Hydrothermal hydrocarbon gases: 2, Application in the East African Rift System

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Abstract—Hydrocarbon gases are ubiquitous in the hydrothermal systems of the East African Rift System (EARS), though often found at very low concentrations in the 'volcanic' eastern branch as compared to the 'sedimentary' western branch. Study of the chemical and isotopic compositions of these hydrocarbons from sites in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Uganda reveals considerable homogeneity over hundreds of km of the various rift units. Consideration of C and He isotopic evidence points to a predominantly crustal thermogenic origin for the hydrocarbons, there being no evidence of mantle inputs in either the MORB or 'hotspot' sectors of the EARS.

Temperature information from geothermal wells has been utilised to investigate the relationship between reservoir temperatures and ratios of methane to ethane. The general C_1/C_2 geothermometric relationship proposed in Part 1 of this study (Darling, this issue) holds reasonably well, and is shown to give results equal to or better than the 'inorganic' gas geothermometers presently in use, both in the wellfields and undeveloped high-enthalpy geothermal areas. Results from low-enthalpy hot spring systems are less well correlated with apparent deep temperatures, but consistent with data from similar systems elsewhere in the world.

INTRODUCTION

Part 1 of this study of light hydrocarbons in hydrothermal systems dealt with data from areas worldwide, and arrived at certain conclusions regarding the origin of the gases and their possible use for geothermometry (DARLING, this issue). Part 2 considers results from the East African Rift System in the context of these findings.

The East African Rift System (EARS) is shown in Fig 1. The eastern branch ('Eastern Rift') contains many areas of geothermal activity, chiefly high-enthalpy and usually found in association with late-Quaternary volcanic centres. The generally rather arid nature of climate in the Eastern Rift has resulted in groundwater levels often a considerable distance below surface, and consequently few areas of significant water discharge. The use of proven cation and silica solute geothermometry techniques is therefore seldom possible. Fumarolic discharges of steam and gas are however fairly common, and in most areas offer the only key to temperature conditions in the subsurface. Various gas geothermometers have been proposed by different researchers (e.g. D'AMORE and PANICHI, 1980; ARNORSSON and GUNNLAUGSSON, 1985), but their application to the comparatively weak fumaroles of the EARS may frequently be inappropriate because the more reactive gases are prone to attenuation while traversing the often large distance from reservoir boil-off to the surface, and because subsurface condensation of steam changes the gas/water ratio.

Application of a more suitable gas geothermometer to the EARS was therefore a priority. While this is the main topic of this paper, other implications of hydrocarbon gas data are also considered. Although the most detailed observations were made in Kenya (a more general consideration of hydrothermal gases is presented in DARLING et al, 1995), other data from the Eastern Rift in Ethiopia, the active rift zone of Djibouti and the northern end of the Western Rift in Uganda are also presented and considered.

SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS

Gas samples were collected from geothermal wells, fumaroles and hot springs, using conventional methods. Usually two subsamples were collected at a site: one of free gas, and one over concentrated NaOH solution in a pre-evacuated vessel to absorb CO₂ and H₂S. Free gas samples only were collected from very weak fumaroles and hot springs.

Analysis of hydrocarbon gases was carried out by gas chromatography using a phaseless porous polymer packed column and a flame ionisation detector. Quoted detection limits varied depending on the type of sample and analytical equipment used. Analysis of δ^{13} C in CH₄ and CO₂ was performed on a VG 602E mass spectrometer, following conversion of CH₄ to CO₂ over CuO at 850°C by the method of Lyon and Hulston (1984). Overall precisions for sampling-plus-analysis of $\pm 0.5\%$ and $\pm 0.2\%$ are estimated for CH₄ and CO₂ respectively, although the precisions of δ^{13} C-CH₄ measurements at methane concentrations below $\sim 0.1\%$ are likely to be lower.

RESULTS

Results are presented from three different categories: geothermal wells (Table 1), fumaroles (Table 2) and springs (Table 3). A further table provides information on isomeric ratios for each of the three categories (Table 4). Sample locations are shown in Fig 2a-d, which is based on the area boxes shown in the general map of Fig 1.

The results show that amounts of hydrocarbons rarely exceed 1 percent of the dry gas fraction even when collected in least-contaminated form from geothermal wells; indeed well samples usually have proportionately lower amounts of C_2 and higher hydrocarbons than fumarole or spring samples. When plotted as ratios against CH_4 (Fig 3a-c), the hydrocarbons have a distribution largely similar to those from hydrothermal systems elsewhere in the world (DARLING, this issue). There appears from Tables 1 and 2 to be no predictable relationship with amount of CO_2 , which is normally the dominant gas.

Mode of origin as defined by δ^{13} C-CH₄ is almost without exception of typical organic-poor hydrothermal type (i.e. δ^{13} C ~ -20 to -30% _{PDB}) in the Eastern Rift and Djibouti, but in Uganda appears

to be of 'mixed' type, with three out of four samples possessing values more depleted than -35‰. This may be related to the much greater sedimentary fill in the Western Rift compared with most of the Eastern Rift. The CO_2 'carrier gas' present in nearly all the studied manifestations appears from its $\delta^{13}C$ content to have a mantle source (DARLING et al, 1995). Where air contamination exceeds 90%, measured $\delta^{13}C$ - CO_2 values may decline due to the presence of atmospheric or soil CO_2 , but $\delta^{13}C$ - CH_4 values apparently remain largely unaffected (Fig 4). The only non-contamination-related trend away from the CO_2 - CH_4 cluster is shown by some of the samples from Uganda, where there is apparently much higher organic productivity. The comparatively depleted values for both $\delta^{13}C$ - CH_4 and $\delta^{13}C$ - CO_2 are consistent with such a source.

In the active rift zone of Djibouti, thermal waters are considered on the basis of their extreme salinity to be of marine origin (SANJUAN et al, 1990). The few data from this zone (D1, Table 1 and D2 and D3, Table 2) show no characteristics to distinguish them from hydrothermal gases of the main rift.

Isomeric ratios for C_4 and C_5 and ratios of benzene to hexane (Table 4) are on the whole typical of those found worldwide (DARLING, this issue). Any major departures may be due as much to the difficulties of measurement at very low concentrations as to real variations.

DISCUSSION

Hydrothermal systems in the Eastern Rift typically divide into two kinds: (a) high enthalpy, nearly always associated with the numerous late-Quaternary volcanic centres on the Rift floor and resulting mainly in steam and gas discharges at the surface, and (b) low enthalpy, commonly but not invariably associated with the sides of the Rift and giving a predominantly hot water discharge (ALLEN et al, 1989; ALLEN and DARLING, 1992). The Western Rift also has systems of both types, though much fewer in number on the available evidence (ARMANNSSON and GISLASON, 1983; BOTZ and STOFFERS, 1993; GODFREY and ARMANNSSON, 1995). The high enthalpy sources appear to depend on magmatic heating, while the low-enthalpy sources may be the result of deep circulation or moderately high geothermal gradients, or some combination of the two. The implications of hydrocarbon gas results from both types are now considered.

