industrial sectors, and seek potential collaborations with distinguished scientists, engineers, industrial executives, and investors.

All the information about WCP-2011, PS: www.dnaday.com; or www.bitlifesciences.com/wcp2011

**6th ISMOM, 3rd Inter Congress of Division 2.5, IUSS, 2011 "Soil Interfaces in a Changing World"
Montpellier, France 26 June - 1 July 2011**

ISMOM (International Symposium on Interactions of Soil Minerals with Organic Components and Microorganisms) is a series of international symposia organised by sub-division 2.5 (Soil chemical, physical and biological interfacial reactions) of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS.). The aim of the symposia is to create a forum for exchange and discussion between scientists from different fields of soil science: chemistry, biology, biochemistry, physics, ecology and environmental science. ISMOM-2011, Soil Interfaces in a Changing World, follows successful 4-yearly meetings in Canada, France, Italy, China and Chile. We shall follow the tradition of a friendly, stimulating encounter between scientists from all facets of soil science. There will not be parallel sessions, and generous periods will be allotted to poster presentations, discussions and social events. Registration fees will be as low as possible and all-inclusive (lunches, coffee breaks, mid-week trip, gala dinner and welcome cocktail) with special rates for students and bursaries for students and scientists from under-funded countries.

All the information is available in the web page: <http://www1.montpellier.inra.fr/ISMOM2011>

**INQUA — XXVIII Congress of the International Union for Quaternary Research
Bern, Switzerland. 20-27 Jul 2011**

During the Quaternary (the last 2.6 million years) the Earth has repeatedly undergone substantial climatic and environmental changes that interfered with ecosystems and social systems. The Quaternary therefore provides a rich and ever-fascinating palette for research that aims to better understand the dynamical processes on the Earth's surface. Once every four years Quaternarists from all over the world meet at the INQUA Congress to exchange on latest research results and develop agendas for the years to come. Since 1928, INQUA, the International Union for Quaternary Research, promotes communication and international collaboration in Quaternary research. The current scientific scope of INQUA is reflected by its five Commissions: Coastal and Marine Processes, Palaeoclimate, Humans and Biosphere, Stratigraphy and Chronology, Terrestrial Processes, Deposits and History.

All the information is available in the web page: <http://www.inqua.tcd.ie/>

**Goldschmidt 2011
Prague, Czech Republic. 14-19 Aug 2011**

The Goldschmidt conference will be held in the Prague Congress Centre that will host all the scientific sessions under one roof. If you have been to a recent Goldschmidt conference, you will automatically receive mailings for Goldschmidt2011, otherwise you can add your email address to their mailing list.

All the information is available in the web page: <http://www.goldschmidt2011.org/>

**SlopeTecto 2011 — 2nd Conference on Slope Tectonics
Vienna, Austria. 06-11 Sep 2011**

The main focus of the Conference on Slope tectonics is (1) mass-movement induced structures and fabrics from local to regional scale, (2) their description, (3) mapping, (4) geotechnical analyses and (5) evolution modelling. Topics include: Mass wasting, Landslides, Slope Failures, Deep-seated Gravitational Deformations

All the information is available in the web page: http://www.geologie.ac.at/slope_tecto_2011/



**25th IMOG
Interlaken, Switzerland. 18-23 September 2011**

Our next International meeting on Organic Geochemistry (25 IMOG) has already appeared on the horizon. Further details will be increasingly available on the website so make sure you visit <http://www.imog2011.org> to find out what will be happening during the Meeting (both scientifically and socially) and how to register!



Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney, for PhD students in organic geochemistry projects.

http://www.eps.mq.edu.au/staff/SimonGeorge/StudentsPostfiles/StudentPostdoc_PhD.htm

1. Demonstrating the syngeneity and interpreting the palaeobiology of hydrocarbon biomarkers in the Fortescue Group (2.7 Ga)

It is almost universally accepted that the oxygenation of the previously anaerobic Earth was driven by the oxygenic photosynthesis of cyanobacteria. But there are inconsistencies of hundreds of millions of years in the various lines of evidence for the timing of the oxygenation process. We aim to resolve these inconsistencies by focusing on the record preserved in the Fortescue Group of West Australia, a remarkably well-preserved set of rocks reliably dated as lying in the disputed time range of the rise to prominence of cyanobacteria. As part of a team of 5 internationally well-respected scientists (Malcolm Walter, Brett Neiland, Simon George, Roger Summons and Bill Schopf) and other PhD students, your PhD project will apply new and innovative organic geochemical techniques to the study of the Fortescue Group to critically assess the evidence for the presence of cyanobacteria at 2.7-2.8 Ga. A suite of Fortescue Group rocks, mainly from cores, will be analysed using solvent extraction, fluid inclusion geochemistry and novel pyrolysis methods so as to provide a dataset of molecular geochemical parameters related to the Precambrian organic matter, and especially to the question of presence/absence of cyanobacteria. All techniques used will concentrate on the key issue of biomarkers.

