

Organic petrological characteristics of limnic and paralic coals of Sarawak

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An organic petrological study was performed on Tertiary coals from the Merit-Pila and the Mukah-Balingian coalfields of Sarawak. The main objective of this study was to determine the petrological characteristics of these coals in relation to their environment of deposition. The coals analysed were deposited in two distinct depositional settings. The Mukah-Balingian coals were deposited under paralic conditions of a lower coastal plain setting whilst the Merit-Pila coals were

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deposited inland under limnic condition of a lacustrine setting. Differentiation of these depositional settings are based on the presence of diagnostic macerals, such as alginite, and on cross plots of gelification index (GI) versus tissue preservation index (TPI). While both sets of coals possess TPI values < 1 , the paralic origin coals generally possess GI values > 10 whilst limnic coals possess GI values < 10 .