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#### The History of Oil Exploration in the Union of Myanmar

Scott E. Thornton\*

<https://doi.org/10.1190/ice2015-2210594>

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The Union of Myanmar (nee Burma) has had oil exploration since the first hand-dug wells were drilled in the Central Burma basin around 900 BC. In 1755, when Myanmar was part of the British colonial empire of India, early British soldier-diplomats visited ...

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## South East Asia (excluding PNG)



### Multiple Stratigraphic Reservoirs Related With Weathered Granite Buried-Hill in Betara Uplift, South Sumatra Basin, Indonesia

Ximin Lyu\*, Li Yang, Weihua Guo, Ronghua Wang, and Qianfeng Han

<https://doi.org/10.1190/ice2015-2204584>

Pages: 116–116

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Betara uplift is located at the northern margin of South Sumatra back-arc rift basin in Indonesia, which is a secondary unit of Jambi depression. The area covers more than one thousand square kilometers. The basement of Betara uplift is made up of granite,...

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### Opportunities in Frontier North Papua Basin, Indonesia: Constraints From Oil Seep of the Teer River and Its Expected Petroleum System

Junita T. Musu, Himawan Sutanto\*, David V. Mamengko, Anggi Yusriani, Andi Mannappiang, and Awang H. Satyana

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Pages: 117–117

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North Papua Basin is a forearc basin located in the North Papua, Indonesia. The basin has been categorized as frontier basin due to limited exploration activities. There have been 10 wells drilled since 1950, 5 wells of which are dry, 1 well with oil and ...

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### Large-Scale Retreat and Advance of Shallow Seas in Southeast Asia Driven by Mantle Flow

Sabin Zahirovic\*, Nicolas Flament, Dietmar Muller, Maria Seton, and Michael Gurnis

<https://doi.org/10.1190/ice2015-2211482>

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# Opportunities in Frontier North Papua Basin, Indonesia: Constraints From Oil Seep of the Teer River and Its Expected Petroleum System

Authors:

Junita T. Musu, Himawan Sutanto\*, David V. Mamengko, Anggi Yuzriani, Andi Mannappiang, and

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ABSTRACT

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## Abstract

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**Keywords:** sediment, geochemical, seepage

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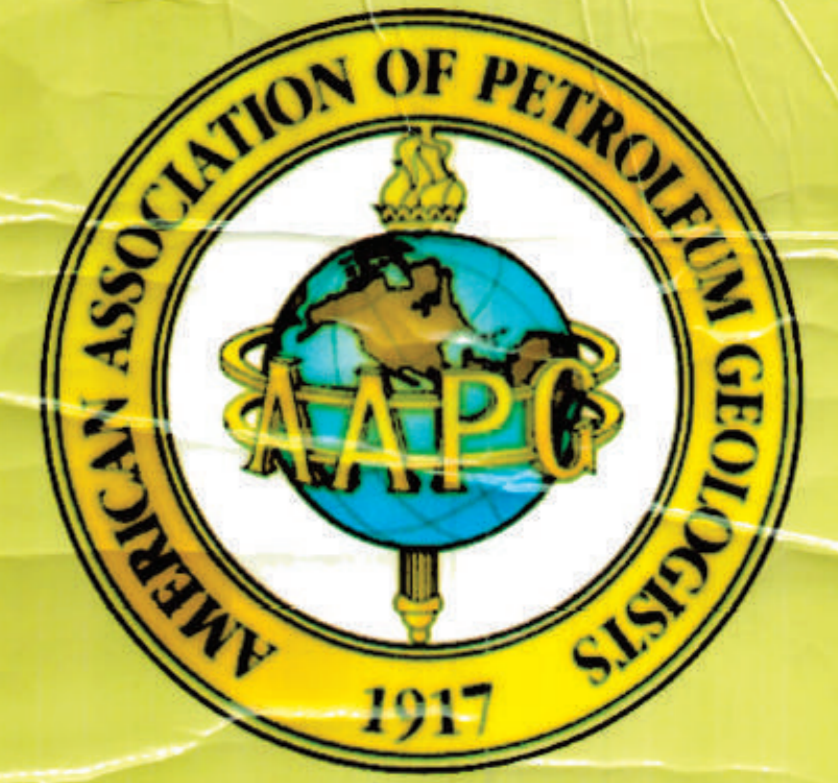
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## KEYWORDS



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Junita T. Musu\*, Himawan Sutanto\*, David V. Mamengko\*\*, Anggi Yusriani\*,  
Andi Mannappiang \*, Awang H. Satyana\*\*\*

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## Abstract

North Papua Basin is a forearc basin located in the northern part of Papua, Indonesia. The basin has been categorized as frontier basin due to limited exploration activities. There have been 10 wells drilled since 1950, 5 wells of which are dry, 1 well with oil and gas show, and 4 wells were plugged and abandoned due to overpressure. Nevertheless, hydrocarbons have occurred within the basin as indicated by one well with hydrocarbon shows and the presence of famous oil seep of the Teer River. This study will show new results of geochemical analyses of the oil seep and petroleum system evaluation, improving the basin's prospectivity.

The oil seep has been sampled and analysed for their biomarkers using gas chromatography (GC) and gas chromatography/ mass spectrometry (GC/ MS) of saturate triterpanes m/z 191, steranes m/z 217, and aromatic methyl phenanthrene (m/z 178 and m/z 192). The oil seep is minor biodegraded based on the distribution of n-alkanes. The isoprenoid pristane/ phytane ratio indicates that the oil was generated from shaly to coally source rocks deposited in oxidizing environment. High peak of Oleanane from triterpanes and the appearance of Bicadinanes from steranes conclude that the source rocks are Miocene in age at the oldest, from kerogen type III. Based on methyl phenanthrene distribution, the oil was generated from a maturity equivalent with Ro of 0.9 (optimum maturity).

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**Keywords :** North Papua Basin, Makats and Memberamo "B" Formations, Teer River oil seep, geochemical analysis and petroleum system evaluation.

## Introduction

North Papua Basin is a fore arc basin located on the north coast of Papua, where the exploration activity is still insignificant. However, the presence of hydrocarbons is characterized by the presence of oil seeps of the River Teer (Mamengko *et al.*, 2014). The occurrence of hydrocarbons (Figure 1) is evidence of interest for further investigation of the petroleum system in the fore arc basin which is expected can provide indications for exploration within this area.