High Enthalpy Systems

Gas properties and origins. The composition of hydrocarbon gases from geothermal wells in Kenya (Olkaria and Eburru), Ethiopia (Aluto-Langano) and Djibouti (Asal) is shown in Fig 3a. The results show that C_1/C_2 ratios are all in excess of 100. The generally low concentrations of hydrocarbons in these high-temperature reservoirs made butane, pentane and C_6 unmeasurable in many cases, but where C_6 could be measured, concentrations of the same order as for ethane were obtained. These gases

therefore showed characteristics of other hydrothermal hydrocarbon gases elsewhere (high C_1/C_2 , high relative concentrations of C_6) considered in Part 1 of this study (DARLING, this issue). Carbon isotope ratios in CH₄ (Table 1) are also similar to those found in other geothermal wells.

Fumarolic gases show similar characteristics (Fig 3b), though C_1/C_2 ratios cover a wider range, particularly in the 10-100 zone. This wider variation is presumed to result from the greater range of geothermal temperatures sampled via fumaroles compared to the restricted, usually 200-300°C range of producing geothermal wells. High-enthalpy springs are included in Fig 3b.

The low concentrations of hydrothermal hydrocarbon gases in the Eastern Rift together with their relatively enriched δ^{13} C-CH₄ values accords with evidence of relatively little sedimentation. There is however some limited evidence from North and Central Islands in Lake Turkana (K252-255) that the sediments there may be contributing hydrocarbons. The islands are strong hydrothermal centres, or more accurately centres which are exposed much nearer to hydrological base level than most of the others. The δ^{13} C-CH₄ values from Central Island in particular are significantly depleted in comparison to the strongest centres (Paka, Silali) of the northern Kenya Rift to the south (Table 2). However it is not clear whether this difference is attributable to the presence of lake sediments, or in some way related to variation in reservoir-surface distance between the island and valley centres, since CH₄ molar concentrations comparable with those of the islands were measured in some of the Paka and Silali fumaroles.

In Part 1 of this paper (DARLING, this issue) it was noted that hydrothermal gases tend to have higher normal/iso ratios for butane and pentane than sedimentary natural gases, and also that C_1/C_2 tended to increase with system temperature. In Fig 5, isomeric data from geothermal wells, fumaroles and springs in the Eastern Rift are plotted against C_1/C_2 . As C_1/C_2 rises, general tendencies are shown towards increases in normal/iso ratio for butane and to a lesser extent pentane, together with an increase in benzene/hexane.

A further indication that hydrothermal gases from the EARS are similar to those from other parts of the world and other geological situations is provided by plotting C_1/C_2 data against ${}^3\text{He}/{}^4\text{He}$ (Fig 6). The plot is somewhat complicated by the fact that there are two subsurface ${}^3\text{He}$ sources in the EARS: MORB-like for the Kenya Rift (DARLING et al, 1995) and of hotspot type for Ethiopia and Djibouti (CRAIG et al, 1977; MARTY et al, 1993; DARLING, 1996), and it is therefore not unexpected to see higher R/R_A values for given C_1/C_2 ratios in the hotspot samples. Nevertheless it is apparent that in most areas there is no evidence for simple mixing between thermogenic and hypothetical low C_{2+} 'deep' methane which would result in a curve on Fig 6, and that therefore the relationship is primarily one related to heat flow and consequently temperature (DARLING, this issue; DARLING et al, 1995), raising the possibility that C_1/C_2 could be employed as a geothermometer in the EARS.

 C_1/C_2 geothermometer testing. In order to test the applicability of the geothermometric equation proposed in Part 1 of this paper (DARLING, this issue), information on temperature conditions in the deep subsurface is necessary. In the generally arid Eastern Rift, geothermal wells are the most important source of such information. However, assigning a reservoir temperature to an individual well is not straightforward. Maximum temperatures measured following drilling do not necessarily reflect the bulk temperature during production: it is not uncommon for geothermal wells to receive feeds from several levels often with different temperatures. Because of this, solute geothermometry is commonly carried out on produced waters as a means of calculating bulk temperature (FOURNIER, 1989). Indeed, ARNORSSON et al (1990) used this approach at Olkaria. The two main types of solute geothermometer are based on the Na/K ratio and silica concentration of the thermal water. The versions considered here are the Na/K and quartz geothermometers of FOURNIER (1989). Na/K is a relatively slowly equilibrating geothermometer while quartz is a more rapidly equilibrating one. Therefore, whatever mixing processes are occurring in the immediate reservoir, an average of the two indicated temperatures should be a reasonably good indicator of the bulk temperature. Fig 7 shows temperature information for each of the geothermal wells. In 70% of cases the Na/K and quartz temperatures are within $\pm 20^{\circ}$ C of their average. The validity of this approach can to some extent be tested by comparison with maximum measured temperatures. In 85% of cases, this is within 40°C of the averaged solute temperatures, and therefore the averaging process is generally giving credible results.

The averaged solute temperatures (T_{as}) falling within this 85% category seem likely to be the most valid and are used to test the C_1/C_2 geothermometer. Fig 8 shows a plot of T_{as} versus temperatures derived from the following relationship proposed in Part 1 of this paper (DARLING, this issue):

$$t^{\circ}C = 57.8 \log(CH_4/C_2H_6) + 96.8$$

While the C_1/C_2 temperatures tend to be lower than the T_{as} values, some 90% of the data points fall within 50°C, and about half within 25°C of the 1:1 line. The performance of this C_1/C_2 geothermometer can be put into context by comparison with other gas geothermometers. Figure 8 also shows results for the geothermometers of ARNORSSON and GUNNLAUGSSON (1985), covering various permutations of CO_2 , H_2 and H_2S and based on the assumption of certain gas-mineral equilibrium controls, and the empirical geothermometer of D'AMORE and PANICHI (1980), which requires all the above gases plus CH_4 . The results from these geothermometers vary in consistency, but none is as effective at T_{as} prediction as C_1/C_2 . It may be that in the EARS the required mineralogical controls are not always operating, or (as referred to above) that many of the wells receive inputs from more than one horizon and that some gas geothermometers adjust to lower temperatures more rapidly than others. A further complication is provided by the chlorinity of well waters, because most of the geothermometers of ARNORSSON and GUNNLAUGSSON (1985) are presented in <500 and >500 mgkg⁻¹ Cl versions. It is not

entirely clear at Olkaria whether an original <500 mgkg⁻¹ Cl upflow water becomes more saline owing to steam separation or whether a >500 mgkg⁻¹ Cl upflow becomes less saline owing to dilution by low-salinity meteoric waters. Accordingly, geothermometers for individual wells have been applied in the correct version for the chlorinity of the well (data from MUNA, 1984 and Kenya Power and Light Company records). This feature is responsible for most of the lower temperature values given at Olkaria and Aluto-Langano by some of the geothermometers (though not the CO₂ or D'Amore-Panichi equations).

Application to fumaroles - Olkaria. Testing the C₁/C₂ geothermometer by using geothermal well gases does not guarantee that the proposed relationship works as effectively for fumaroles. However, by application to fumaroles in and around the drilled geothermal fields, some assessment of its performance can be made by comparing the calculated temperatures with the known solute geothermometer temperatures of the nearer wells. At Olkaria, most fumaroles are situated along the Ololbutot fault zone (Fig 9). Agreement between fumarole results and well solute temperatures in and around the fault zone is generally good, except for the isolated western fumarole OF-20, adjacent to well OW-301, where the solute temperature is 48°C lower than that of the fumarole. While this may have been due to the fact that OF-20 had by some way the lowest measured CH₄ and C₂H₆ contents in the whole Olkaria area, possibly affecting the accuracy of the ratio, a maximum measured temperature of 299°C was noted for this well (HAUKWA, 1984), which would reduce the discrepancy to only 15°C.

