Geochemistry of trace elements in Neogene lignite from the Mengtuo of Lincang, western Yunnan, China

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The Mengtuo village of Boshang town in Lincang is adjacent to the Dazhai coal-hosted Ge deposit. To investigate the geochemistry of Mengtuo Neogene lignite and compare it to the Dazhai Ge-rich coal, 11 bump coal samples were collected from the one illegal mine operated by local residents. The trace elements were determined by ICP-MS and ICP-CCT-MS (As and Se).

Compared to the geochemical feature of the Dazhai coals[1], beryllium (44.5x), Ge (1147x), As (14.2x), Nb (6.0x), W (15.9x), Tl (5.0x), Th (12.2x) in the Mengtuo lignite indicates a different geochemical composition.

With respect to the common Chinese coals [2], the Mengtuo lignite are significantly enriched in Rb (96.1 mg/kg), Sb (15.3 mg/kg), and Cs (25.9 mg/kg); enriched in W (10.6 mg/kg) and U (20.2 mg/kg); slightly enriched in Be (7.84 mg/kg), Ga (16.1 mg/kg), As (11.6 mg/kg), Cd (0.67mg/kg), In (0.10 mg/kg), Sn (6.66 mg/kg), Pb (34.6 mg/kg), Bi (3.86 mg/kg), and Th (28.2 mg/kg), differentiating all coalhosted Ge deposits (enriched in Be, As, Ge, Sb, Cs, W, Hg, and Tl).

A significant geochemical characteristic of the Mengtuo lignite is the typical UCC-normalized REY distribution pattern, significantly positive Ce anomaly and negative Eu anomaly, suggesting a different REY origin and/or post-diagenetic conditions to the hydrothermal solutions influenced Dazhai coals.

[1]Dai S., Wang P., Ward C.R., Tang Y., Song X., Jiang J., Hower J.C., Li T., Seredin V.V., Wagner N.J., Jiang Y., Wang X., Liu J., (2015). International Journal of Coal Geology 152, 19-46. [2]Dai S., Ren D., Chou C.-L., Finkelman R.B., Seredin V.V., Zhou Y., (2012). International Journal of Coal Geology 94, 3-21.

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