

ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY—A publication of the International Association of Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry. Editor-in-Chief: Irving A. Breger, Reston VA, USA, Vol. 1, No. 1, 63 p., Pergamon Press.

This research journal covers a broad spectrum of inter-disciplinary specialized subjects of Earth Sciences. The rapid advancement of geochemistry during the last two decades owes, at least to a part, to the increased sophistication in the analytical techniques of inorganic and organic materials based on the concepts of organic, physical and nuclear chemistry. With the advent of techniques involving chromatography, spectrometry, neutron activation, X-ray diffraction etc., it is not a problem now to isolate, detect and precisely analyse the different chemical constituents present even in minute fractions. These analytical techniques have helped in drawing new ideas and concepts in the different branches of earth science specially in geochemistry. To keep pace with this advancement, the appearance of this journal as a specialized medium for the publication of research works in the interrelated fields of organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, geology, mineralogy, biogeochemistry, oceanography, hydrology, atmospheric and extraterrestrial subjects, is befitting the needs of scientists working in these fields. The journal will also be a suitable forum for publishing results of research work on kerogen, crude oil, natural gas, coals, shales and their associated organic and inorganic substances, as well as geochemically oriented reports on palaeontological and coal petrographic studies.

The six papers that have appeared in the first issue of the journal deal with the specialized subjects narrating the results of sophisticated experiments using Gas Liquid Chromatography (GLC), Mass Spectrometry (MS), GC-MS combinations etc., with the different types of geochemical samples, along with their interpretations. The first two papers may be useful for the exploration of natural hydrocarbons and their related products. The third paper gives an idea how the occurrence and distribution of fatty acids in black sedimentary barite may serve as 'molecular fingerprints' of microbial biogeochemical processes and help as guide lines of future exploration of barite in sedimentary basins of similar nature. An account of the chemical studies with the organic detritus (suspended organic matters) in an estuarine condition have been given in the next paper with an attempt to establish the possible source of the suspended materials. In the fifth paper, pyrolysis pattern of selected organic substances sorbed on an inorganic phase in the presence of ammonia has been described and a model for the non-equilibrium production of organic compounds on Jupiter is highlighted. The last paper deals with the organic geochemical studies of Holocene sediments of eastern Canada, and concludes that the development of oxygen-deprived conditions in an environment with rapid rate of sedimentation in parts of the basin results in methane production.

The journal is expected to attract the attention of earth scientists working on various interdisciplinary specialized branches, specially those working on exploration of coal, petroleum and other mineral deposits directly or remotely related to the organic materials.

A. K. TALAPATRA

CORRECTION

'Upper Jurassic Nautiloids from Kutch' by S. Kanjilal
Jour. Geol. Soc. India, Vol. 19, No. 11, pp. 508-514.

Explanation of figures 4a-b on p. 511

in place of 1a - $\times 0.5$ read a - $\times 0.4$

in place of 1b - $\times 0.6$ read b - $\times 0.6$