Application to fumaroles - Aluto-Langano and Asal. In Ethiopia, the Aluto-Langano wellfield is situated within the Aluto volcanic complex (Fig 10). Only fumaroles outside the complex were sampled, there being little surface activity within the complex. Outflow from the Aluto hydrothermal system is believed to take place to the south, towards Lake Langano where several hot or boiling springs discharge near the shore. The C_1/C_2 temperature calculated for the Gebiba fumarole fits the progression from ~300°C solute temperatures in the south-central part of the wellfield to a solute temperature of ~200°C at Spring #2. The fumaroles at Bobessa and Auto, although somewhat nearer the complex than Gebiba, have similar and lower C_1/C_2 temperatures respectively, presumably because they are not situated above zones of upflow or outflow as depicted by Na/K data in GIZAW (1993).

At Asal in Djibouti (Fig 2c), a fumarole (D2) close to the centre of the active rift zone gave a C₁/C₂ temperature of 250°C. A-5, the nearest well to D2, gave *measured* upper and lower reservoir temperatures of 190 and 355°C respectively, but the solute temperature for well A-3, towards the periphery of the rift zone, was more similar at 264°C (ZAN et al, 1990). Further inland, a fumarole (D4) adjacent to a 2000m deep test well gave a temperature of 242°C, whereas the maximum measured well temperature was only 120°C even at total depth. The only other gas geothermometer which could be applied to this fumarole was that for CO₂, which gave a temperature of 148°C, in better agreement with the well temperature.

Application to fumaroles - undrilled areas. Outside the wellfields there are few independent data with which to compare temperatures calculated from fumarolic gas data. In this case the only comparison available is the probable temperature distribution. Figure 11 shows histograms of the different geothermometers calculated from the same dataset, based on the fumaroles of Table 2. The results from dual-chlorinity geothermometers are plotted separately because of a general lack of information on likely Cl values. The distribution of C_1/C_2 temperatures is consistent and realistic on the reasonable assumption that most high-enthalpy reservoirs will have temperatures in the 200-300+°C range, as they do in the wellfields. The C_1/C_2 temperatures also accord with other geochemical and geological indications (DARLING and TALBOT, 1991; DUNKLEY et al, 1993). Although the higher Cl versions of some geothermometers give comparable results, it is not always clear that the 'correct' version is being applied in individual cases.

There are two basic reasons why application of the conventional gas geothermometers should sometimes be problematical in Kenya and Ethiopia: firstly, subsurface steam condensation is known from O and H stable isotopic data to be common in the Rift (DARLING et al, 1990; ALLEN and DARLING, 1992), and this would tend to affect the gas geothermometers based on concentration relative to steam. The CO₂ geothermometer seems to be particularly influenced, giving temperatures that appear too high. Secondly, because there is a thick unsaturated zone to traverse, there is ample scope for reaction between gases and wall rocks, or for diffusion into pore spaces adjacent to fumarolic conduits. This would account for the often very low or undetectable concentrations of H₂S and H₂ observed in fumarolic gases in the continental EARS, which means their geothermometers are not always useable. The advantage of the C₁/C₂ geothermometer is that methane and ethane appear to be relatively unaffected by the above processes, and furthermore are easy to detect down to very low concentrations by simple GC methods. An additional advantage is that, unlike the geothermometers considered above, there is no need to know or make assumptions regarding the concentration of chloride or pCO₂ in reservoirs, and it is also unnecessary to know concentrations of gases relative to steam.

Application to high-enthalpy springs. Such springs are very scarce in the Eastern Rift, because groundwater levels are generally too low to allow significant surface discharge from high-enthalpy hydrothermal systems. The main example considered in this study is the Abaya springs of southern Ethiopia (E13, Fig 2b). These give a C_1/C_2 temperature of 175°C, which can be compared with Na/K and quartz temperatures of 202 and 153°C respectively, based on the data of CRAIG et al (1977).

In the Western Rift at Kibiro (Uganda, Fig 2d), the high-enthalpy hot spring gives a C_1/C_2 temperature of 196°C, close to the Na/K solute geothermometer temperature of 205°C, although higher than the quartz temperature of 151°C (GODFREY and ARMANNSSON, 1994). When it is considered that this is the only sample from any of the high-enthalpy EARS sources of this study in which the *total* gas content is dominated by methane (Table 3), it is perhaps surprising that a relationship based on CH_4/C_2H_6 at minor

concentrations should give a realistic temperature. However, this is supported by the hydrocarbon data of BOTZ and STOFFERS (1993) from the Pemba spring site of Lake Tanganyika further south in the Western Rift. While not completely dominant, hydrocarbons amount to some 30% of the gas phase at this site. The C_1/C_2 temperature of this site is 216°C, while PFLUMIO et al (1994) considered the actual reservoir temperature to be 214°C on the basis of solute geothermometry.

Heavier hydrothermal hydrocarbons in the Lake Tanganyika area gave a radiocarbon age of 25 ka (SIMONEIT, 1994). Assuming that the light hydrocarbon gases are from the same source, it suggests that gas production is from thermal stress on sediments rather than on dissolved organics. Whether this applies in the much less-sedimented Eastern Rift remains open to question.

Low Enthalpy Systems

Hydrocarbon results from hot spring sources apparently unrelated to high-enthalpy systems are reported in Table 3 and depicted in Fig 3c. Results are generally similar to those for high-enthalpy gases, though because of the low concentrations of dissolved gases, it was not always possible to measure the higher hydrocarbons. Considering the probable differences in temperatures between high and low enthalpy systems, it is notable that the gases should be so similar, in isotopic as well as chemical composition. This suggests the possibility of gases leaking up from hotter reservoirs below the level of more superficial hot water circulation, confirmed to an extent by the high values of ³He/⁴He found in some of the springs (CRAIG et al., 1977; DARLING et al, 1995; DARLING, 1996).

However, the high-enthalpy C_1/C_2 geothermometer tested above does not apply to those hot springs whose solute geothermometer temperatures suggest maxima of usually little more than 100° C. When the chalcedony temperatures are plotted against C_1/C_2 (Fig 12), it is clear that there is not a well-defined correlation. Nevertheless, when the few similar data available from elsewhere (Colli Albani, GIGGENBACH et al, 1988; Copper River, Alaska, MOTYKA et al, 1989; Mammoth, Wyoming, KHARAKA et al, 1992; Gulf of Suez, STURCHIO et al, 1996) are added, they tend to fall into the same area on the plot as the EARS data. The spread of results probably represents a mixing of gases from various carbon sources in different parts of low-enthalpy geothermal areas, and therefore any geothermometric relationships are likely to emerge only locally.

CONCLUSIONS

The concentrations of hydrocarbon gases in hydrothermal systems have been determined for a large number of sites in the EARS, principally in the Eastern Rift in Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti, but also in Uganda towards the northern end of the Western Rift. Site types included geothermal wells, fumaroles and hot springs.

