

# **Supplemental Information**

## **Abiotic and biotic processes that drive carboxylation and decarboxylation reactions**

Cody S. Sheik<sup>1\*</sup>, H. James Cleaves II<sup>2,3,4</sup>, Kristin Johnson-Finn<sup>5</sup>, Donato Giovannelli<sup>5,6,7,8</sup>, Thomas L. Kieft<sup>9</sup>, Dominic Papineau<sup>10,11,12</sup>, Matthew O. Schrenk<sup>13</sup>, Simone Tumiatì<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Biology and the Large Lakes Observatory, University of Minnesota Duluth, Duluth, MN, USA

<sup>2</sup>Earth-Life Science Institute, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 2-12-1-IE-1 Ookayama Meguro-ku, Tokyo 152-8550, Japan

<sup>3</sup>Institute for Advanced Study, 1 Einstein Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540, USA

<sup>4</sup>Blue Marble Space Institute of Science, Seattle, 98154, WA, USA

<sup>5</sup>Earth-Life Science Institute, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 2-12-1-IE-1 Ookayama Meguro-ku, Tokyo 152-8550, Japan

<sup>6</sup>Department of Biology, University of Naples “Federico II”, Monte Sant’Angelo, 80120 Naples, Italy

<sup>7</sup>Department of Marine and Coastal Science, Rutgers University, 71 Dudley Road, 08901, New Brunswick, NJ, USA

<sup>8</sup> Institute for Marine Biological and Biotechnological Resources, National Research Council of Italy, CNR-IRBIM, Ancona, Italy

<sup>9</sup>New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, NM, 87801, USA

<sup>10</sup>London Centre for Nanotechnology, 17-19 Gordon Street, University College London, London WC1H 0AH, UK

<sup>11</sup>Department of Earth Sciences, University College London, London WC1E 6BT, UK

<sup>12</sup>Centre for Planetary Sciences, University College London and Birkbeck University of London, London WC1E 6BT, UK

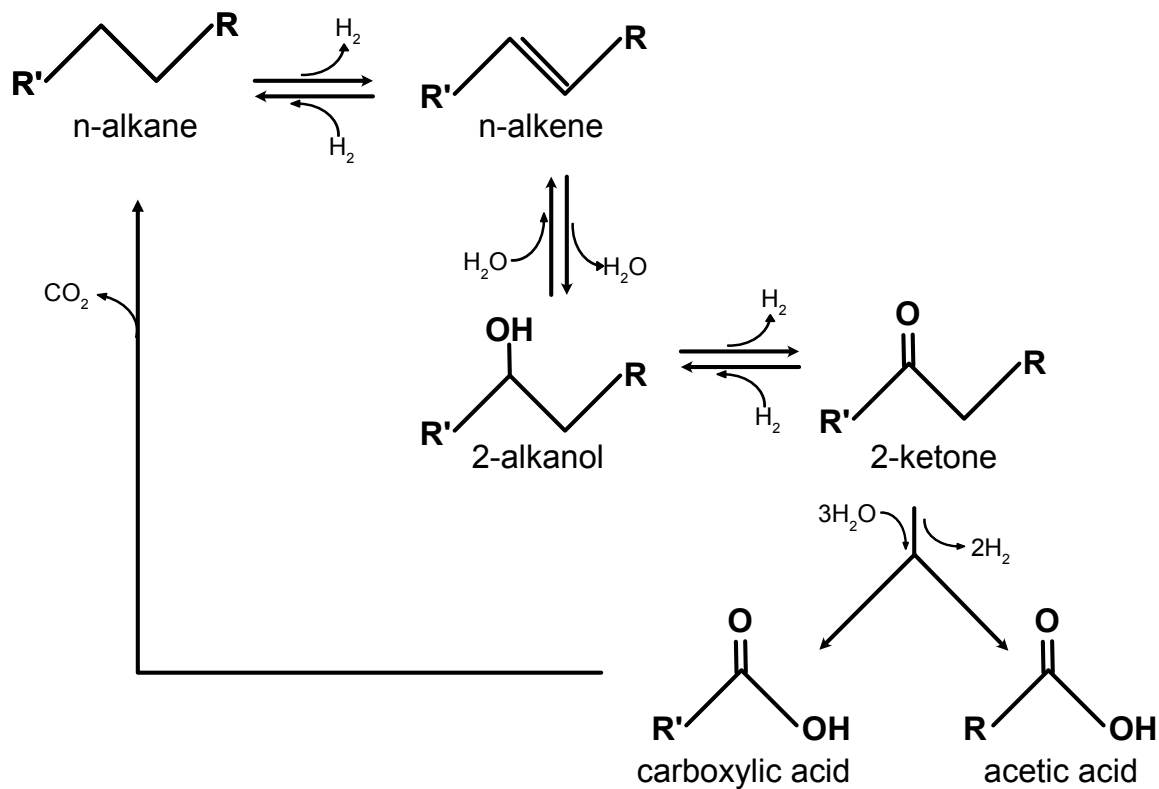
<sup>13</sup>Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA, schrenkm@msu.edu