You will undertake remote area fieldwork in NW Australia (Pilbara) in order to obtain outcrop material to supplement core material. Macquarie University in Sydney has a new and well-equipped organic geochemistry laboratory. In addition, some analyses will also be carried out at other labs in Australia (e.g. CSIRO) and in the USA (e.g. MIT). You will gain experience in several organic geochemical techniques, especially in those pertaining to the exciting, topical and controversial techniques for obtaining biomarker evidence from Archaean rocks.

This one already has a scholarship attached, open to international students: (MQRES allocation number 2010205):

http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/scholarships

2. Ecological risks from oil products used in Antarctica: characterising hydrocarbon behaviour and assessing toxicity on sensitive early life stages of Antarctic marine invertebrates

A project for PhD research in organic geochemistry is available in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. The overall aim of this project is to assess the ecological risks to marine biota of hydrocarbon contaminants associated with the use of fuels in Antarctic waters. The candidate will investigate the behaviour of the chemical components of fuels commonly used in Antarctic station and shipping operations in seawater at low temperatures, and examine the influence of physical and chemical properties unique to the Antarctic environment on the bioavailability and potential toxicity of fuels and fuel components. The project involves collaboration with Southern Cross University (bioassay techniques; risk assessment modelling) and the Australian Antarctic Division, who have funded all the operating and travel requirements of the project.

The successful applicant will utilise the newly installed organic geochemical infrastructure available at Macquarie University, and will receive comprehensive training in sample separation and analysis of fuel samples by gas chromatography and mass spec.. The research might involve a field season in Antarctica to test the ecotoxicological response of spilled fuels.

3. Biomarkers in Oligocene-Holocene sediments from the Canterbury Basin, New Zealand: A chemical approach to sequence stratigraphy, and elucidation of biogeochemical pathways

A project for PhD research in organic geochemistry is available in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. One aim of this project is to establish a temporal record of organic contributions from terrestrial and marine sources to be established in sediments from the last 28 million years in the Canterbury Basin, New Zealand. Biomarkers and other hydrocarbons extracted from the sediments will provide information on source inputs, depositional environment and thermal history of the sediments. This chemical expression of sequence stratigraphy will be related to variations in eustatic sea level and sediment supply from the Southern Alps. The second aim of this project is to search for biomarkers for sulphate reduction, anaerobic oxidation of methane and other microbial processes, especially in the top 200m Pleistocene and Holocene sequences. Techniques used will include solvent extraction, column chromatography, gas chromatography, mass spectrometry and isotope ratio mass spectrometry, and will build on a comprehensive geochemical dataset on gases, interstitial waters and sediments obtained during drilling on the Joides Resolution.

Samples for the project were obtained during Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) Expedition 317 (http://iodp.tamu.edu/scienceops/expeditions/canterbury_basin.html) and are already in A/Professor Simon George's geochemistry lab at Macquarie University.

The successful applicant will utilise the newly installed organic geochemical infrastructure available at Macquarie University, and will receive comprehensive training in sample separation and analysis of sediment samples by gas chromatography and mass spectrometry.

Two PhD Studentships. Marine Environmental Sciences (MARUM), University of Bremen

Northwest African biomes and climate variability during the Pliocene

The Center for Marine Environmental Sciences (MARUM), University of Bremen, Germany (<http://www.marum.de/>) has openings for two three-year PhD positions, which form a common project funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) through the "Schwerpunktprogramm" (special interest programme) IODP/ODP. This project strives for improved understanding of the variability of climate and vegetation in Northwest Africa during the Pliocene in connection with the changes in the Atlantic overturning circulation and heat transport associated with the closure of the Central American Seaway. Investigations follow two different, but complimentary approaches that involve two PhD studentships.

First PhD studentship: Organic Geochemistry, involving extraction and analyses of marine algal and terrestrial plant-derived lipids from marine sediments of ODP cores. Marine lipids will be used for estimation of sea-surface temperature changes, while terrigenous lipids will be analyzed for compound-specific isotopes to draw inferences on continental vegetation types and hydrology. Work includes extraction, fractionation and purification of lipid extracts, analyses by gas-chromatography and mass-spectrometric isotope analyses. Prior experiences in organic geochemical methods and/or isotope analyses are advantageous.

