

**A survey of thermal maturation indicators for western Newfoundland strata:
key tools in the search for hydrocarbons**

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A number of thermal maturation indicators from various Paleozoic strata of western Newfoundland are examined as tools in the search for hydrocarbons. Among the indicators tested, acritarchs provide the most sensitive results for strata in and around the oil window. Graptolites, while abundantly recorded in rocks of western Newfound-

land, are not particularly sensitive to shallow burial metamorphism. They are, however, significant indicators for more deeply buried rock. Distribution maps for the thermal alteration indicators clearly identify surface exposures of the most prospective rocks.