All sites (high and low enthalpy) provided hydrocarbon results indicative of a thermogenic origin for the gases, though CH₄ samples from Uganda tended to have lighter carbon isotope ratios, probably because of the greater amount of sedimentation in the Western Rift. The available helium isotope data (Eastern Rift only) indicate that while there is a major difference between mantle gas reservoirs, with MORB type in Kenya and 'hotspot' type in Ethiopia and Djibouti, this is not reflected in hydrocarbon concentrations or carbon isotopic values, which remain comparable in both helium provinces. Neither does there appear to be any difference in hydrocarbons depending on whether the hydrothermal fluid is of meteoric or marine origin, although evidence is as yet limited. In both these respects the EARS data resemble those derived from hydrothermal systems elsewhere in the world which were considered in Part 1 of this study (DARLING, this issue)

Ratios of methane to higher hydrocarbons appear to be basically temperature-controlled in the EARS as elsewhere. Deep reservoir temperatures in geothermal wells were in reasonable agreement with the empirical methane/ethane geothermometric relationship proposed in Part 1. This geothermometer also gives a likely distribution of results when applied to fumaroles of the EARS, and is simpler to use than the various 'inorganic' geothermometers.

In low-enthalpy situations, typical of most hot springs in the EARS, a spectrum of hydrocarbon results is obtained similar to that from the wells and fumaroles. In this case, however, a different and much less well-defined relationship between C_1/C_2 and temperature at depth seems to apply. Results are typical of the few other low-temperature hydrothermal systems elsewhere in which hydrocarbon gases have been investigated.

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

- Fig 1 Map of the East African Rift System, with boxes showing the areas considered in this paper: a Kenya, b Ethiopia, c Djibouti and d Uganda. Enlargements of these areas are shown in Fig 2 a-d. The term 'Eastern Rift' used in the text refers to the Kenya and Ethiopian rifts plus southern Afar.
- Fig 2 Enlargements of boxes from Fig 1: a Kenya site map, b Ethiopia site map, c Djibouti site map, and d Uganda site map. Site numbers in tables and text have prefix letters according to the country (D Djibouti, E Ethiopia, K Kenya, and U Uganda).
- Fig 3 Plots to characterise as molar ratios to methane the hydrocarbon contents of samples: ethane (C_1/C_2) , propane (C_1/C_3) , butane (C_1/C_4) , pentane (C_1/C_5) and undifferentiated C_6 (C_1/C_6) . (a) geothermal wells, (b) fumaroles, (c) springs. \Box Kenya, \bigcirc Ethiopia, \land Djibouti and \bigcirc Uganda.
- Fig 4 Plot of δ^{13} C-CO₂ versus δ^{13} C-CH₄ for hydrothermal sites, identified by country and sample type. Manifestations of gas with >90% air (circled) have depleted δ^{13} C-CO₂ compositions due to contamination, but their δ^{13} C-CH₄ compositions are little altered. Ugandan spring samples are from a thick sedimentary sequence, which has affected the C isotope systematics for both CH₄ and CO₂.
- Fig 5 Ratios for nC_4/iC_4 , nC_5/iC_5 and benzene/hexane in hydrothermal hydrocarbons (all sample types), showing a tendency for ratios to increase with rise in methane/ethane (C_1/C_2) ratio.
- Fig 6 Plot of ³He/⁴He as R/R_A versus methane/ethane (C₁/C₂) ratio for Eastern Rift hydrothermal gases. Samples are divided into upper mantle ('MORB', Kenya) and lower mantle hotspot (Ethiopia and Djibouti) categories. He isotope data from CRAIG et al (1977) DARLING et al (1995) and DARLING (1996).
- Fig 7 Plot of measured maximum (T max), Na/K and quartz (SiO₂) solute temperatures (°C) for individual geothermal wells in Kenya (OW, EW), Ethiopia (LA) and Djibouti (A). Based on data from MUNA (1985) and Kenya Power and Light Company records for Kenya, GIZAW (1989) for Ethiopia, and ZAN et al (1990) for Djibouti.
- Fig 8 Plots of gas geothermometry temperature versus reservoir averaged solute temperature (T_{as}) for geothermal wells in Kenya (■), Ethiopia (●) and Djibouti (▲). Based on temperature data from Fig 7, gas data from ARNORSSON et al (1990), DARLING and TALBOT (1991) and GIZAW (1989), and the gas geothermometers of DARLING (this issue) (C₁/C₂), D'AMORE and PANICHI (1980) (D-P), and ARNORSSON and GUNNLAUGSSON (1985) for the remainder.
- Fig 9 Map showing the area around the Ololbutot fault zone of the Olkaria geothermal area, Kenya (refer to Fig 2a for general location). 2 km UTM grid squares are shown. Well (OW-) and fumarole (OF-) identifiers are shown, together with temperatures (in bold) calculated by averaged solute geothermometry for the wells, and the methane/ethane (C_1/C_2) geothermometer for the fumaroles.
- Fig 10 Map of the Aluto-Langano geothermal area, Ethiopia (refer to Fig 2b for general location). Well (LA-) and fumarole and spring (name) identifiers are shown, together with temperatures in $^{\circ}$ C calculated from averaged solute geothermometry for the wells and spring, and the C_1/C_2 geothermometer for the fumaroles.

- Fig 11 Histograms for various gas geothermometers applied to fumaroles of the Eastern Rift (Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti). Black and white areas represent cumulatively wellfield and non-wellfield fumaroles respectively. Based on data from DARLING and TALBOT (1991), DARLING et al (1995), DUNKLEY et al (1993) and GLOVER (1972, 1976). Geothermometers as used for Fig 8, but note that where two versions of the Arnorsson and Gunnlaugsson geothermometers exist, both have been used because of uncertainties about subsurface conditions.
- Fig 12 Plot of reservoir chalcedony geothermometer temperature (°C) versus methane/ethane (C₁/C₂) ratio for low-enthalpy hot spring samples from Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti ('EARS'). Solute data from Allen et al (1989), CRAIG et al (1977), Darling and Talbot (1991) and Dunkley et al (1993). Analyses from similar systems at Colli Albani in Italy (GIGGENBACH et al, 1988), Mammoth, Wyoming (Kharaka et al, 1992), Copper River, Alaska (Motyka et al, 1989) and the E coast of the Gulf of Suez, Egypt (Sturchio et al, 1996) are also shown.

Composition of the light hydrocarbon fraction in gases from geothermal wells in the East African Rift System. K, E and D prefixes to site numbers refer to samples from Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti respectively. Site locations as shown in Fig. 2 a-c. Table 1.