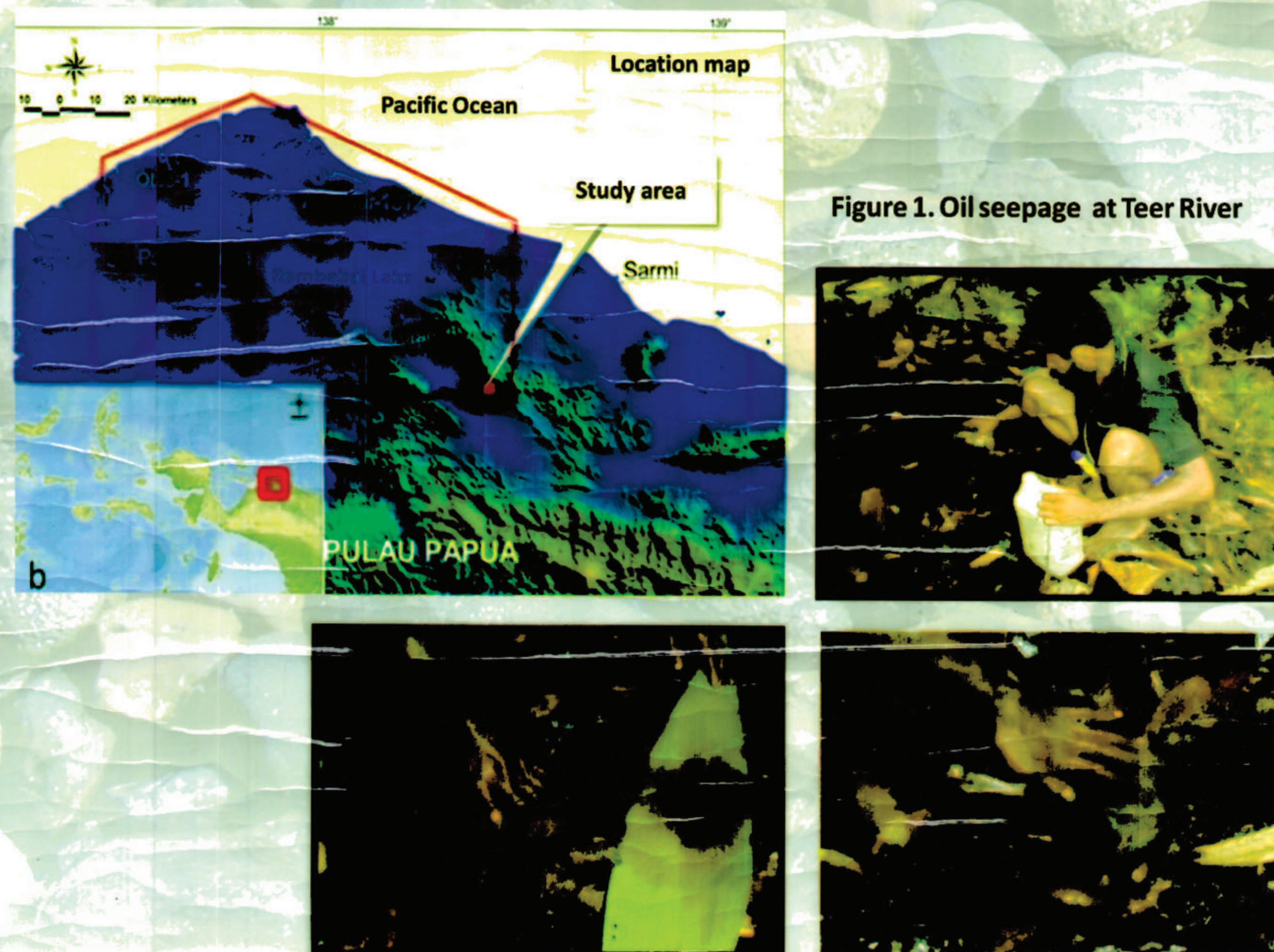


Figure 1. Oil seepage at Teer River

## Regional Geology

North Papua Basin is a deep structural depression (Figure 2) filled by thick Neogene and Quaternary depositional sequences (Figure 3). Tectonically, it is a forearc basin which was resulted from convergent movement of the Australian continental plate and the Pacific Plate or Carolina Micro Plate. Throughout the Pliocene until now, the center of the basin has been passed by a large fault (major left-lateral strike slip fault), known as Yapen Fault Zone (Mamengko *et al.*, 2012).

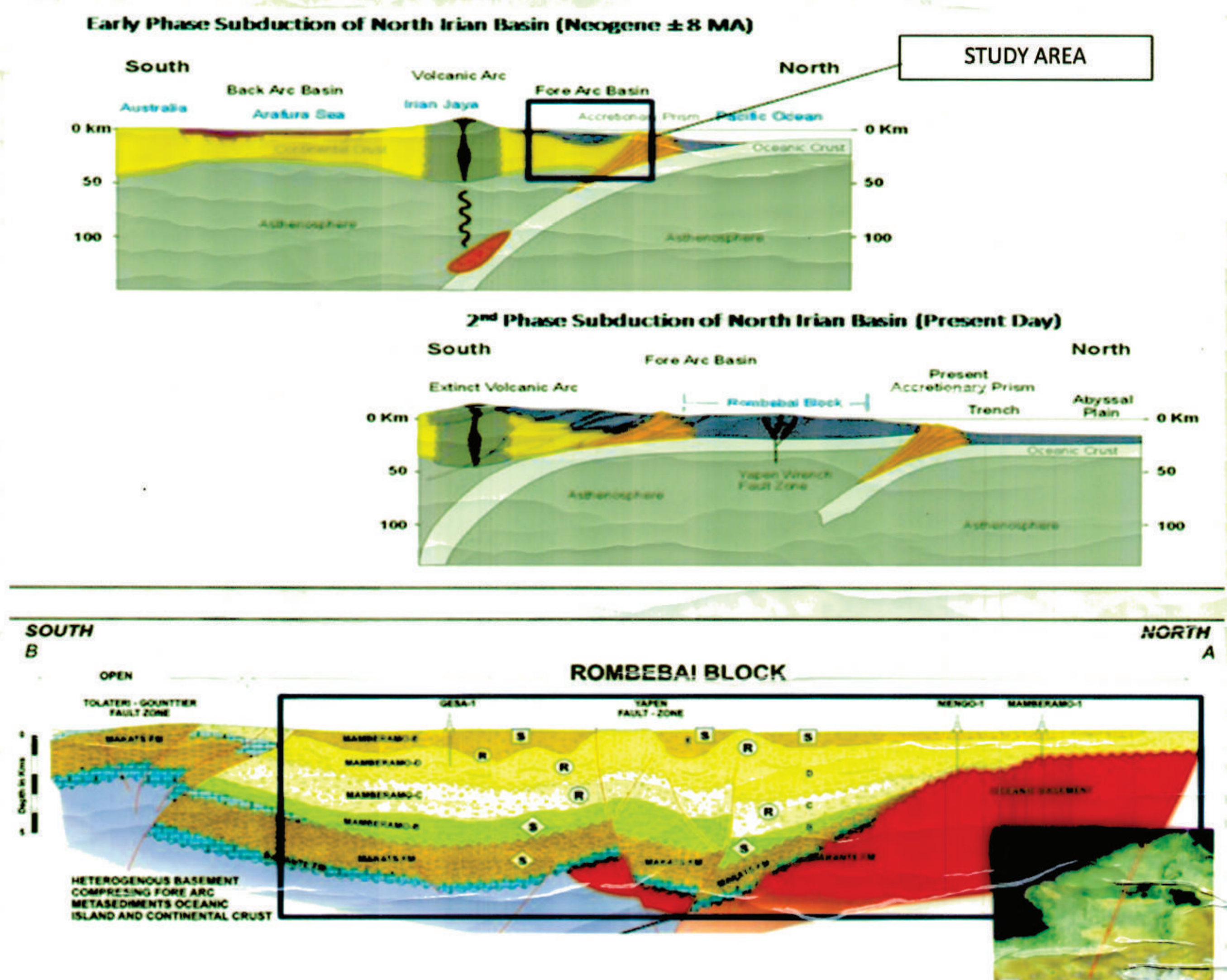


Figure 2. Papua Basin sub-surface configuration.

