International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology



Commission II, Pseudovitrinite Working Group

Convenor: Dr Lila W. Gurba

**Progress Report 2019-2021**

*prepared for*

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR COAL AND ORGANIC PETROLOGY

COMMISSION II

PSEUDOVITRINITE WORKING GROUP

***Dedicated to the memory of Prof Colin R. Ward***

(To be presented in Prague: September 2021)

**1. Introduction**

At the 71st ICCP Meeting in The Hague the convenor briefly presented a historical review of the work carried out by the two former pseudovitrinite WGs, i.e., the first one in 1965-1982 with focus on the effect of pseudovitrinite on carbonization properties of coal and the second one reactivated in 1996 with focus on its origin, and significance of pseudovitrinite in coal rank studies and coalbed methane exploration.

The convenor announced her intention to conclude the WG activities and presented a list of deliverables. The convenor commented that more information on the working group activities and achievements should be provided in open area on the ICCP website.

*ICCP News No 75 December 2019, Minutes of Commission II:* [*https://www.iccop.org/documents/iccp-news-no-75.pdf/*](https://www.iccop.org/documents/iccp-news-no-75.pdf/)

**2.** **Progress towards objectives of the Pseudovitrinite Working Group**

The progress towards objectives of the PSV WkG as set-up at the ICCP meeting in Heerlen (1996) was briefly discussed at the meeting in The Hague, and this is covered in a review of some of the more significant stages and findings in the paper ‘***Pseudovitrinite - An appraisal of the work carried-out by the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP)”.*** This review of the work to date on pseudovitrinite by ICCP is presented in two parts. The first part (A.H.V.S) summarises progress by the Nomenclature Sub-commission and subsequently by the pseudovitrinite working group within the Analysis Sub-commission of the ICCP from 1966 to 1970. It also includes some later work initiated in 1979 as a prerequisite for convening a new pseudovitrinite working group. The second part (L.W.G and B.K) covers the years 1996 - 2008 with update until 2020, when a new pseudovitrinite working group was active under Commission II of ICCP.

For more information refer to the ICCP website: <https://www.iccop.org/workinggroup/pseudovitrinite-working-group/>

**3. The key deliverables from the Pseudovitrinite Working Group**

1. A bibliography of published papers, unpublished open file reports, abstracts from symposia, and unpublished data –
   1. Status: 1st Draft completed (February 2020). It will be accessible from the ICCP website.
2. Atlas of pseudovitrinite microphotographs –
   1. Status: completed; it will be uploaded to the ICCP website.
3. **Scientific Publications**:

***[a] Pseudovitrinite - An appraisal of the work carried-out by the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP***). Lila W. Gurba, A. Harold V. Smith, Barbara Kwiecinska and others.

*Status*: the 1st draft completed. Following the review process by the ICCP members, it is planned to submit for publication in the International Journal of Coal Geology by the end of 2021.

**[b] ICCP Pseudovitrinite Handbook** **(White Paper)**

To discuss and resolve the varied opinions concerning pseudovitrinite, in particular its nature, origin and practical importance in coal rank studies and coal bed methane exploration

*Status*: 1st draft finalized (L. Gurba, J. Kus and M. Misz-Kennan); it will be circulated to the PSV WkGr members for further input and review. It is planned to submit for publication in the International Journal of Coal Geology in 2021.

**4. Activities for 2020-2021 as setup at the ICCP Meeting (The Hague):**

1. Update the ICCP website Commission II Working Groups to include Pseudovitrinite WkG;
   1. **Status (September 2021): completed**. In February 2020, the ICCP website Commission II Working Groups has been updated to include Pseudovitrinite Working Group. The Convenor provided an overview of the working group activities, objectives, and deliverables: <https://www.iccop.org/workinggroup/pseudovitrinite-working-group/>
   2. In addition, a comprehensive document with historical record of all activities of the Pseudovitrinite WkG since 1996 has been prepared and it can be downloaded from the ICCP website Commission II Working Groups: Gurba, L.W., 2020. Record of Pseudovitrinite Working Group activities: <https://www.iccop.org/documents/pseudovitrinite_wg_summary-of-activities_1995_2019.pdf/>
2. Upload Progress reports and other historical documents;
   1. **Status: completed**; A comprehensive set of past reports, documents, letters, etc (above 22 files) uploaded to the ICCP website: *Gurba, L.W., 2020: Progress Reports & Historical documents (1996-2008)* <https://www.iccop.org/workinggroup/pseudovitrinite-working-group/>
3. The following Tasks to be completed in 2021
   1. Upload Album of pseudovitrinite microphotographs;
   2. Circulate draft papers for review

* The progress has been made towards completion of the paper on *‘Pseudovitrinite - An appraisal of the work carried-out by the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP),* and on
* the Pseudovitrinite Handbook (White Paper), comprising a discussion on its origin, reflectance, bireflectance, micro-chemistry, etching, microhardness, as well as significance in coal rank studies and coalbed methane exploration