Site Name	Site No.	T _{res} °C	CH⁴	C ₂ H ₆	C ₃ H ₈	C₄H₁₀ ppmv	C ₅ H ₁₂	ပီ	CO ₂ /CH₄	613CCH4	δ ¹³ C _{co2} %
Olkaria OW-2	K110	313	0.67	7.0	<u>^</u>	6000	(6)	8	1274	ě	-2.7
Olkaria OW-10	K117	306	2.2	=======================================	0.13	<0.01	•	(0)	30	-28.1	
Olkaria OW-111	K601	310	1.1	1.4	0.04	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	72	-28.4	10
Olkaria OW-12¹	K602	308	0.46	2.1	0.02	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	195	-27.0	,
Ołkaria OW-191	K603	311	1.7	3.7	0.05	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	40	-26.4	â
Olkaria OW-21	K604	273	0.46	2.9	0.67	<0.01	< 0.01	<0.01	188	٠	ı
Olkaria OW-22	K112	249	0.43	13	09.0	0.07	<0.01	<0.01	181	-27.3	,
Olkaria OW-23	K114	255	0.26	14	0.66	<0.01	< 0.01	<0.01	296	-27.3	2 3 17
Olkaria OW-25 ¹	K605	264	0.44	3.6	90.0	0.07	<0.01	<0.01	180	-27.3	79
Olkaria OW-26	K111	245	0.18	9.5	<u>^</u>	k O	,	Ñ	4924	ï	-2.4
Olkaria OW-703¹	K606	300	0.069	1.9	0.04	<0.01	1	K	1442	-21.1	v
Olkaria OW-710¹	K607	282	0.12	3.3	0.15	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	815	-27.7	•
Olkaria OW-7111	K608	287	0.18	9.3	0.76	0.12	<0.01	<0.01	543	-29.0	:19
Olkaria OW-713¹	K609	297	0.38	10	0.71	0.32	<0.01	1.5	220	-29.1	.,
Olkaria OW-715	K259	289	0.42	13	0.86	0.70	0.51	14.7	216	-18.5	
Eburru EW-11	K502	329	0.99	2.7	0.08	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	86	-23.2	#V
Langano LA-3	Ē1	298	1.2	2.3	0.08	0.04	<0.01	10	82	-28.5	-4.7
Langano LA-6	E2	309	0.16	3.5	0.43	0.32	<0.01	18	617	-27.0	-3.9
Langano LA-8 ²	E3	254	69.0	21	25	9.9	1.6	Ń	142	-22.0	٨
Asal A3³	D1	264	0.16	7.3	3.0	1.9	1.0	16	619	-25.9	-3.0

 $T_{\rm es}$ - Reservoir temperature, average of Na/K and SiO $_{\rm 2}$ geothermometers of Fournier (1989).

 $^{^{1,2,3}}$ Samples collected by Z W Muna and M K Arusei, B Gizaw, and H Armannsson respectively. 4 Based on CO $_2$ data from ARNORSSON *et al* (1990)

Table 2. Composition of light hydrocarbons in geothermal gases from predominantly fumarolic sources in the East African Rift System. K, E and D prefixes to site numbers refer to samples from Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti respectively. Sample locations as shown in Fig. 2 a-c.

Site Name	Site No.	Sampling Temp *C	CH₄ %	C₂H ₆	C₃H _e	C ₄ H ₁₀ ppmv	C ₅ H ₁₂	C _e	CO ₂ /CH ₄	δ ¹³ C _{CH4}	δ ¹³ C _{co}
Suswa F-71	K504	94	0.45	0.68	<1	•	•	•	55	(*)	*
Suswa F-12	K258	94	0.087	0.40	0.1	0.22	< 0.1	< 0.1	190	-25.0	-3.0
Suswa F-281	K501	92	1.4	3.4	<1	2.55	52		70	(=c	-3.7
Carbacid CO ₂ 2	K237	amb	1.2	190	58	24	8.9	3.9	79	-20.5	-2.4
Longonot F-23	K128	90	0.75	1	<1	100			103	8.5	-4.0
Mt Marg. F-27 ¹	K29	85	0.18	1	<1	(* :	1.5	2 /.	529	856	-1.7
Domes F-15	K127	92	0.13	2.5	<1		16	10	134	::0	-3.0
Akira H-1 ^{1,2}	K31	95	0.77	2.9	<1			4.9	129		-2.1
Olkaria OF1	K261	93	0.61	18	10	1.7	1.6	54	157	-28.8	-3.4
Olkaria OF4	K262	95	0.15	5.5 -	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.4	30	156	-27.2	-5.6
Olkaria OF13	K263	95	0.49	13	6	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	169	-26.5	-4.0
Olkaria OF14	K264	94	0.38	74	1.1	< 0.1	<0.1	<0.1	222	-26.0	-3.2
Olkaria OF15	K265	91	0.24	5.4	<0.1	0.9	0.2	99	287	-26.7	-4.5
Olkaria OF16	K266	96	1.60	5.5	<0.1	7.6	0.2	562	56	-26.7	-5.0
Olkaria OF20	K267	78	0.034	0.06	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	2770	-24.5	-3.6
Olkaria OFW	K123	*	0.37	11	<1		₹0.1	<0.1 ≈	201	-24.5	-2.8
Eburru EF2	K119	92	4.6	5.0	<1		33		17		-2.8
Arus AR1	K257	95	0.35	6.4	1,2	0.4	< 0.1	24	284	-28.1	-2.3 -4.3
Ol Kokwe OK1	K152	96	0.35	20	4	<1	<0.1	24			-4.3 -3.5
Korosi KR12	K152	96	0.32	8					278	-18.3	
Korosi KR18					3	<1			203	· ·	-4.3
	K156	96	1.5	340	130	43	3.0	-	64	-24.5	-3.9
Korosi KR19	K157	96	1.3	290	130	26	3.8	:=7	75	-23.4	-3.9
Korosi KR23	K158	96	0.015	9	0.8	0.2	<0.1	3.0	1090	-19.7	-6.2
Korosi KR34	K162	92	0.44	98	16	17	12	21	192	-29.6	-4.6
Paka PK1	K163	96	1.5	1.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	÷.	1 2 7	55	-24.9	-2.9
Paka PK4	K166	95	1.3	1.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	S7	÷4. I	71	-27.8	-3.4
Paka PK7	K168	94	0.85	38	14	6	12	31.	79	-22.2	-2.7
Silali SL7	K219	95	0.25	0.7	< 0.1	< 0.1	- 2		391	-23.0	-3.8
Slilai SL11	K220	94	0.48	18	4	< 0.1	*	•	108	-24.3	
Silali SL14	K221	96	0.25	0.6	0.1	< 0.1	-	12	393	-24.3	-3.7
Silali SL15	K222	97	0.24	1.0	0.1	< 0.1	28	(3)	408	-25.0	-3.9
Silali SL16	K223	96	0.026	0.3	0.2	< 0.1	(•	3.5	1000	-23.5	-4.7
Silali SL19	K224	96	1.1	0.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	? ♥	20	70	3	ੁ -4.6
Silali SL22	K225	92	0.17	0.6	0.1	< 0.1	22	14	408	-21.7	-3.6
Emuruang. EM9	K228	95	0.64	20	2.0	< 0.1	25	15	45	-20.7	-4.7
Emuruang. EM20	K232	96	0.51	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1		3.5	114	-22.5	-4.0
Barrier BR4	K249	94	0.023	0.84	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	32	301	-24.4	-5.7
Barrier BR5	K248	93	0.014	0.23	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	12	257	-26.0	-1.8
Barrier BR11	K235	96	0.044	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	9	92	389	-26.3	-3.3
Barrier BR18	K250	94	0.020	6.3	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	441	-25.8	-6.0
Barrier BR29	K251	93	0.064	1.2	0.17	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	79	-26.6	-4.0
Central Is CI1	K254	97	0.90	45	11	4.9	2.8	140	104	-32.2	-4.3
Central Is CI2	K255	97	0.89	46	9.4	3.7	3.7	134	97	-30.9	-3.8
orth Is NI1	K252	96	0.47	29	5.5	0.7	0.7	75	84	-28.2	-5.2
North Is NI2	K253	96	1,1	80	10	1.1	0.7	35	79	-28.4	-5.4
Corb. Chebicha	E7	80	0.0065	0.09	1.9	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	141	-29.9	-8.7
Corb. Danshe	E8	90	0.032	1.3	0.11	0.05	< 0.01	< 0.01	197	-30.7	· -7.1
orbetti Koka	E9	94	0.17	140	58	28	10	22	587	-28.6	-3.5
luto Bobessa	E4	8	0.14	6.0	0.16	< 0.01	<0.01	< 0.01	348	-25.7	-4:1
luto Gebiba	E5	93	0.32	11	3.3	3.2	1.7	5.5	311	-25.7	-4.1
luto Auto	E6	90	0.017	1.8	0.47	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	182	*25.7	-7.5
iedemsa Boku	E10	73	0.016	0.11	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	144	-24.0	-10.7
iarrabays	D4	*	0.0077	0.11	0.02	< 0.01	<0.01	<0.01	43	-24.0	-9.8
sal	D2	46	0.0009	0.02	< 0.01	<0.01					
I. Ghoubet	D3	~	0.0009	1.6	0.14	0.43	< 0.01	<0.01 <0.01	10460 717	-32.1 -17.0	-5.7 -3.1

