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# Thermal maturity assessment study of the late Pliensbachian-early Toarcian organic-rich sediments in southern France: Grands Causses, Quercy and Pyrenean basins

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## Abstract

Thermal maturity of late Pliensbachian-early Toarcian organic-rich sediments in the Grands Causses (Suèges section), Quercy (Caylus section) and Pyrenean (Pont de Suert section) basins was determined through multiple parameters, including Spore Coloration Index (SCI), hydroid random reflectance ( $HR_r$ ) and spectral fluorescence of *Tasmanites* algae ( $\lambda_{max}$ ). The main objective of this study is to test the effectiveness and make comparisons of organic matter thermal maturity in these three sections by different techniques and particularly hydroid reflectance.

For the Suèges section SCI presented a value of 3.5-4.0.  $HR_r$  ranges between 0.36% and 0.47%, which corresponds to 0.45% to 0.52%  $VR_{eq}$ , and shows a good correlation with SCI values. Spectral fluorescence analysis presents a  $\lambda_{max}$  of 560 nm for most samples. The fluorescence spectral maximum seems to be redshifted in comparison to other thermal maturity parameters.

The Caylus section exhibited SCI of 3.5-4.0.  $HR_r$  ranges between 0.32% and 0.50% corresponding to 0.42% to 0.54%  $VR_{eq}$ . Spectral fluorescence analysis points out a  $\lambda_{max}$

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