Second PhD studentship: Palynology, involving analysis of African pollen and spores, for the re-construction of vegetation development in Northwest African savannah woodland and forest biomes using marine sediments of ODP cores. This includes sample preparation, microscopy, and interpretation in terms of particle transport and biomes. Furthermore, analysis of dinoflagellate cysts will be used to add information about marine surface water conditions of the Atlantic. Experience in palynology is required.

We seek enthusiastic individuals holding a Masters (M.Sc.) or 'Diplom' degree in geosciences, biology or related disciplines with a strong interest in palaeoclimate. Successful candidates should have the ability for interdisciplinary work, presentation of results at (inter)-national meetings, and writing of manuscripts. Applicants should submit: CV; Documents (copies only); Statement describing specific interest in the respective project and relevant experience; Names and addresses of two references. Materials concerning the first studentship should preferably be emailed to Dr. Enno Schefuß (schefuss@uni-bremen.de) and those concerning the second studentship to Dr. Lydie Dupont (dupont@uni-bremen.de) or they could be sent to the attention of: Dr. Lydie Dupont, c/o MARUM – University of Bremen, Leobener Straße, D-28359 Bremen, Germany. Salary will be according to the German civil service remuneration system TVL 13/2 (formerly BAT IIa/2). As the University of Bremen intends to increase the proportion of female employees in science, women are particularly encouraged to apply. In case of equal personal aptitudes and qualification, disabled persons will be given priority.

PhD position available at University of Potsdam within the Geomicrobiology group.

The HAI Project is a joint undertaking to bring together the research power of the Helmholtz Association and the University of Alberta to tackle the most pressing issues around ensuring the more sustainable use of Alberta's oil sands resource. The project comprises six inter-related research themes, which address key challenges encountered in making the entire life-cycle of oil sands production and utilization more sustainable. Because of the similarity of key issues these topics are also very germane to coal operations, which are of also great relevance to both Alberta and Germany. The six themes are:

1. Advanced upgrading and conversion processes for bitumen and heavy hydrocarbons
2. Advanced materials for CO₂ separations in bitumen and coal streams
3. Monitoring technologies for geological sequestration of carbon dioxide
4. Low enthalpy geothermal energy for enhance oil sands production
5. Oil sands tailings water management
6. Remediation, Recultivation and Reclamation of Oil Sands and Coal Mining Disturbances

The project is part of research theme six and focuses on the role of microbial activity in the newly developing soils, with special emphasis on the rhizosphere. The work is carried out in collaboration with the Organic Geochemistry Group of the GFZ Potsdam. Research at GFZ will focus on the geochemical characterisation of the natural organic matter, as well as the carbon and hydrogen isotopic composition of individual hydrocarbons in order to characterize the microbial community and its relevant metabolic processes. Research will focus on direct measurements of turnover processes by using either stable or radioisotopes, thereby tracing pathways of specific compounds through the chain of biogeochemical transformations. Additionally, molecular biological techniques will be used to characterize the microbial community.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and creative person with a Diploma or MSc. degree in geosciences, environmental sciences, soil sciences, chemistry, (micro) biology, biochemistry, or molecular microbial ecology. Candidate without a degree in Geosciences will be required to take some basic earth science courses. Fluency in English is a prerequisite, basic knowledge of German is an asset. Applicants should send a cover letter with motivation for this project, CV, a statement of research interest and the name and email address of two referees, to Dr. Jens Kallmeyer, University of Potsdam, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Karl-Liebknecht Str. 25, Haus 27, D-14476 Potsdam, Germany, or preferably by email to kallm@geo.uni-potsdam.de. For any further information or application please directly contact Jens Kallmeyer (kallm@geo.uni-potsdam.de).