¹ sample collected by H Armannsson

 $^{^{\}rm 2}$ dry borehole - all other samples from fumaroles

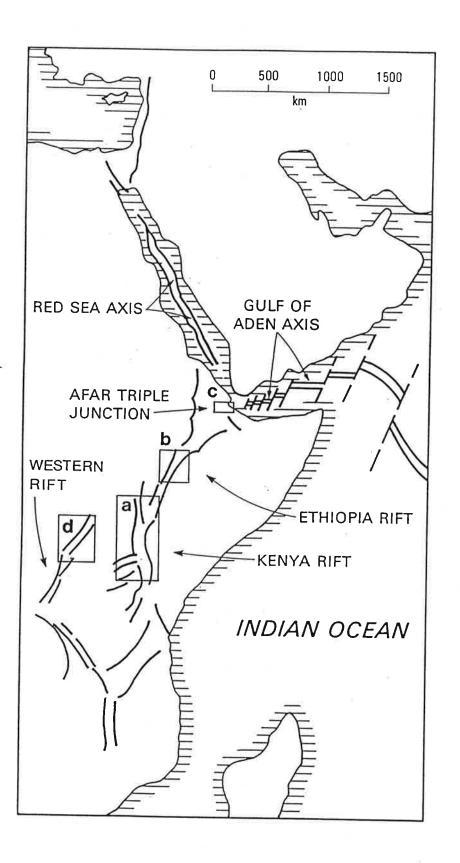
Composition of light hydrocarbons in gases from hot spring sources in the East African Rift System. K, E, D and U prefixes to site numbers refer to samples from Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Uganda respectively. Sample locations as shown in Fig. 2 a-d. Table 3.

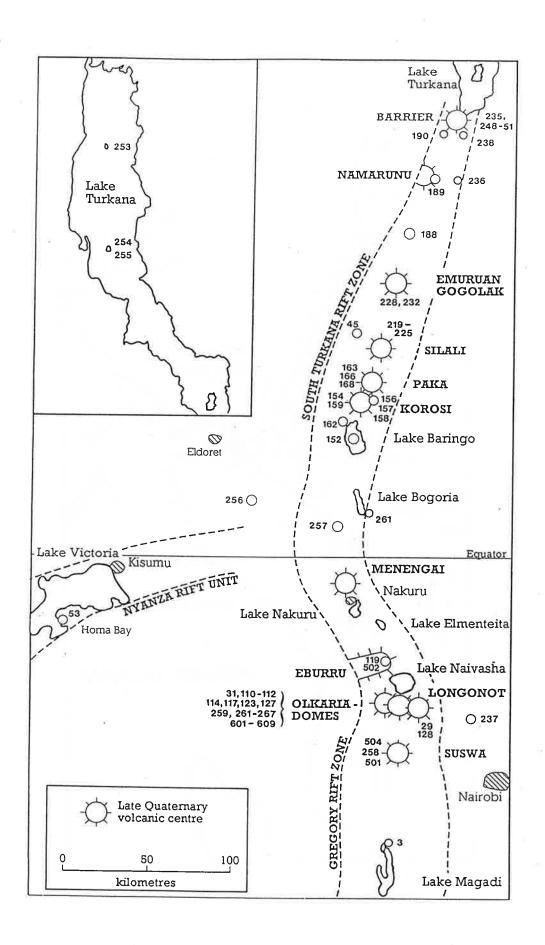
Site Name	Site No.	Sampling Temp °C	G. A.	C ₂ H _e	C3H ₈	C ₄ H ₁₀	C ₅ H ₁₂	౮	CO ₂ /CH ₄	6 ¹³ C _{CH4} ∞	δ ¹³ ξ ^{Tic}) c
High enthalpy		-								Ď,)
Abaya #7	E13	88	0.0042	1.9	0.07	1.2	<0.1	<0.1	4190	-18.0	-3.7
Kibiro #21	L)	87	67.3	13000	970	10	<0.1	210	0.07	-36.2	-2.8
Low enthalpy											
Little Magadi	К3	85	9.1	320	100	< 10	<10	4	63	15	-3.3
Bala	K53	72	0.28	5.3	0.17	<0.1	<0.1	,	320	-26.8	-2.0
Kureswa	K260	62	0.82	16	0.8	0.4	<0.1	<0.1	3.5	-27.5	-7.1
Bogoria SE	K256	97	0.33	26	1.4	4.7	13	<0.1	11	ù.	-1.5
Lorusio	K45	8	0.045	8.5	1.4	0.8	< 0.1	3.1	7600	-28.3	-2.6
Kageinya	K188	89	1.41	280	120	33	<0.1	10	•	-31.8	-4.0
Namarunu	K189	99	0.013	1.0	< 0.1	<0.1	<0.1	j.	954	(10)	-0.9
Elboitong S	K236	95	0.011	1.1	90.0	<0.01	<0.01	19	0006	-28.3	-2.2
Logipi NW	K190	61	0.14	28.0	< 0.1	<0.1	<0.1	ķ	11		-1.2
Logipi NE	K238	70	0.33	4.1	0	8.3	14	<0.1	20		-2.0
Shalla #30	E15	96	2.0	8.5	2.5	0.71	<0.1	<0.1	7.4	-21.9	+1.12
Abbe N	D7	06	0.48	35	10	3.1	0.32	6.0	6.0	-29.3	-17.13
Buranga #51	U2	94	2.03	720	190	24	1.5	3.8	48	-38.0	-6.7
Buranga #61	N3	. 46	1.87	1100	140	21	<0.1	20	20	-44.9	6.8-
Buranga #171	U4	86	0.55	22	5.6	0.89	<0.1	3.4	1805	-27.9	-5.7

δ¹³C_{TIC} refers to the bulk ¹³C composition of the CO₂-HCO₃-CO₃ system except for U sites (gas composition only) sample collected by H Armannsson ² value calculated from CRAIG et al (1977) ³ value calculated from FoNTEs et al (1980)

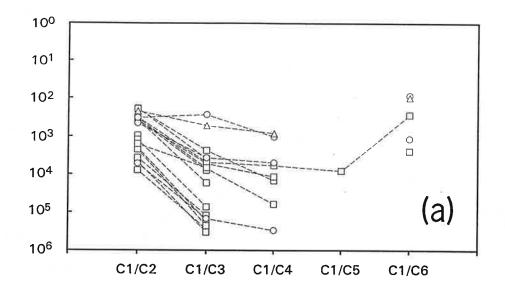
Table 4. Isomeric ratios for butane and pentane and ratios of benzene to hexane for hydrothermal gases from various sources in the East African Rift System. The signs '>' and '<' denote cases where hexane and benzene respectively are below detection limit.