AGE	FORMATION NAME (PRIOR DUTCH NAME)	LITHOLOGY & FACIES VARIATIONS	TECTONISM & COMMENTS
HOLOCENE TO RECENT	KOEOENDOERI FORMATION OR ADJA FORMATION		Largely undifferentiated clastics of the Mamberamo delta delta system. Locally referred to as Koekendoeri and Adja Formations.
PLIOCENE - PLEISTOCENE	MAMBERAMO FORMATION (SARMI FM.) WHEN CLASTICS FACIES	MAMBERAMO "E" Member 1,300 m Thick MAMBERAMO "D" Member 1,500 m Thick	Basin sedimentation consists of widespread turbidites shoaling upwards to deltaic systems. Widespread reeal carbonate deposition in sediment starved marginal areas particularly to the eastern portion of the North Irian Basin.
	HOLLANDIA FORMATION WHEN DOMENANTLY LIMESTONE FACIES	MAMBERAMO "C" Member 3,000 m Thick MAMBERAMO "B" Member 900 m Thick	Localized unconformities observed. Widespread reeal carbonate deposition in sediment starved marginal areas particularly to the eastern portion of the North Irian Basin. Basin sedimentation consist of widespread turbidites shoaling upwards to deltaic systems.
	MAKATS FORMATION (FOEII Fm.)	MAKATS FORMATION (FOEII Fm.) 1,550 m Thick	Regional hiatus. Major unconformity basin wide. Onset of rapid subsidence. Basin sedimentation consist of widespread turbidites shoaling upwards to deltaic systems. High organic content, good oil source rock.
	DARANTE FORMATION	DARANTE FORMATION 850 m Thick	Coralline reefal limestone. Locally mixed with minor volcanics.
PALEOGENE EARLY OLILOCENE	AUWEWA FORMATION (BIRI FM.)	Auwewa Volcanics Member Biri Limestone Member 3,150 m Thick	Regional hiatus. Compressional tectonic event, folding and metamorphism. Mark colusion of Indo-Aussie Plate with Caroline-Pacific. Diorite intrusives, abyssal plain shales, deep water limestones.
PRE-TERTIARY	UNDIFFERENTIATED OCEANIC CRUST CRYSTALLINE BASEMENT COMPLEX		Ophiolites, Basalt Volcanics Diorite Intrusives.

Figure 3. Stratigraphy of North Papua Basin consists of several formations (Mamengko, 2012; Haebig, 1999; and Lemigas, 2005).

## Methodology

**Geochemistry:** This study uses oil samples from the Teer River and are analyzed using gas chromatography (GC), gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS). The samples were prepared for hydrocarbon GC analysis, and prepared to column DB-1 (J&W) GS with a size of 10 mx 0:21 mm inner diameter by using split-less injection. The MS conditions is ionized mode (electron impact - EI, EM voltage was 1980 volts; electron energy was 70 eV and source temperature of 250 ° C). Oil seeps are tested based on the occurrences of normal alkanes, including isoprenoid, triterpane, sterane, and carbon isotopes. Biomarker data used in this study is limited only on common mass ion, namely triterpane (m/z 191) and sterane (m/z 217). The later stage is analyzed to determine source rocks, depositional environments of source rocks, and thermal maturity level of oil seeps using methyl phenanthrene aromatic hydrocarbon based distribution (m/z 178 and 192).

**Basin Modeling:** Basin modeling was conducted to determine the potential kitchen.

2D modeling uses the software (s/w) Temis 2D version 4.0.2.

### Parameters:

Surface Temperature : 28°C  
Geothermal Gradient : 0.04°C/m  
Bottom Temperature : 180°C  
Bottom Heatflow : 0.065 W/m<sup>2</sup>

### Capillary pressure:

Source rock :  $\delta \pi$  10.00 Mpa,  $\pi$  (min) 5.00 Mpa  
Seal :  $\delta \pi$  20.00 Mpa,  $\pi$  (min) 8.00 Mpa  
Reservoir rock/carrier :  $\delta \pi$  20.00 Mpa,  $\pi$  (min) 0.04 Mpa

### Permeability:

Reservoir rock : 5.00E+07 (Kozeny-Carman Law)  
Seal : 5.00E+07 (Kozeny-Carman Law)  
Reservoir rock/carrier : 1.50E+07 (Kozeny-Carman Law)

### Kerogen type

Source rock of Makats Formation : TOC 3.5%, Type III  
Source rock of Silat Formation : TOC 4.5%, Type III

