

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NITROGEN ISOTOPE AND SEDIMENTARY REDOX CONDITIONS OF THE UPPER TRIASSIC OF ORDOS BASIN, CENTRAL CHINA

Juan Chen, Jianfa Chen, Shengbao Shi, Kaixuan Liu, Liwen He, Yifan Wang

State Key Laboratory of Petroleum Resources and Prospecting, China University Petroleum Beijing

Nitrogen isotope analyses of source rocks began in earnest in the 1980's. This field developed slowly for the subsequent 30 years mostly due to the technical difficulty of making measurements in N-poor samples (Ader et al., 2016). Nitrogen isotopes are often measured in bulk sediment from cores to evaluate nitrogen cycle reactions and sedimental water column redox (Ganeshram et al., 1995; Ganeshram et al., 2002; Ganeshram et al., 2000; Quan et al., 2013; Quan et al., 2008).

In this study, we measured the stable nitrogen isotope of shale sample from the Upper Triassic Yanchang Formation, Ordos Basin, central China to evaluate the characteristic of depositional environment. Yanchang Formation Chang7 member is the thick black mudstones and rich organic matter source rocks. Also Chang7 member is the largest flooding period in this large lacustrine basin (Li et al., 2016).

We measured $\delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{bulk}}$, organic carbon isotopes ($\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$) and total organic carbon (TOC) from a core of Yan56 well from Erdos Basin that contains Chang7 Member. Chang7 member are divided into three sub-members, from Chang7₁ at the top to Chang7₃ at the bottom. $\delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{bulk}}$ are higher in the Chang7₃ (average $\delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{bulk}}=4.2 \pm 1.5\text{‰}$) than in the Chang7₁ and the Chang7₂ (average $\delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{bulk}}=3.6 \pm 0.6\text{‰}$, average $\delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{bulk}}=2.9 \pm 1.3\text{‰}$ respectively). However, there is no significant difference in TOC and $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ of Chang7 member, indicating the organic source are same.

Trace element indicators and biomarkers indicated Chang7 member deposited in the dyoxic and fresh lacustrine environment. The V_r/Cr, U/Th, V/(V+Ni), Sr/Ba trace element indicators and Pr/Ph, GI index implied the salinity and reductibility of Chang7₃ is higher than that of Chang7₁ and Chang7₂ member. There is a good corresponding relation between $\delta^{15}\text{N}_{\text{bulk}}$ and redox index. And we suggest that $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ can inform the sedimental water column redox condition.

Reference

- Ader, M. et al., 2016. Interpretation of the nitrogen isotopic composition of Precambrian sedimentary rocks: Assumptions and perspectives. *Chemical Geology*, 429: 93-110.
- Ganeshram, R.S., Pedersen, T., Calvert, S., Murray, J., 1995. Large changes in oceanic nutrient inventories from glacial to interglacial periods. *Nature*, 376(6543): 755-758.
- Ganeshram, R.S., Pedersen, T.F., Calvert, S., François, R., 2002. Reduced nitrogen fixation in the glacial ocean inferred from changes in marine nitrogen and phosphorus inventories. *Nature*, 415(415): 156-9.
- Ganeshram, R.S., Pedersen, T.F., Calvert, S.E., McNeill, G.W., Fontugne, M.R., 2000. Glacial-interglacial variability in denitrification in the World's Oceans: Causes and consequences. *Paleoceanography*, 15(4): 361-376.
- Li, X. et al., 2016. Mud-coated intraclasts: A criterion for recognizing sandy mass-transport deposits – Deep-lacustrine massive sandstone of the Upper Triassic Yanchang Formation, Ordos Basin, Central China. *Journal of Asian Earth Sciences*.
- Quan, T.M., Adigwe, E.N., Riedinger, N., Puckette, J., 2013. Evaluating nitrogen isotopes as proxies for depositional environmental conditions in shales: Comparing Caney and Woodford Shales in the Arkoma Basin, Oklahoma. *Chemical Geology*, 360-361: 231-240.

Quan, T.M., van de Schootbrugge, B., Field, M.P., Rosenthal, Y., Falkowski, P.G., 2008. Nitrogen isotope and trace metal analyses from the Mingolsheim core (Germany): Evidence for redox variations across the Triassic-Jurassic boundary. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, 22(2): n/a-n/a.