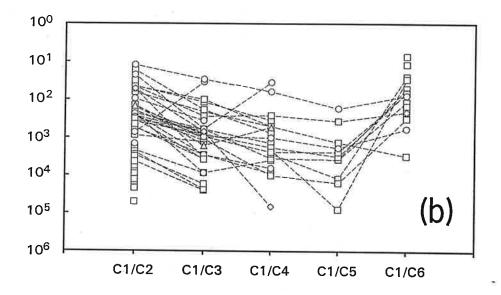
Site Name	Site No.	nC ₄ /iC ₄	nC ₅ /iC ₅	ben/hex
FUMAROLES				
Suswa F-12	K258	-	W #	< 0.003
Carbacid Co.	K237	2.0	0.85	0.50
Olkaria OF1	K261	1.5	<u>:</u>	0.32
Olkaria OF4	K262		3	>300
Olkaria OF15	K265	10	3.2	>990
Olkaria OF16	K266	141	-	>5600
Arus AR1	K257	13	6.3	2.1
Korosi KR18	K156	2.6	a	: ×
Korosi KR19	K157	2.5	¥	
Korosi KR23	K158	1.0	.⊋ ₩	(2)
Korosi KR34	K162	3.3	2.3	1.5
Paka PK7	K168	1.1		(+1)
Barrier KK2	K248	<u>12</u> -	ш	< 0.009
Barrier KK3	K249	av		< 0.003
Central Is CI1	K254	4.7	3.1	4.6
Central Is CI2	K255	4.5	2.1	3.3
North Is NI2	K253	3.7	2.0	3.2
Corbetti Koka	E9	2.6	10	0.46
Aluto Gebiba	E5	1.3	24	5.4
Nord Ghoubet	D3	1.8	- "	E 4 8
GEOTHERMAL WELLS				
Olkaria OW-713	K608	-	*	> 15
Olkaria OW-715	K259	= 2	2.0	>7500
Langano LA-3	E1	3.0	× ×	1.8
Langano LA-6	E2			15
Langano LA-8	E3	0.78	0.88	*
Asal A3	D1	0.86	1.5	19
SPRINGS				
Bogoria SE	K260	¥	0.36	20
Lorusio	K45	2.9	-	>31
Kageinya	K188	0.57		
Elboitong S	K236	2	¥	0.19
Abaya #7	E13	1.0	3	
Shalla #30	E15	2.2	*	34.6
Abbe N	D7	0.55	1.0	>60
Kibiro #2	U1	4.7	-	>200
Buranga #5	U2	2.0	0.27	>4
Buranga #6	U3	1.5	-	>50
Buranga #7	U4	2.0		>4





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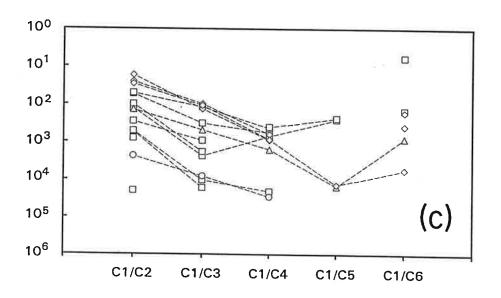
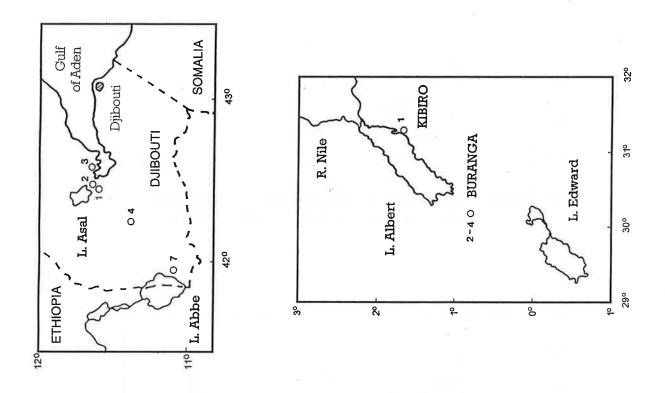


Fig 3



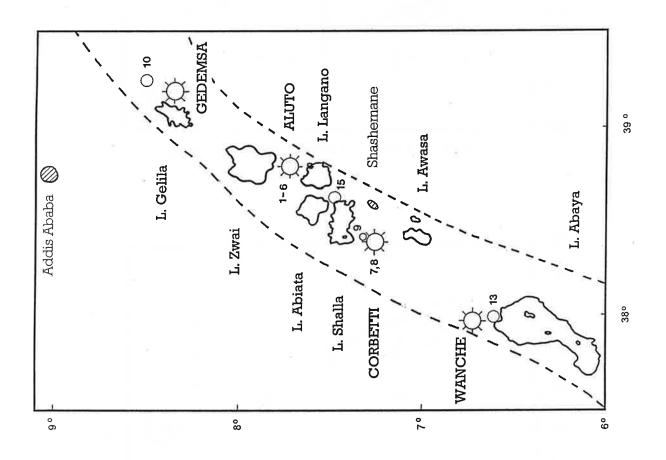


Fig 2b-d

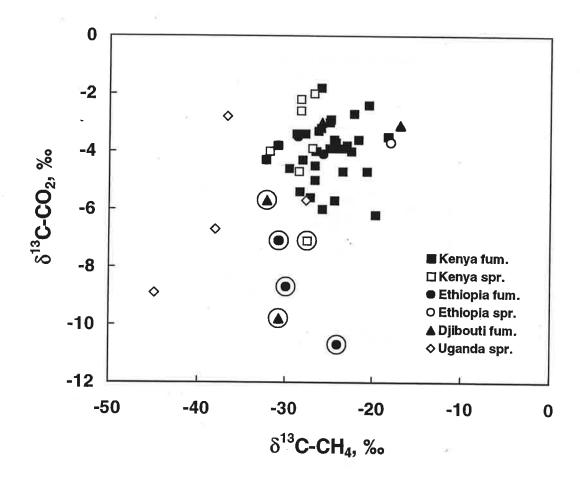
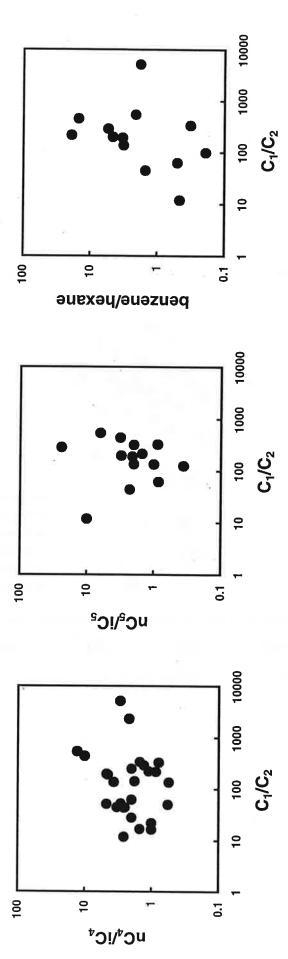