<sup>14</sup>Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, University of Milan, via Mangiagalli 34, 20133 Milan, Italy, simone.tumiati@unimi.it

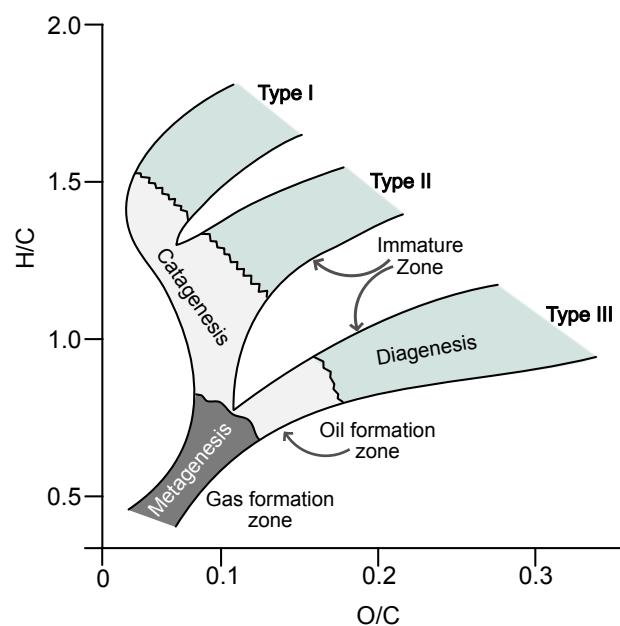
\*Corresponding author Cody S. Sheik, cssheik@d.umn.edu, Department of Biology and the Large Lakes Observatory, University of Minnesota Duluth, Duluth, MN, USA

Supplemental Table 1. C-O-H organic compounds investigated in high pressure-high temperature experiments.

