

Carbon in Earth

75 *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* 75

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

Why Deep Carbon?

Robert M. Hazen, Craig M. Schiffrics

FRONTIERS OF DEEP CARBON RESEARCH	4
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	5
REFERENCES	5

2

Carbon Mineralogy and Crystal Chemistry

*Robert M. Hazen, Robert T. Downs
Adrian P. Jones, Linda Kah*

INTRODUCTION	7
SYSTEMATIC CARBON MINERALOGY	8
Carbon allotropes.....	8
Carbides	13
Rhombohedral carbonates	19
The aragonite group.....	27
Other anhydrous carbonates	28
Hydrous carbonates	31
Minerals incorporating organic molecules	32
Mineral-molecule interactions.....	34
CONCLUSIONS: UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS IN CARBON MINERALOGY	35
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	35
REFERENCES	36

3

Structure, Bonding, and Mineralogy of Carbon at Extreme Conditions

*Artem R. Oganov, Russell J. Hemley,
Robert M. Hazen, Adrian P. Jones*

INTRODUCTION	47
THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS.....	48
ELEMENTAL CARBON	49
Stable phases	49
Metastable phases	52

Fullerenes at pressure	54
Ultrahigh-pressure phases	55
CARBIDES	55
MOLECULAR FRAMEWORK STRUCTURES	57
Carbon dioxide	57
Other compounds.....	61
CARBONATES	63
Behavior of sp^2 carbonates	63
High-pressure sp^3 carbonates.....	64
Silicate carbonates.....	66
CONCLUSIONS.....	68
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	70
REFERENCES	70

4 Carbon Mineral Evolution

*Robert M. Hazen, Robert T. Downs,
Linda Kah, Dimitri Sverjensky*

INTRODUCTION	79
STAGES OF CARBON MINERAL EVOLUTION	80
The era of Earth's accretion	81
The era of crust and mantle processing	83
The era of the evolving biosphere	86
CONCLUSIONS: UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS IN CARBON MINERAL EVOLUTION	96
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	97
REFERENCES	97

5 The Chemistry of Carbon in Aqueous Fluids at Crustal and Upper-Mantle Conditions: Experimental and Theoretical Constraints

*Craig E. Manning, Everett L. Shock,
Dimitri A. Sverjensky*

INTRODUCTION	109
Carbon in aqueous fluids of crust and mantle	110
Sources of carbon in aqueous fluids of the crust and mantle	110
OXIDIZED CARBON IN AQUEOUS FLUIDS AT HIGH P AND T	112
Aqueous fluids at high P and T	113
CO_2 - H_2O mixing and miscibility.....	123
REDUCED CARBON IN AQUEOUS FLUIDS AT HIGH P AND T	128
CH_4 and CO solubility in H_2O	128
Kinetic inhibition of CH_4 formation.....	129
Reduced carbon and aqueous fluids at high P and T	131

CONCLUDING REMARKS.....	138
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	138
REFERENCES	138

6

Primordial Origins of Earth's Carbon

*Bernard Marty, Conel M. O'D. Alexander,
Sean N. Raymond*

INTRODUCTION	149
CARBON IN THE UNIVERSE	150
Nucleosynthesis of carbon and stellar evolution	150
Galactic chemical evolution	152
Carbon in the interstellar medium and the presolar molecular cloud.....	152
Carbon content and isotopic composition of the solar nebula.....	152
Volatile abundances and isotope compositions in comets with special reference to carbon	154
Interplanetary dust particles	155
Meteorites	156
The organic matter in chondrites—relationship to IDPs, comets, and ISM.....	158
THE SOLAR SYSTEM: DYNAMICS	159
CLUES TO THE ORIGIN OF CARBON ON EARTH	165
Terrestrial carbon inventory	165
Volatile (C-H-N-noble gas) elemental and isotopic constraints	168
Inferences on the nature of Earth's building blocks	169
Is cosmic dust a major source of terrestrial volatiles?.....	170
CARBON TRAPPING IN EARTH	172
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	173
REFERENCES	173

