Activity of large scale supercritical CO₂ and its impact on hydrocarbon accumulation

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Accumulation of large volumes of CO_2 related to mantle degassing, metamorphic reactions or magmatic processes had been found in many hydrocarbon-bearing sedimentary basins around the world, such as the Otway Basin in Australia, Shabwa Basin in Yemen, Santos Basin in Braziland and Songliao, Bohai Bay, north Jiangsu and Pearl river mouth Basins in China. The entrapment of CO_2 has impacted hydrocarbon accumulation and leads to coexistance of CO_2 and hydrocarbon in many reservoirs. Huangqiao reservoir, in the north Jiangsu Basin, is a typical one that contains supercritical CO_2 and light oil mainly in the Permian Longtan Formation (P₂I). Howerer, how the supercritical CO_2 impact hydrocarbon accumulation has not been well studied.

Calcite and quartz veins in P_2 l show positive Eu anomaly, relatively light in oxygen isotope and rich in radiogenic ⁸⁷Sr. The maximal frequency of homogenization temperature of the fluid inclusions in calcite and quartz veins is 170°C to 180°C, indicating the activity of CO₂ at relatively high temperature.

The CO₂ caused significantly dissolution of feldspar in P₂l to create large amount of secondary pores. Consequently, the reservoir quality was greatly enhanced with porosity as high as 12.3%. The typical mineral, dawsonite, related to alteration of albite under high CO₂ partial pressure was observed.

The temperature and pressure of P_2l are higher than 60°C and 17MPa, respectively, and as a result the CO₂ shoule be in supercritical state. The supercritical CO₂ can extract oil from hydrocarbon source rocks and consequently accelerate migration of oil to reservoir. The fluid inclusions in quartz and calcite veins contain oil as well as CO₂, suggesting existence of such process. The CO₂, carrying oil, migrates upward and accumulates in reservoir in P_2l .

The gravity of the oil in the Huangqiao reservoir is 0.7933 ~ 0.8255 and the abundance of saturated hydrocarbon is 90.1% ~ 97.4%. However, in the nearby Jurong reservoir without CO₂, the gravity of the oil is 0.8696 ~ 0.9293 and the abundance of saturated hydrocarbon is 50.2% ~ 78.7%. The comparative signatures indicate the supercritical CO₂ mainly carries light oil. As a result, many wells in the Huangqiao reservoir produce more than 1000m³ CO₂ and 1 ton light oil.