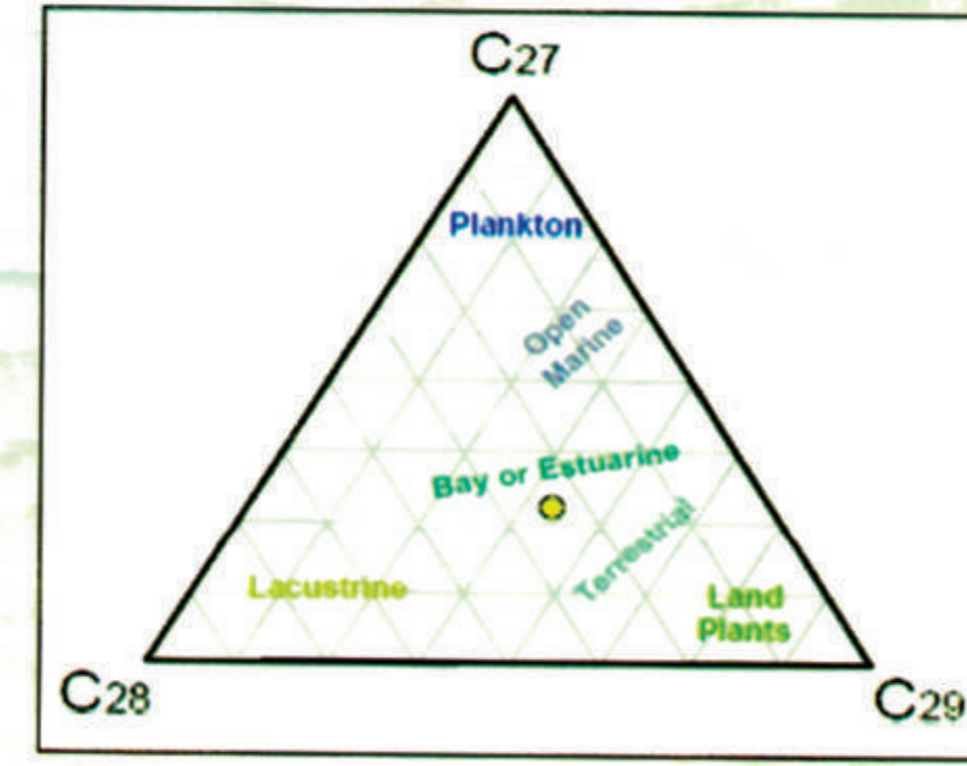
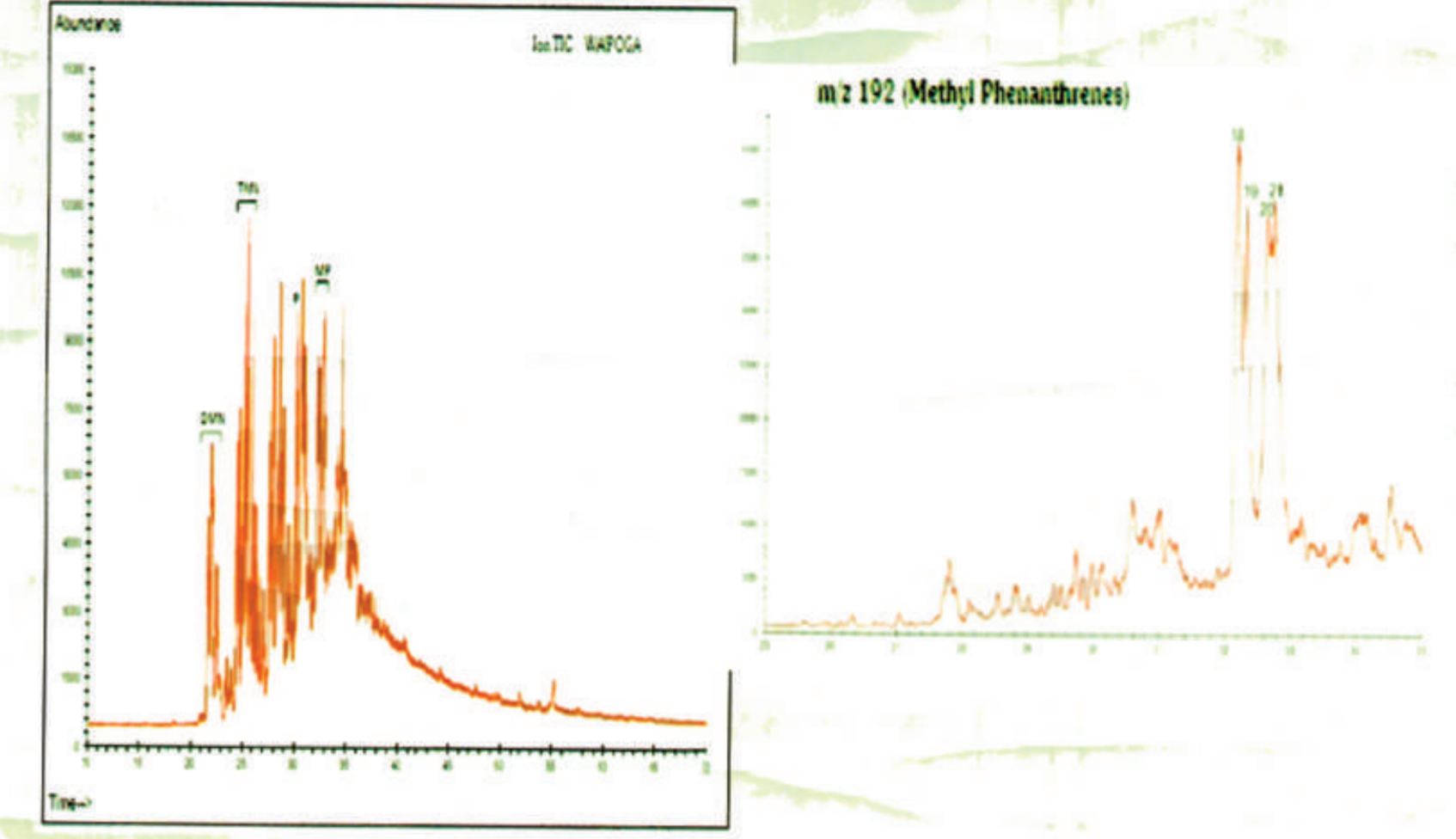


Figure 7. Triangular plot shows source rock of hydrocarbon from bay or estuarine.



Aromatic Ratio					
Naphthalene Ratio		Phenanthrene Ratio			
DNR-1	: 2.74	MPI-1	: 0.85	Rc1	: 0.91
DNR-6	: 2.43	MPI-2	: 0.74	Rc2	: 0.95
TNR-1	: 1.12	MPR-1	: 2.28	Ro1	: 1.04
TNR-3	: 0.34	MPR-2	: 1.04	Ro2	: 0.76
TNR-4	: 0.37	F1	: 0.54	C <sub>16</sub> TA (%) / C <sub>14</sub> TA + C <sub>16</sub> TA	: 51.05
		F2	: 0.23	C <sub>16</sub> TA (%) / C <sub>14</sub> MA + C <sub>16</sub> TA	: -

Figure 8. Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry of aromatic fraction (m/z 178 dan 192) shows thermal maturity of Teer River.

