



ALAGO NEWSLETTER

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Latin American Association of Organic Geochemistry - ALAGO

EDITORIAL

The Vth Latin-American Congress of Organic Geochemistry will be held in Cancún, Mexico, from October 6th to 10th, and during this period members of the ALAGO will be electing the new Board at the General Assembly. A circular has been duly sent to all members to this effect. The present Board will take advantage of the opportunity to put forward a few proposals for changes in the statutes with a view to streamlining organization and administration in particular. Among these proposals, the most relevant are:

- 1) that the mandate of the executive committee be reduced from 4 to 2 years;
- 2) that future ALAGO chairmen also chair the next congress, and that...
- 3) any candidature to the post of Chairman should be accompanied by a proposal that the candidate's country be the seat of the next congress.

All fully paid-up members of the ALAGO are strongly urged to take part in the election.

In this issue of the ALAGO NEWSLETTER, the present Board of Directors will bid farewell.

First and foremost, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to and sincere admiration for the editorial staff. Great personal effort and relentless persistence have guaranteed the continued success of this publication. It has not been an easy task to encourage Latin-American geochemists to make full use of this means of communication, which is, to say the least, strange, considering that it is, to date, the only forum for those involved in this field in this part of the world.

We still feel wholly gratified by the publication of the first issue of the ALAGO's "Latin American Journal of Organic Geochemistry". The hurdles faced in the achievement of this objective have been overcome thanks to the energy and good will of its Editor-in-chief, the editorial staff and collaborators. This publication cannot and must not be discontinued. Yet responsibility for the following issues lies squarely upon our shoulders and this is a question that merits a good deal of thought on our part.

Very special mention must be made by the Board of the ALAGO to the Executive Secretary for her personal kindness, consideration and conscientiousness. We also salute the efficiency of the ALAGO treasurers, especially in the financial acrobatics of payments and receipts, since the former are usually considerably higher than the latter. Their task has been no easy one.

We would also mention the hard work put in by those responsible for the success of the IVth Congress in Bucaramanga, Colombia, just as we hope for the smooth running of the next Congress in Cancún for the organizers.

And, in conclusion, we express our gratitude to everyone, both individuals and corporate members, who have lent their support to the ALAGO in the knowledge that this is a communication tool that unites all those involved in the field of Organic Geochemistry, not only within Latin-America, but also on a worldwide basis.

To you all, we extend what we believe to be one of our most powerful assets, common to all Latin-Americans...

"A big hug"!

Jorge Alberto Trigüis
President of the ALAGO

THE 5th LATIN-AMERICAN CONGRESS ON ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY

Cancún is to be the host for the Congress. It is a resort of world renown on the Caribbean coast of Mexico that boasts the most up-to-date facilities, while zealous of its Mayan past. All that is to be expected of a tropical paradise can be found in this beautiful city, while flowing beneath, there is an unavoidable undercurrent of the mysteries of a bygone culture.

This is to be the latest event in a series of successful meetings under the auspices of the ALAGO, this time in conjunction with the Mexican Association of Petroleum Geologists (the AMPG). The Congress is open to all aspects of Organic Geochemistry, including basin modelling, exploration, production and environmental geochemistry, to name but a few. Over 130 papers from most of the countries of Latin-America, Europe, China and the United States have been chosen for oral and poster presentation. The program will also include three keynote papers, two short courses on reservoir and environmental geochemistry and one workshop on basin modelling.

The keynote conferences will be given by Steve Larter (Reservoir and Production Geochemistry), Michel Moldowan and Marcio Mello (Petroleum Exploration Geochemistry) and George Wolff (Environmental Geochemistry).

The technical exhibition, an integral part of the Congress, will provide in-depth information on recent developments in analytical techniques, tools and software.

I cordially invite you to join us in Cancún to take part in a memorable experience from every point of view. Latin-America, both technical and social, awaits you!

So, "Nos vemos en Cancun"

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration fees include:

- Access to the technical exhibition
- Relevant printed matter and the proceedings congress volume (except accompanying persons)
- Participation in social events (including an "icebreaker cocktail party and Mexican dinner")
- Lunch (Oct 6-9)
- Breakfast (Oct 6-10, for conventioneer's lodging in The Fiesta Americana Condesa Hotel)

Accommodation:

The 5th ALAGO Congress will be held at the Fiesta Americana Condesa Hotel which offers for single or double occupancy, suites with preferential rates of \$80.00 US dollars plus taxes, per night and will keep these rates for five days before and after the Congress. It goes without saying that this is in the interest of all participants and reservation should be made before September 15, 1996 by fax to: Fiesta Americana Condesa Cancun Hotel (5th Latin American Congress on Organic Geochemistry) Boulevard Kukulcan km 15.5 Cancun, QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO on (525) 326 67 02