Jobs

TOP 10 OrgGeo

Most cited 2005-2010

Top 10 Cited articles published in Organic Geochemistry in the last five years

- 1) Weijers J.W.H., Schouten S., Spaargaren O.C., Sinninghe Damsté J.S. (2006). Occurrence and distribution of tetraether membrane lipids in soils: Implications for the use of the TEX₈₆ proxy and the BIT index. 37(12): 1680-1693
- 2) Cheng C.-H., Lehmann J., Thies J.E., Burton S.D., Engelhard M.H. (2006). Oxidation of black carbon by biotic and abiotic processes. 37(11): 1477-1488
- 3) Sachse D., Radke J., Gleixner G. (2006). δ D values of individual n-alkanes from terrestrial plants along a climatic gradient - Implications for the sedimentary biomarker record. 37(4): 469-483
- 4) Conrad R. (2005). Quantification of methanogenic pathways using stable carbon isotopic signatures: A review and a proposal. 36(5): 739-752
- 5) Volkman J.K. (2005). Sterols and other triterpenoids: Source specificity and evolution of biosynthetic pathways. 36(2): 139-159
- 6) Hockaday W.C., Grannas A.M., Kim S., Hatcher P.G. (2006). Direct molecular evidence for the degradation and mobility of black carbon in soils from ultrahigh-resolution mass spectral analysis of dissolved organic matter from a fire-impacted forest soil. 37(4): 501-510
- 7) Milkov A.V. (2005). Molecular and stable isotope compositions of natural gas hydrates: A revised global dataset and basic interpretations in the context of geological settings. 36(5): 681-702
- 8) Brodowski S., Rodionov A., Haumaier L., Glaser B., Amelung W. (2005). Revised black carbon assessment using benzene polycarboxylic acids. 36(9): 1299-1310
- 9) Eusterhues K., Rumpel C., Kögel-Knabner I. (2005). Stabilization of soil organic matter isolated via oxidative degradation. 36(11): 1567-1575
- 10) Bi X., Sheng G., Liu X., Li C., Fu J. (2005). Molecular and carbon and hydrogen isotopic composition of n-alkanes in plant leaf waxes. 36(10) 1405-1417

OG Most cited

2010 IG NOBEL PRIZE. Some may be already nominated for 2011.

<http://improbable.com/ig/ig-pastwinners.html>

The 2010 Ig Nobel Prizes were awarded on Thursday night, September 30, at the 20th First Annual Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony, at Harvard's Sanders Theatre.

ENGINEERING: Karina Acevedo-Whitehouse and Agnes Rocha-Gosselin of the Zoological Society of London, UK, and Diane Gendron of Instituto Politecnico Nacional, Baja California Sur, Mexico, **for perfecting a method to collect whale snot, using a remote-control helicopter.** Ref. *Animal Conservation* **13**: 217-25.

MEDICINE: Simon Rietveld of the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and Ilja van Beest of Tilburg University, The Netherlands, **for discovering that symptoms of asthma can be treated with a roller-coaster ride.** Ref. *Behaviour Research and Therapy* **45**: 977-87.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING: Toshiyuki Nakagaki*, Atsushi Tero*, Seiji Takagi, Tetsu Saigusa, Kentaro Ito, Kenji Yumiki, Ryo Kobayashi* of Japan, and Dan Bebber, Mark Fricker of the UK, **for using slime mold to determine the optimal routes for railroad tracks.** Ref. *Science* **327**. Jan. 22, 2010: 439-442. (*)Co-winners this year and in 2008 awarded **for demonstrating that slime molds can solve puzzles.**

PHYSICS: Lianne Parkin, Sheila Williams, and Patricia Priest of the University of Otago, New Zealand, **for demonstrating that, on icy footpaths in wintertime, people slip and fall less often if they wear socks on the outside of their shoes.** Ref. *New Zealand Medical Journal* **122**, Jul 3, 2009: 31-8.

PEACE: Richard Stephens, John Atkins, and Andrew Kingston of Keele University, UK, **for confirming the widely held belief that swearing relieves pain.** Ref. *Neuroreport* **20**: 1056-60.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Manuel Barbeito, Charles Mathews, and Larry Taylor of the Industrial Health and Safety Office, Fort Detrick, Maryland, USA, **for determining by experiment that microbes cling to bearded scientists.** Ref. *Applied Microbiology* **15**: 899-906.

ECONOMICS: The executives and directors of Goldman Sachs, AIG, Lehman Brothers, Bear Stearns, Merrill Lynch, and Magnetar **for creating and promoting new ways to invest money — ways that maximize financial gain and minimize financial risk for the world economy, or for a portion thereof.**

CHEMISTRY: Eric Adams of MIT, Scott Socolofsky of Texas A&M University, Stephen Masutani of the University of Hawaii, and BP [British Petroleum], **for disproving the old belief that oil and water don't mix.** Ref. *Review of Deep Oil Spill Modeling Activity Supported by the Deep Spill JIP and Offshore Operator's Committee. Final Report,* Eric Adams and Scott Socolofsky, 2005.

MANAGEMENT: Alessandro Pluchino, Andrea Rapisarda, and Cesare Garofalo of the University of Catania, Italy, **for demonstrating mathematically that organizations would become more efficient if they promoted people at random.** Ref. *Physica A* **389**: 467-72.

BIOLOGY: Libiao Zhang, Min Tan, Guangjian Zhu, Jianping Ye, Tiyu Hong, Shanyi Zhou, and Shuyi Zhang of China, and Gareth Jones of the University of Bristol, UK, **for scientifically documenting fellatio in fruit bats.** Ref. *PLoS ONE* **4**, no. 10, e7595.

Humour

EAOG Notes

Change of address

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Notes