Organic Geochemistry of Miocene Oil Shale Deposits in the Eskişehir Basin, Western Anatolia, Turkey

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In the Eskişehir Basin, which is located in western Turkey, oil shales occur in alternation with claystone, siltstone, conglomerate and coal (lignite) levels in lacustrine deposits of Early-Middle Miocene age. In boreholes 37, 52 and 57 opened at three locations, oil shales with respective thicknesses of 20, 25 and 30 m were cut. Organic geochemical features of the shale core samples were evaluated based on the results of TOC/pyrolysis, GC and GC-MS analyses.

Oil shales are represented by very high TOC contents (6.32-37.15 wt. %), Hydrogen Index (HI=392-777 mgHC/gTOC), Potential Yield (PY=35.50-159.32 mgHC/g rock) and very low Oxygen Index (OI=13-92 mgCO₂/gTOC) values. Oil shales with dominant Type II kerogen show high HI values, S_2/S_3 (5.49-56.79) ratios and have organic matter sufficient to generate oil. Oil shales posses low T_{max} (421-435°C) and PI (0.01-0.05) values.

Extremely low Pr/Ph ratios (0.17-0.96) of oil shales are indicative of anoxic conditions. C₂₇ is the dominant sterane for samples from both wells and surface samples. C₂₈ is dominant sterane for only one sample. Normal steranes are more abundant than iso- and diasteranes and diasterane abundances are very low. 20S/(20S+20R) and $\beta\beta/(\beta\beta+\alpha\alpha)$ sterane ratios are also quite low.

While oil shale samples have generally low tricyclic terpane (C₁₉-C₂₉) abundance, these oil shales were characterized by very high C₃₀ (R+S) tricyclic terpane content. For all the oil shales C₂₉/C₃₀ hopane, C₃₁R homohopane/hopane and moretane/hopane ratios are high and Ts/(Ts+Tm) and C₂₉Ts/(C₂₉Ts+C₂₉H) ratios are low. 22S homohopanes are recorded in lower quantities in comparison to 22R epimers and 22S/(22S+22R) homohopane ratio is very low.