Proceedings:

The ALAGO board of directors have decided that in addition to proceedings congress volume, a special volume of the Latin American Journal of Organic Geochemistry will be published with accepted meeting papers. For those interested, **please prepare the presentation in full and have it ready on the date of the event according to the editorial rules of the Latin American Journal of Organic Geochemistry.** These include:

- 1) Manuscripts may be submitted in any of three languages: Spanish, Portuguese or English. Each manuscript should be accompanied by an abstract in English and another in Portuguese or in Spanish. Abstracts should have no more than 200 words. Three copies of each manuscript, typed and doubled spaced, must be submitted.
- 2) Figures and tables should be prepared on individual pages and accompanied by legends.
- 3) Legends for figures and tables should appear on separate accompanying pages. All figures and tables should be in final form ready for printing.
- 4) References in the text start with the name of the author(s), followed by the publication date in brackets. The reference list should be prepared following the rules of the journal Organic Geochemistry.
- 5) One set of proofs will be sent to the author for checking. In case of two or more authors please indicate to whom the proofs should be sent.
- 6) Fifty reprints of each articles published are supplied free of charge. Additional reprints can be ordered on a reprint order form, which is included with the proofs.

Mario Alberto Guzman Vega

LATIN-AMERICAN GEOCHEMISTS DEVELOPING RESEARCH OVERSEAS

Engineer Luis Enrique Navarrete Reyes, of CUPET (Cuba Petroleo), CEINPET (Centro de Investigaciones del Petroleo) is at present undertaking his Master's Degree in Organic Geochemistry at the French Petroleum Institute (IFP) under the supervision of Dr. Eric Lafargue. Luis Enrique has chosen to focus his attention on the application of Organic Geochemistry in petroleum exploration and production with special emphasis on, and research into innovative methods of extraction. Taking as a starting point "Rock-Eval" techniques, with the inclusion of other geochemical processes and such "software" as "Rockint and Optikin", he has carried out studies into production and spill in a basin in South-east Asia and the dynamics of Cuban lodes of Type II, IIS and II-III.

At the moment, he is studying the C₁₅ fraction of 40 Cuban crude oils. The continuity of distinct reservoirs has been under study through techniques such as GC and GC-MS-MS, plus the phenomena of biodegradation, water-washing, maturation and the mixtures of migration pulses in Cuban crude oils. The latter has been detected from the contradiction between the fractions C₁₅₊ and C₁₅₋ of these oils. The presence of compounds of the adamantane family in crude oil of low maturity may serve as a good example of this.

Current address:
CUPET/CEINPET
Washington y Churrucá, Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba

Geologist Henrique L. de B. Penteado from the Geochemistry Section of Petrobras R&D Center (CENPES) is currently doing his Ph.D at the French Petroleum Institute (Institut Francais du Petrole) in Rueil Malmaison, France. He is performing 2D basin modeling studies of petroleum generation and migration under the supervision of Dr. Jean-Luc Rudkiewicz of the Geology-Geochemistry Division of IFP. The Reconcavo Basin, one of the most prolific oil-producing onshore basins in Brazil, has been chosen as the target area of his studies, since much structural, stratigraphic, paleontological, geochemical and reservoir knowledge has been accumulated in over 50 years of basin exploration and production. Regarding geochemical data, a large set of TOC, Rock-Eval pyrolysis, organic petrography, liquid chromatography, GC, GC-MS, carbon isotope and kinetic results are available to constrain generation and migration modeling. Several modeling scenarios are being envisaged, taking into account different hypotheses of geotectonic evolution, heat flow history, original source-rock richness and role of faults during migration. Presently, compositional kinetics is being applied to modeling of a cross-section in the southern part of the basin. This approach might enhance the comprehension of phenomena such as source rock differential retention of petroleum fractions, fractionation during migration and caprock effectiveness in Reconcavo Basin, as well as providing a more precise estimation of the timing of generation and migration in various structural compartments.