Fig 4



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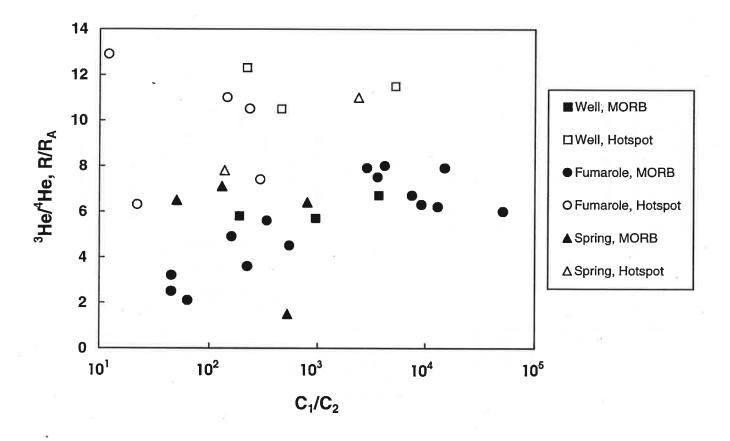


Fig 6

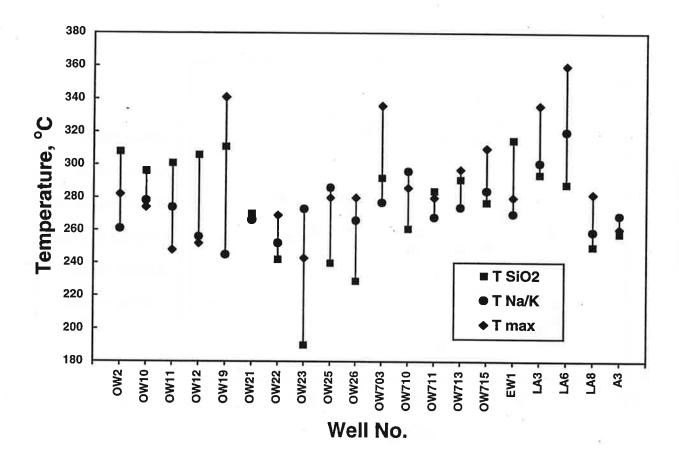


Fig 7

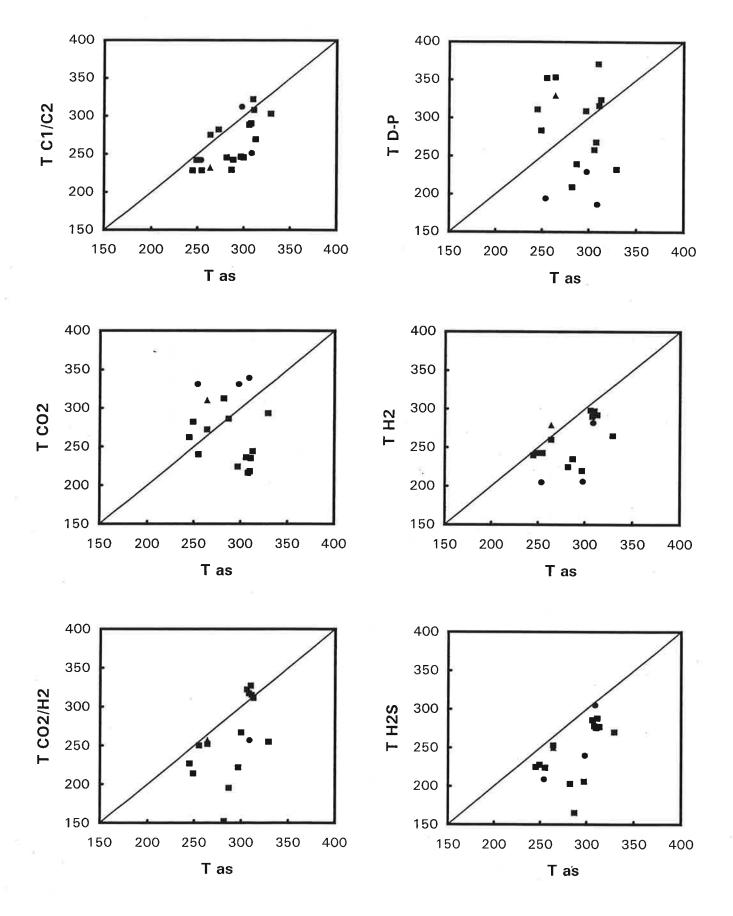


Fig 8

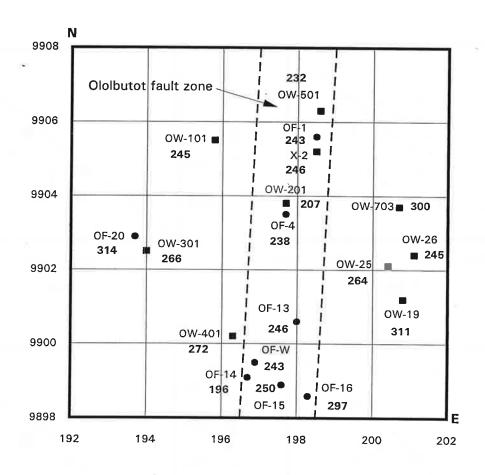
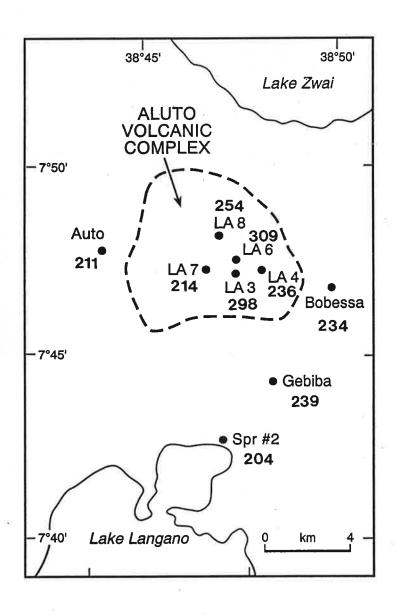


Fig 9



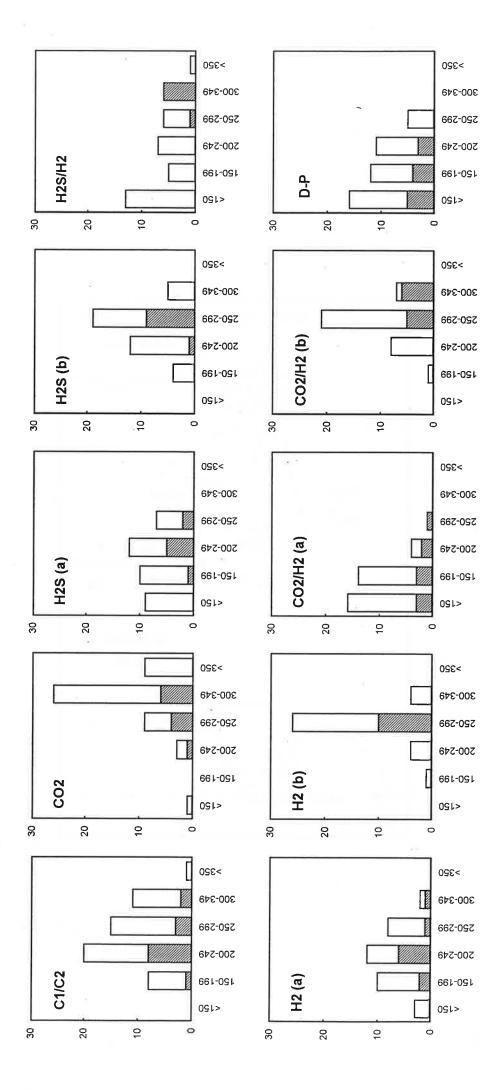


Fig 11

