

## Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0146-6380(18)30010-X

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.orggeochem.2018.01.004>

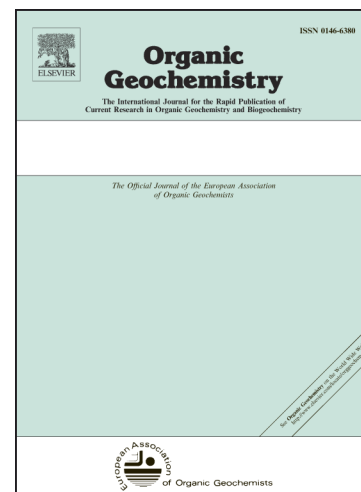
Reference: OG 3666

To appear in: *Organic Geochemistry*

Received Date: 30 August 2017

Revised Date: 20 November 2017

Accepted Date: 3 January 2018



Please cite this article as: Lei, R., Xiong, Y., Li, Y., Zhang, L., Main factors influencing the formation of thermogenic solid bitumen, *Organic Geochemistry* (2018), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.orggeochem.2018.01.004>

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# Main factors influencing the formation of thermogenic solid bitumen

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## ABSTRACT

Highly mature solid bitumen, a residue of oil cracking, is widespread in the lower Paleozoic paleo-oil reservoirs of southern China. Solid bitumen is not a simple, pure component, but rather a compositionally and structurally variable mixture of materials. This study investigated the formation of thermogenic solid bitumen and the effects of oil composition and reservoir environment. Seven series of gold-tube pyrolysis experiments were conducted: three used the main fraction groups (i.e., saturated, aromatic, and resin+asphaltene fractions) of crude oil to evaluate the effect of oil composition on the formation of solid bitumen during cracking; the other four tested the effects of water and pressure in reservoirs by simulating the cracking of crude oil under different reservoir conditions. Quantitative analyses of pyrolytic products (including methane, C<sub>2</sub>–C<sub>5</sub> gaseous hydrocarbons, C<sub>6</sub>–C<sub>13</sub> light hydrocarbons, C<sub>13+</sub> heavy hydrocarbons, and solid bitumen) indicated that thermogenic solid bitumen formed at

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