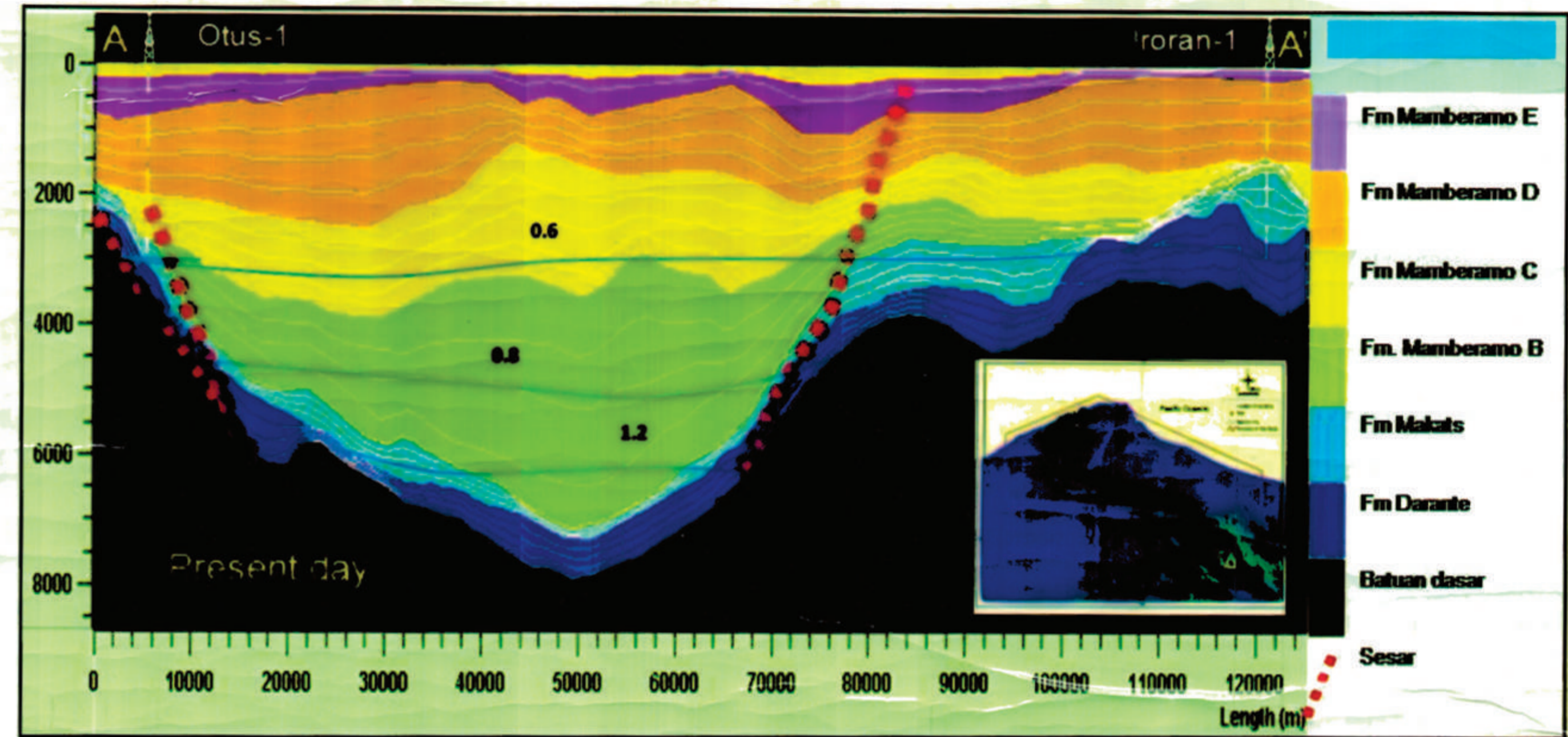


Figure 9. 2D modeling of key seismic lines showing oil and gas window in studied area.

## Results and Discussion

Hydrocarbons with a predominance odd carbon number (Figure 4) generally indicates terrestrial depositional environment. Moreover, the ratio Pristane/phytane greater than 3 can be interpreted as a hydrocarbon source rocks deposited in oxidizing conditions with the type of coals or silty coals (ten Haven *et al.*, 1988; Peters *et al.*, 2005).

Analysis of GC/ MS is focused on sterane (m/z 217) and triterpane (m/z 191). Triterpane and sterane biomarkers can show the organic matters forming hydrocarbons and their depositional environments. Results of the analysis of GC/ MS on samples of hydrocarbon from River Teer (Figures 5 and 6) show the abundance bicadinane (m/z 217) and oleanane (m/z 191) which indicates the source rock-forming hydrocarbons is Tertiary with terrestrial organic material especially flowering plants or Angiosperm (Van Aarsen *et al.*, 1992; Peters *et al.*, 2005). Triangular diagram C27, C28 and C29 (Figure 7) shows that the hydrocarbons derived from source rock containing organic material or estuarine bay.

Hydrocarbon samples also showed maturity (Rc) of the source rock is 0.9 based on the calculation of aromatic methyl phenanthrene m/z 178 and 192 (Figure 8).

Basin modeling (Figure 9) shows early oil window occurs at a depth of approximately 3000 meters.

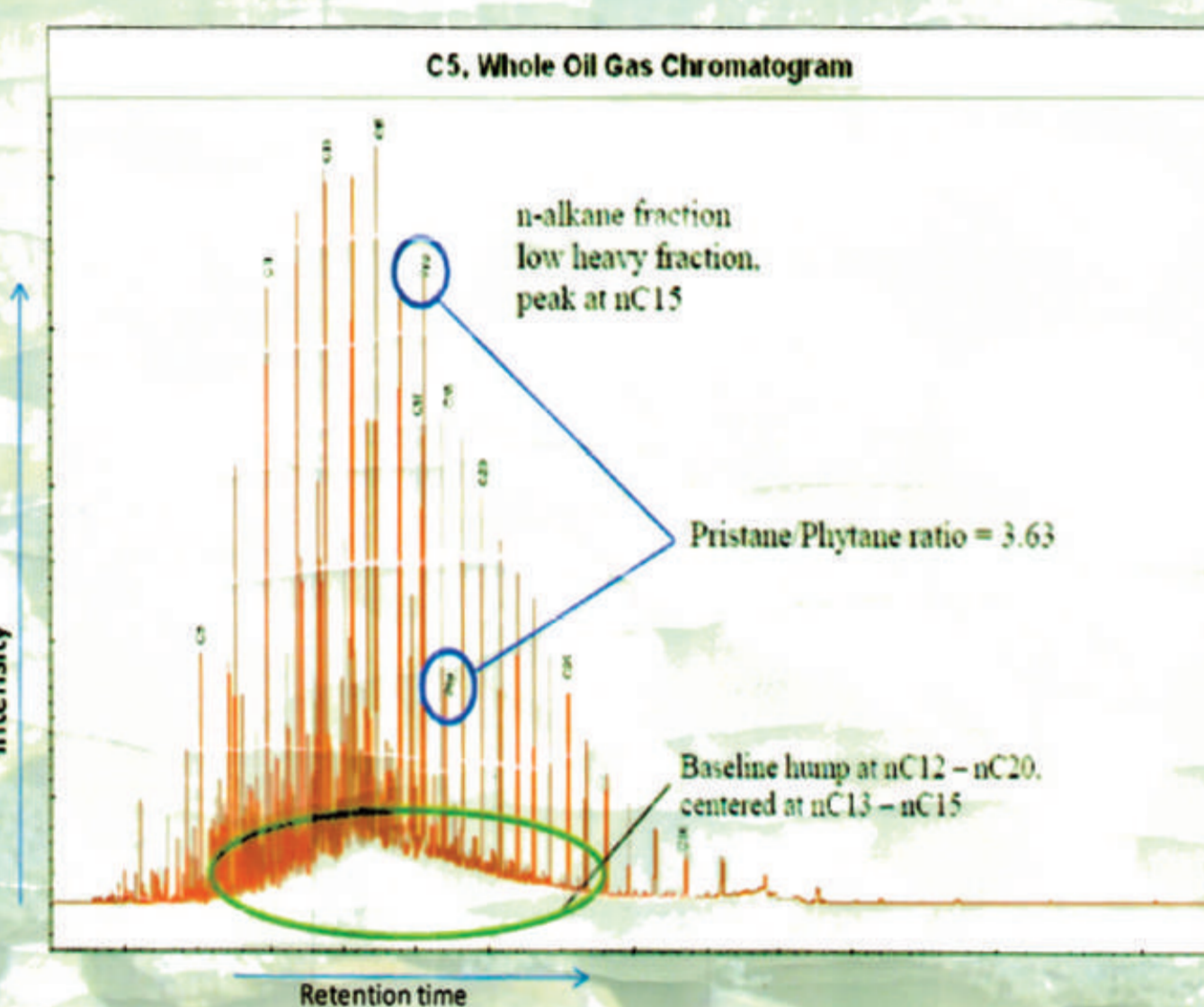


Figure 4. Gas Chromatography of hydrocarbon sample from Teer River shows the ratio of Pr/Ph (Darman and Mamengko, 2007).