Current address:
Institut Francais du Petrole
Division Geologie-Geochemie
1-4 avenue Bois Preau - 92506 - Rueil Malmaison - France

The chemist Vladimir O. Elias, from Instituto de Quimica- Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro -, has joined the Organic Geochemistry Group of the College of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences (Oregon State University) working as research assistant of Dr. Bernd R.T. Simoneit. The Amazon continental shelf continues the main subject of his studies, which will include now samples from the Amazon river as well as remote sites within the Amazonian forests. Apparently, the organic matter on the shelf suffers an accelerated diagenetical process. For instance, the spore coloration (from yellow to black), *n*-alkanes with low odd preference, presence of UCM in most samples, among others, may be evidences of this accelerated process. In this regard, the samples from the Amazonian forests and rivers are essential for comparison purposes.

Our additional interest is to find biomarkers from specific natural and anthropogenic sources and group them as fingerprints of a specific origin which in the future will possibilite, for instance, when analysing samples containing compounds from pirogenic origin, to know what type of vegetation was burned.

Current address:
College of Oceanography & Atmospheric Sciences - Oregon State University
104 Ocean. Admin Bldg - Corvallis - OR 97331-5503 - USA
Email: velias@oce.orst.edu
Tel: (541)737-2741 FAX: (541)737-2064

"REVISTA LATINO-AMERICANA DE GEOQUÍMICA ORGÂNICA"

The first volume of the "REVISTA LATINO-AMERICANA DE GEOQUÍMICA ORGÂNICA" (Latin-American Journal of Organic Geochemistry) was published in 1995 and distributed to 900 specialists. Letters of congratulations and support poured in from several Latin-American countries and from as far afield as North America, Europe and Australia. The contents of this edition included:

TRINDADE, L.A.F. & BRASSELL, S.C. - Carbon isotopic composition of mixed oils from the Potiguar Basin, Brazil
SOLDAN, A.L.; CERQUEIRA, J.R.; FERREIRA, J.C.; TRINDADE, L.A.F.; SCARTON, J.C. & CORÁ, C.A.G. - Giant deep water oil fields in Campos Basin, Brazil: A geochemical approach
ARAUJO, C.V.; CORRÊA DA SILVA, Z.C. & RODRIGUES, R. - Petrographic and geochemical study of coals from Santa Terezinha Coalfield, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
VERGARA-S.L. - Organic geochemical data from Caballos Formation, Upper Magdalena Valley, Colômbia

The second volume, which is currently in the presses, should have been distributed by the beginning of the Vth Congress and will include the following:

TOCCO, R.; MENDES, M. & CECCARELLI, C. - Geochemical study of crude oils in the Machete area, Eastern Venezuelan basin: effects of biodegradation
CORRÊA DA SILVA, Z.C.; ARAUJO, C.V.; CAZZULO-KLEPZIG & MARQUES-TOIGO, M. - Organic facies, maturation and depositional environments of coals from the borehole 2-AO-01-RS, Rio Grande do Sul, South Brazil
GUZMÁN-VEGA, M.A. & MELLO, M.R. - Macuspana basin, Southeast Mexico: an example of a Tertiary marine deltaic petroleum habitat
MELLO, M.R. & GUZMÁN-VEGA, M.A. - Biomarker characterization of oils in the Salina Basin, Mexico


The third volume will be devoted to papers delivered at the Vth Congress in Cancún (details of which can be found in the article by Mario Gúzman on page 2), and we anticipate that it will live up to the same high level of its predecessors.


We would like to reiterate our request to all our colleagues throughout Latin-America to send papers for publication. Only by such contributions can we possibly hope to maintain both a continual delivery of a semiannual journal and a standard of scientific excellence that would be expected of such a publication.

Zuleika C. Corrêa da Silva
Editor

18th International Meeting on ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY
Chairman: Dr. Brian Horsfield

Preliminary Announcement
For the first time in its history, EAOG's International Meeting on ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY is going "Borderless"!
... convened in the Netherlands
... coordinated from Germany
... a British chairman
... a "European" meeting


Place: Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Centre
Date: 22 - 26 September 1997
Topics: Details to be finalised early in 1996.
However, we can already guarantee an exciting blend of Biogeochemistry, petroleum geochemistry and analytical innovations.
Features: Parallel oral sessions, poster sessions
Field trips in Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands
Industrial exhibition

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ALAGO NEWSLETTER

Editorial Board
María Regina B. Loureiro
UFRJ - Brazil

Carla Viviane Araújo
PETROBRAS / CENPES - Brazil

Translator
Garry Robinson

PUBLISHED SEMIANNUALLY
Correspondence may be addressed to:
ALAGO - CENPES / DIVEX / SEGEQ:
Ilha do Fundão; Quadra 7,
21949-900; Rio de Janeiro - RJ; Brazil;
Telex: 21 31219 PETRO BR
Telefax: 55(21) 598-6799
Phone: 55(21) 598-6459