7

Ingassing, Storage, and Outgassing of Terrestrial Carbon through Geologic Time

Rajdeep Dasgupta

INTRODUCTION	183
CARBON INHERITANCE — MAGMA OCEAN CARBON CYCLE	184
Magma ocean carbon cycle during core formation	184
Magma ocean carbon cycle after core formation	191
CARBON RETENTION: MODULATING MANTLE CARBON BUDGET THROUGH THE WILSON CYCLE	200
Carbon cycle in an ancient Earth with greater thermal vigor: an era of more efficient outgassing?	201
Inefficient subduction of carbon in the Archean and Proterozoic?.....	203
Carbon ingassing in modern Earth	209
Stable forms of carbon in the modern mantle and carbon outgassing.....	214

CONCLUDING REMARKS	219
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	220
REFERENCES	220

8 **Carbon in the Core: Its Influence on the Properties of Core and Mantle**

*Bernard J. Wood, Jie Li,
Anat Shahar*

INTRODUCTION	231
CARBON ISOTOPES AND CARBON CONTENT OF THE CORE	233
DENSITY AND PHASE DIAGRAM CONSTRAINTS	
ON THE CARBON CONTENT OF THE CORE	238
The Fe-C phase diagram.....	238
Densities of iron carbides	239
Sound velocities of Fe, Fe ₃ C and those of the inner core.....	241
CARBON IN THE CORE AND SIDEROPHILE ELEMENTS IN THE MANTLE.....	243
CONCLUSIONS.....	245
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	247
REFERENCES	247

9 **Carbon in Silicate Melts**

Huaiwei Ni, Hans Keppler

INTRODUCTION	251
CARBON SOLUBILITY IN SILICATE MELTS	251
CO ₂ solubility in nominally anhydrous melts.....	252
CO ₂ solubility in hydrous melts.....	259
Solubility of C-O-H fluids under reduced conditions.....	263
CARBON SPECIATION IN SILICATE MELTS	266
Spectroscopic information on speciation.....	266
Carbon speciation in silicate glasses	270
Equilibrium carbon speciation in silicate melts.....	274
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF CARBON-BEARING SILICATE MELTS	277
Viscosity and electrical conductivity	277
Density and molar volume.....	280
Diffusivity of carbon	280
FUTURE DIRECTIONS	282
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	282
REFERENCES	283

10

Carbonate Melts and Carbonatites

Adrian P. Jones, Matthew Genge

Laura Carmody

INTRODUCTION	289
CARBONATE MELTS	291
Physical properties.....	291
Atomic structure of carbonate melts.....	292
Carbonate melts as ionic liquids.....	292
Cation electronegativity (χ)	292
Speciation	294
Carbonate glasses	295
Atomic simulation of carbonates.....	296
CARBONATITES.....	296
Occurrence of carbonatites	298
Geochemistry of carbonatites	301
Carbonatite mineral deposits.....	304
Isotopic signatures of carbonatites	305
GENESIS OF CARBONATITE MAGMAS.....	308
Carbonate melt metasomatism	309
Carbonate melt crystallization of diamond.....	310
Magmas related to carbonate melts	310
FUTURE RESEARCH	311
Carbonatites at high-pressure	311
Melt structure of tetracarbonates?	312
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	312
REFERENCES	312

11

Deep Carbon Emissions from Volcanoes

Michael R. Burton,

Georgina M. Sawyer,

Domenico Granieri

INTRODUCTION: VOLCANIC CO ₂ EMISSIONS	
IN THE GEOLOGICAL CARBON CYCLE	323
Carbon species in Earth degassing	325
METHODS FOR MEASURING GEOLOGICAL CO ₂ EFFLUX.....	325
Ground-based measurements of volcanic plumes	325
Volcanic SO ₂ flux measurements.....	327
Airborne measurements of volcanic plumes	328
Space-based measurements of volcanic plumes.....	329
Ground-based measurements of diffuse deep CO ₂	329
Diffusive degassing of deep CO ₂ in tectonically active areas.....	330
Submarine measurements.....	331
REPORTED MEASUREMENTS OF DEEP CARBON FLUXES.....	332

