

Evidences of Petroleum Movement from Organic-rich Shale/Marlstone into Sandstone- A Case Study from Lacustrine Basin in Huahai Depression, Jiuquan Basin, West China

HU JIAN^{1,2}, CHEN JIANPING²

¹ Institute of Geology and Geophysics, China Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 100029, P.R.China (*correspondence: hjwjk@126.com)

² Petrochina Research Institute of Petroleum Exploration and Development, Beijing, 100083, P.R.China (chenjp@petrochina.com.cn)

Expulsion of petroleum hydrocarbons from shale source rocks has never been answered perfectly[1]. A compelling evidence from both geochemical and petrophysical recognitions illustrates the movement of petroleum from organic-rich shale/marlstone into sandstones, occurring in the subsurface. Three different shale-sandstone payzones in a typical lacustrine petroliferous stratigraphic column have been selected to demonstrate the difference.

(i) GC oil fingerprints from sandstone dominated intervals show unmodified distribution with high C₁₅-hydrocarbons distribution. The oily coating presents an oil-wet interconnection among the intergranular pores;

(ii) GC oil fingerprints from shale-sandstone interbedded intervals reveal a unimodal and significant mass lost in C₁₅-hydrocarbons distribution. Microscope observations from the transitional section varies;

(iii) GC oil fingerprints from the shale dominated exhibit similar profile and unmodified, while show lighter-end biased distribution. Petrophysical figures illustrate the ubiquitous and representative heterogeneity in laminar algal shale and marlstone[2] deposited in seasonal lacustrine sedimentation.

Sandstone dominated reservoir suggest conventional oil accumulation and movement of hydrocarbons. Interbedded intervals indicate complex transitional geochemical process and interfacial interaction. Thick shale or marlstone is available for either higher maturation from the geothermal increase or petroleum expulsion from the overpressure release caused by artificial exhumation.

[1] Mackenzie et al.(1983) *Nature*, 301(5900):506-509.

[2] Tu et al. (2012) *Acta Petro. Sinica*, 28(3):917-926.