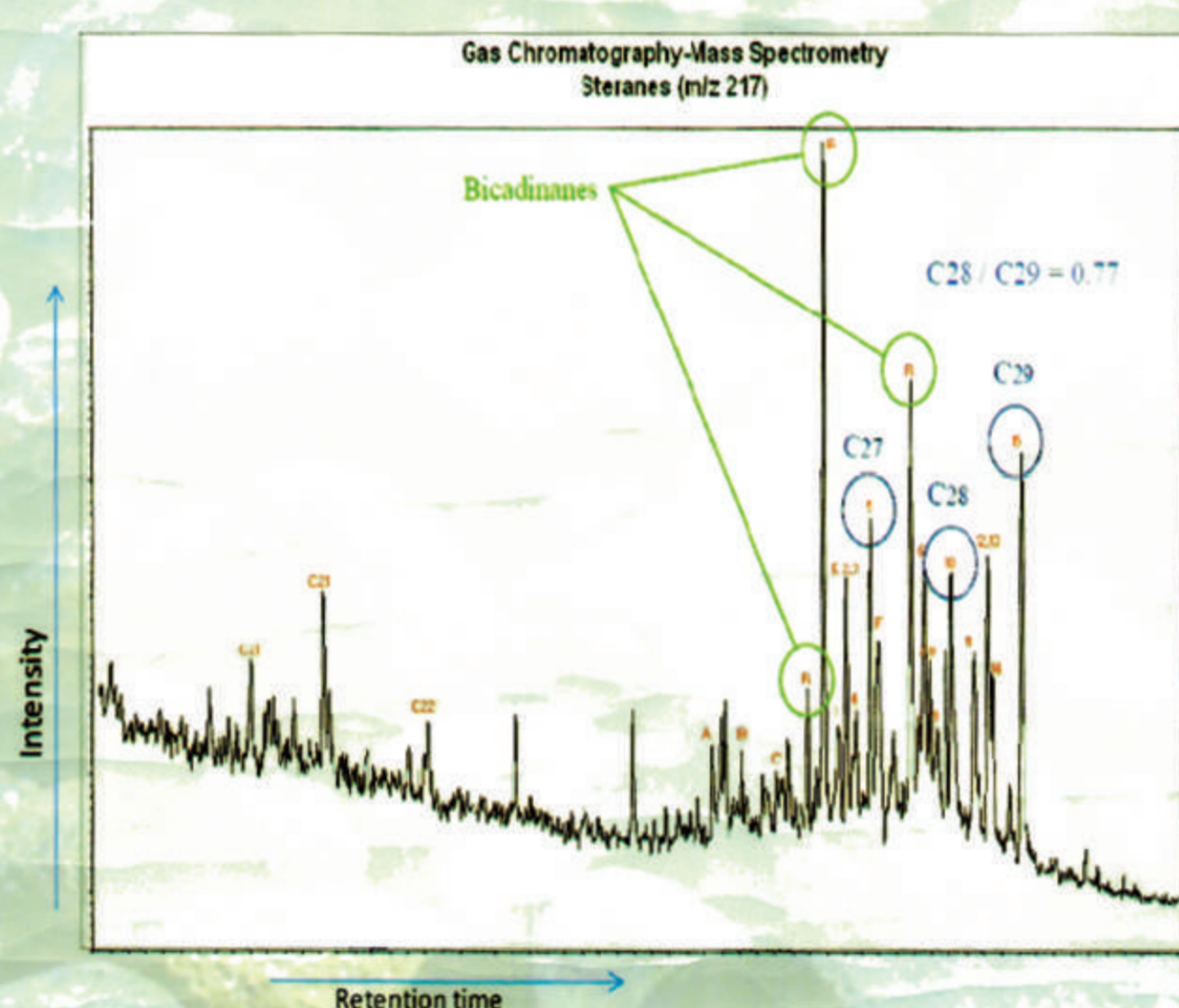


Figure 5. Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (m/z 217) of hydrocarbon sample of Teer River shows the occurrence of bicadinane as an indication of higher plant of Tertiary.