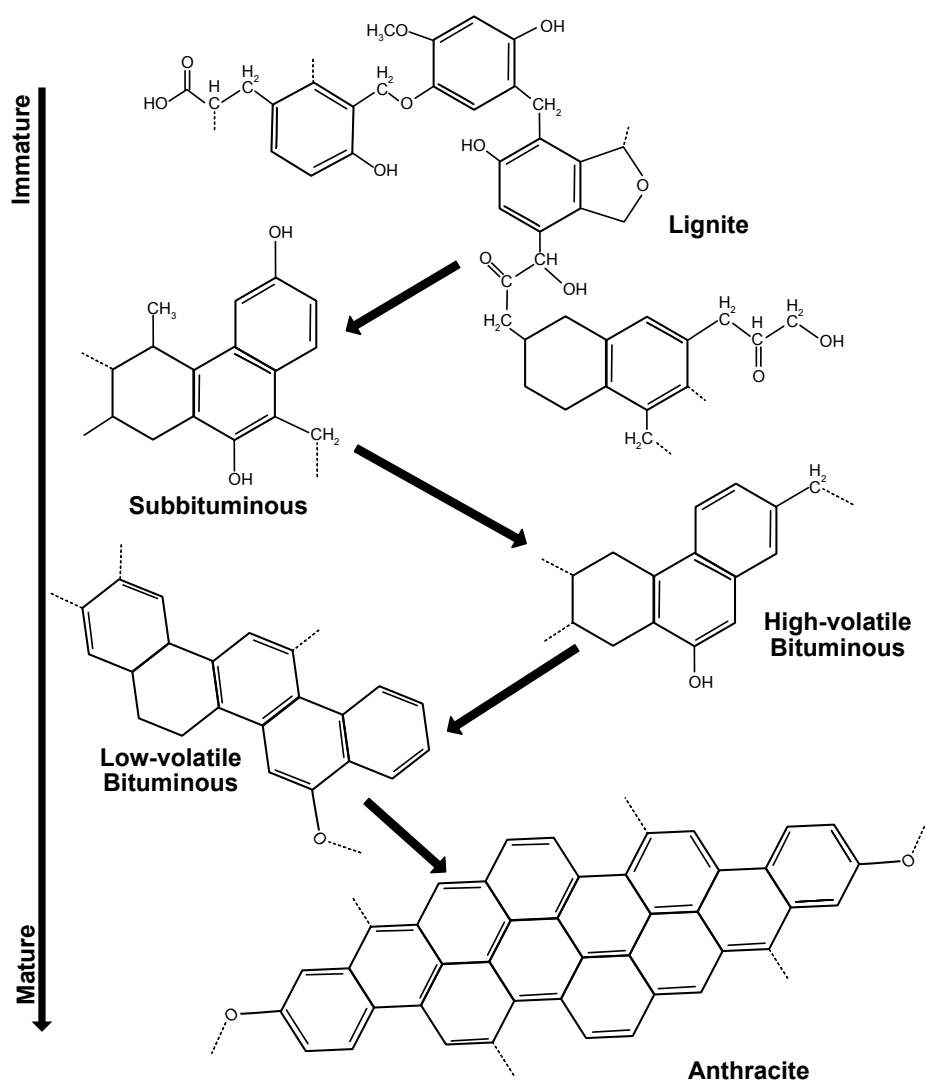
Compound	Molecular Formula	References
oxalic acid dihydrate	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	(Holloway et al. 1968; L. Millhollen et al. 1971; Holloway and Reese 1974; Kesson and Holloway 1974; Taylor and Liou 1978; Morgan et al. 1992; Rosenbaum and Slagel 1995; Draper and Green 1997; Aranovich and Newton 1999; Akaishi et al. 2000; Litvinovsky et al. 2000; Molina and Poli 2000; Newton and Manning 2000, 2009; Shmulovich et al. 2001, 2006; Sokol et al. 2001; Dobrzhinetskaya et al. 2004; Cherniak and Watson 2007, 2010; Poli et al. 2009, 2009; Tumiati et al. 2012, 2017; McCubbin et al. 2014; Poli 2015; Tiraboschi et al. 2016, 2017)
oxalic acid anhydrous	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	(Shaji Kumar et al. 2000; Tiraboschi et al. 2017; Tumiati et al. 2017)
stearic acid	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>36</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	(Taylor and Foley 1989; Matveev et al. 1997; Akaishi et al. 2000; Jakobsson and Holloway 2008; Sokol et al. 2009)
fumaric acid	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	(Eggler et al. 1979; Truckenbrodt et al. 1997; Truckenbrodt and Johannes 1998)
phthalic acid	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	(Matveev et al. 1997)
benzoic acid	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	(Matveev et al. 1997)
4'-acetophenone	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	(Truckenbrodt et al. 1997)
4'-Methoxy-acetophenone	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	(Truckenbrodt and Johannes 1998)
4-(1,1,3,3-Tetramethyl-butyl)-phenol	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O	(Truckenbrodt et al. 1997)
3-(2-Furyl)-acrylic-acid	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	(Truckenbrodt and Johannes 1998)
formic acid	CH <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	(Li 2017)
glucose	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	(Yamaoka et al. 2002)
acetic acid	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	(Huang et al. 2017)
anthracene	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>10</sub>	(Matveev et al. 1997; Sokol et al. 2001, 2009)
<i>n</i> -hexacosane	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>54</sub>	(Taylor and Foley 1989)
docosane	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>46</sub>	(Sokol et al. 2009)



**SI Figure 1.** Retooling of the Seewald (2003) alkane decarboxylation reactions, whereby a long-chain alkane is shortened with stepwise decarboxylation reactions.



**SI Figure 2.** Van Krevelen diagram for the chemical evolution of sedimentary organic from diagenesis, through catagenesis and to metagenesis (based on (Seewald 2003; Vandenbroucke and Largeau 2007). Note that the main zone of oil formation is during catagenesis, which involves abiotic thermocatalytic decarboxylation.



**SI Figure 3.** A schematic of the process of coal maturation, which progressively depletes the original biological organic material in heteroatoms and hydrogen.

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