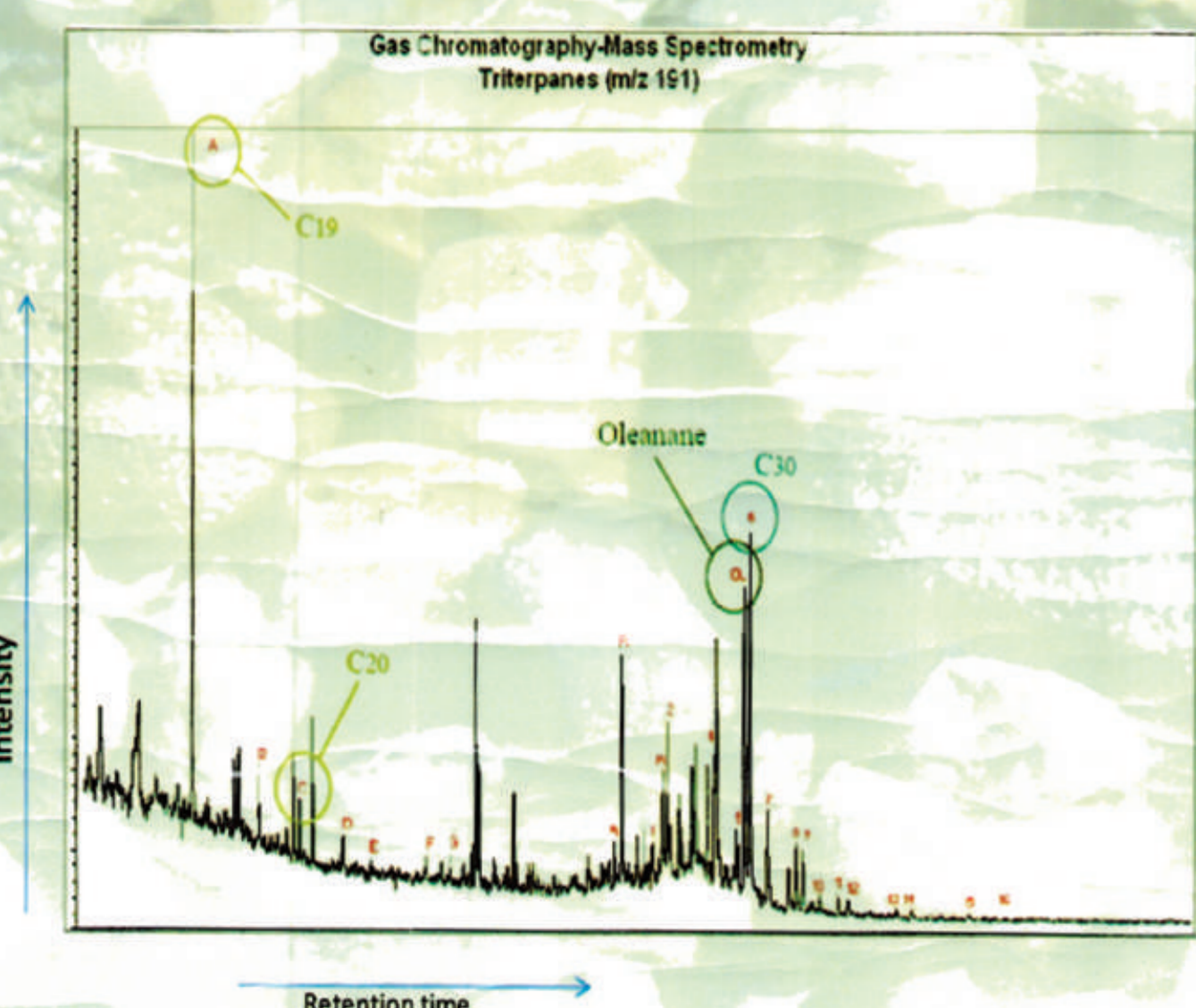


Figure 6. Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (m/z 191) of hydrocarbon sample of Teer River shows the domination of Oleanane peak of higher plant as an indication of terrestrial organic material.

## Conclusion

- Results of analysis of oil seeps at Teer River have characteristics of Tertiary source rock with terrestrial to bay/ estuarine environment with organic material derived from higher plants or Angiosperm with oxidizing conditions. Type of source rocks are considered as shales, carbonaceous shales or coals. Based on these results, the source rocks are most likely Makats or Memberamo "B" Formations.
- The presence of source rocks generating oils as shown by the oil seep of the Teer River shows the presence of active petroleum system within the study area. Further study is worth to do to examine kitchen distribution and identifying traps.

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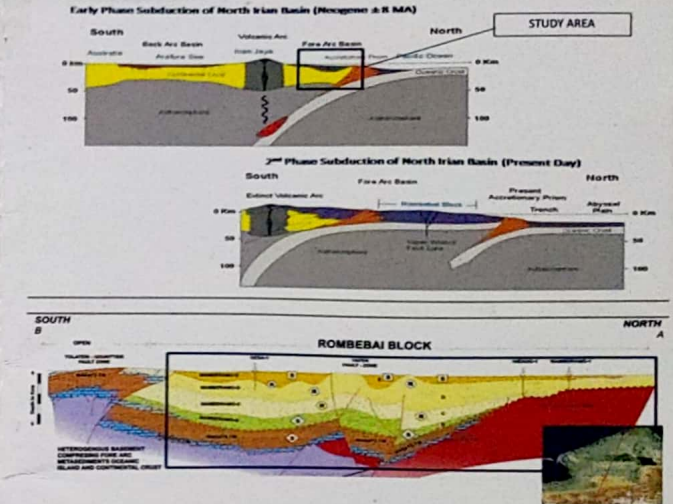


Figure 2. Papua Basin sub-surface configuration.

AGE	FORMATION NAME (PRIOR DUTCH NAME)	LITHOLOGY & FACIES VARIATIONS	TECTONISM & COMMENTS
HOLOCENE TO RECENT	KOENIGSDORP FORMATION OR ADJA FORMATION		Largely undifferentiated clastics of the Memberamo delta system. Locally referred to as Koenigsdorfer and Adja Formations. REGION UPLIFT & FAULTING BANUA ARC FORMED
PLOSICE - PLEISTOCENE	MEMBERAMO FORMATION (SARMI FM.) WHEN CLASTICS FACIES	Memberamo "B" 1,300 m Thick	Basin sedimentation consists of widespread turbidites shoaling upwards to deltaic systems. Widespread relict carbonate deposition in sediment starved marginal areas particularly in the eastern portion of the North Irian Basin.
	OR HOLLANDIA FORMATION WHEN DOMINANTLY LIMESTONE FACIES	Memberamo "B" 1,300 m Thick Memberamo "C" 1,000 m Thick Memberamo "D" 800 m Thick	LOCALIZED UNCONFORMITIES OBSERVED Widespread relict carbonate deposition in sediment starved marginal areas particularly to the eastern portion of the North Irian Basin. LOCALIZED UNCONFORMITIES OBSERVED
MG TO LATE MIOCENE	MAKATS FORMATION (FOEB FM.)	Memberamo "E" 1,350 m Thick	Basin sedimentation consist of widespread turbidites shoaling upwards to deltaic systems. REGIONAL HIATUS MAJOR UNCONFORMITY BASIN WIDE, ONSET OF RAPID SUBSIDENCE.
LATE OLIGOCENE - MG MIOCENE	DARANTE FORMATION	850 m Thick	Basin sedimentation consist of widespread turbidites shoaling upwards to deltaic systems. High organic content, good oil source rock.
PALEOCENE - EARLY OLIGOCENE	ALUWEWA FORMATION (BIRI FM.)	Aluwewa Volcanics Member Biri Limestone Member 3,150 m Thick	Coralline reef limestone. Locally mixed with minor volcanics. REGIONAL HIATUS COMPRESSIONAL TECTONIC EVENT, FOLDING AND METAMORPHISM, MARK COLLISION OF INDONESIA-PACIFIC PLATE WITH CAROLINE-PACIFIC.
PRE-TERTIARY	UNDIFFERENTIATED OCEANIC CRUST CRYSTALLINE BASEMENT COMPLEX		Diorite intrusives, apraxial plain shales, deep water limestones. Ophiolites, Basalt Volcanics, Diorite intrusives.

Figure 3. Stratigraphy of North Papua Basin consists of several formations (Kunst, 1986; McAdoo & Haebig, 1999; and Lemigas, 2005).

## Methodology

**Geochemistry:** This study uses oil samples from the Teer River and are analyzed using gas chromatography (GC), gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS). The samples were prepared for hydrocarbon GC analysis, and prepared to column DB-1 (J&W) GS with a size of 10 mx 0.21 mm inner diameter by using split-less injection. The MS conditions is ionized mode (electron impact - EI, EM voltage was 1980 volts; electron energy was 70 eV and source temperature of 250 ° C). Oil seeps are tested based on the occurrences of normal alkanes, including isoprenoid, triterpane, sterane, and carbon isotopes. Biomarker data used in this study is limited only on common mass ion, namely triterpane (m/z 191) and sterane (m/z 217). The later stage is analyzed to determine source rocks, depositional environments of source rocks, and thermal maturity level of oil seeps using methyl phenanthrene aromatic hydrocarbon based distribution (m/z 178 and 192).

**Basin Modeling:** Basin modeling was conducted to determine the potential kitchen.

2D modeling uses the software (s/w) Temis 2D version 4.0.2.

**Parameters:**  
 Surface Temperature : 28°C  
 Geothermal Gradient : 0.04°C/m  
 Bottom Temperature : 180°C  
 Bottom Heatflow : 0.065 W/m<sup>2</sup>

**Capillary pressure:**  
 Source rock : δ ± 10.00 Mpa, π (min) 5.00 Mpa  
 Seal : δ ± 20.00 Mpa, π (min) 8.00 Mpa  
 Reservoir rock/ carrier : δ ± 20.00 Mpa, π (min) 0.04 Mpa

**Permeability:**  
 Reservoir rock : 5.00E+07 (Kozeny-Carman Law)  
 Seal : 5.00E+07 (Kozeny-Carman Law)  
 Reservoir rock/ carrier : 1.50E+07 (Kozeny-Carman Law)

**Kerogen type**  
 Source rock of Makats Formation : TOC 3.5%, Type III  
 Source rock of Silat Formation : TOC 4.5%, Type III

## Results and Discussion

Hydrocarbons with a predominance odd carbon number (Figure 4) generally indicates terrestrial depositional environment. Moreover, the ratio Pristane/phytane greater than 3 can be interpreted as a hydrocarbon source rocks deposited in oxidizing conditions with the type of coals or silty coals (ten Haven *et al.*, 1988; Peters *et al.*, 2005).

Analysis of GC/ MS is focused on sterane (m/z 217) and triterpane (m/z 191). Triterpane and sterane biomarkers can show the organic matters forming hydrocarbons and their depositional environments. Results of the analysis of GC/ MS on samples of hydrocarbon from River Teer (Figures 5 and 6) show the abundance bicadinane (m/z 217) and oleanane (m/z 191) which indicates the source rock-forming hydrocarbons is Tertiary with terrestrial organic material especially flowering plants or Angiosperm (Van Aarssen *et al.*, 1992; Peters *et al.*, 2005). Triangular diagram C27, C28 and C29 (Figure 7) shows that the hydrocarbons derived from source rock containing organic material or estuarine bay.

Hydrocarbon samples also showed maturity (Rc) of the source rock is 0.9 based on the calculation of aromatic methyl phenanthrene m/z 178 and 192 (Figure 8). Basin modeling (Figure 9) shows early oil window occurs at a depth of approximately 3000 meters.

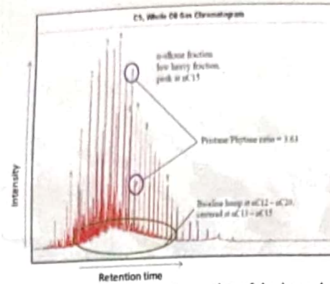


Figure 4. Gas Chromatography of hydrocarbon sample from Teer River shows the ratio of Pr/Ph (Darman and Mamengko, 2007).

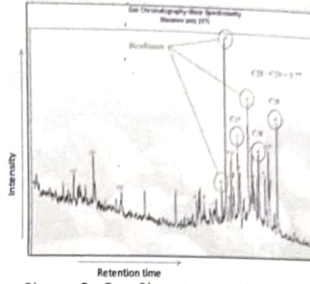


Figure 5. Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (m/z 217) of hydrocarbon sample of Teer River shows the occurrence of bicadinane as an indication of higher plant of Tertiary.

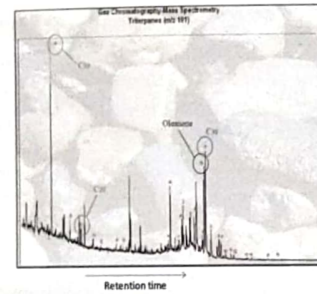


Figure 6. Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (m/z 191) of hydrocarbon sample of Teer River shows the domination of Oleanane peak of higher plant as an indication of terrestrial organic material.

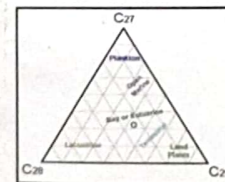
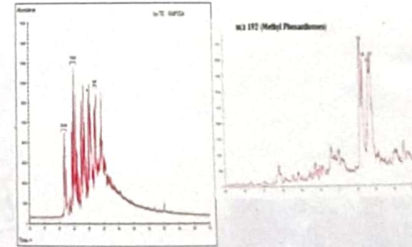


Figure 7. Triangular plot shows source rock of hydrocarbon were from bay or estuarine.



Aromatic Ratio			
Naphthalene Ratio		Phenanthrene Ratio	
DNR-1	2.74	MPI-1	0.85
DNR-6	2.43	MPI-2	0.74
TRN-1	1.32	MPI-1	2.20
TRN-3	0.84	MPI-2	1.01
TRN-4	0.97	F1	0.54
		F2	0.23
		Rc1	0.93
		Rc2	0.93
		Ra1	1.04
		Ra2	0.76
		C <sub>27A</sub> (%) / C <sub>27A</sub> + C <sub>27B</sub>	93.85
		C <sub>28A</sub> (%) / C <sub>28A</sub> + C <sub>28B</sub>	

Figure 8. Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry of aromatic fraction (m/z 178 dan 192) shows thermal maturity of Teer River.

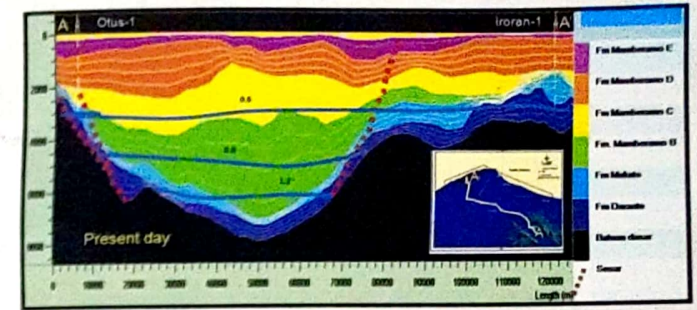


Figure 9. 2D modeling of key seismic lines showing oil and gas window in studied area.

## Conclusion

- Results of analysis of oil seeps at Teer River have characteristics of Tertiary source rock with terrestrial to bay/ estuarine environment with organic material derived from higher plants or Angiosperm with oxidizing conditions. Type of source rocks are considered as shales, carbonaceous shales or coals. Based on these results, the source rocks are most likely Makats or Memberamo "B" Formations.
- The presence of source rocks generating oils as shown by the oil seep of the Teer River shows the presence of active petroleum system within the study area. Further study is worth to do to examine kitchen distribution and identifying traps.

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