Subaerial volcanism.....	332
Submarine volcanism	340
INVENTORIES OF GLOBAL VOLCANIC DEEP CARBON FLUX:	
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GEOLOGICAL CARBON CYCLE.....	340
Estimates of global deep carbon emission rates.....	340
Comparison with previous estimates of subaerial volcanic CO ₂ flux.....	342
Balancing CO ₂ emission rates with weathering and subduction rates.....	342
THE ROLE OF DEEP CARBON IN VOLCANIC ACTIVITY.....	343
Original CO ₂ contents of magma	343
Importance of a deep exsolved volatile phase on magma dynamics and eruptive style.....	344
MAGNITUDE OF ERUPTIVE DEEP CARBON EMISSIONS	344
SUMMARY	345
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	346
REFERENCES	346

12

Diamonds and the Geology of Mantle Carbon

*Steven B. Shirey, Pierre Cartigny,
Daniel J. Frost, Shantanu Keshav,
Fabrizio Nestola, Paolo Nimis,
D. Graham Pearson, Nikolai V. Sobolev,
Michael J. Walter*

INTRODUCTION TO DIAMOND CHARACTERISTICS.....	355
Introduction	355
Microscale components in diamonds	361
Internal textures in diamonds	368
DIAMOND FORMATION.....	369
Experimental and thermodynamic constraints of growth in the lithospheric mantle	369
Experimental and thermodynamic constraints of growth in the sub-lithospheric mantle	375
Stable isotopic compositions and the formation of diamonds.....	376
INCLUSIONS HOSTED IN DIAMONDS	382
Thermobarometry	382
Geochemistry and age	386
GEOLOGY OF MANTLE CARBON FROM DIAMONDS	396
Geodynamics, carbon mobility and reservoirs	396
OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS AND FUTURE WORK.....	406
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	406
REFERENCES	406

13

Nanoprobes for Deep Carbon

Wendy L. Mao, Eglantine Boulard

INTRODUCTION	423
SYNTHESIZING SAMPLES AT HIGH PRESSURES AND TEMPERATURES.....	423
High pressure.....	424
High temperature.....	424
Spatial resolution.....	425
EX SITU TECHNIQUES	426
Sample preparation: FIB-SEM.....	426
Characterization tools.....	428
IN SITU TECHNIQUES	435
Nanoscale X-ray diffraction	436
X-ray Raman spectroscopy.....	438
X-ray imaging.....	440
CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK.....	444
REFERENCES	445

14

On the Origins of Deep Hydrocarbons

Mark A. Sephton, Robert M. Hazen

INTRODUCTION	449
BIOGENIC ORIGINS OF DEEP HYDROCARBONS	449
Types of hydrocarbons.....	449
Diagenesis and kerogen formation	450
ABIOTIC ORIGINS OF DEEP HYDROCARBONS	451
Deep gas theories	451
Thomas Gold and the “Deep Hot Biosphere”	451
Evidence for abiotic hydrocarbon synthesis.....	452
DETERMINING SOURCE—CHEMICAL EVIDENCE	454
Pyrolysis experiments.....	454
Molecular biomarkers	455
DETERMINING SOURCE—GEOLOGIC EVIDENCE.....	457
Association with temperature and source rocks	457
SELECTED CASE STUDIES	458
Mountsorrel, United Kingdom	458
The Songliao Basin, China	459
CONCLUSIONS: UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS IN THE ORIGINS OF DEEP HYDROCARBONS.....	459
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	460
REFERENCES	460

15

Laboratory Simulations of Abiotic Hydrocarbon Formation in Earth's Deep Subsurface

Thomas M. McCollom

INTRODUCTION	467
ABIOTIC HYDROCARBONS IN EARTH'S UPPER MANTLE.....	468
The chemical and physical environment of Earth's upper mantle.....	468
Experimental studies of hydrocarbons at mantle conditions.....	468
Implications for mantle sources of hydrocarbons	473
ABIOTIC HYDROCARBON FORMATION IN CRUSTAL ENVIRONMENTS	474
Chemical and physical environments for hydrocarbon formation in the crust.....	474
Fischer-Tropsch-type synthesis	476
Alternative pathways for hydrocarbon formation in the crust.....	487
SOME DIRECTIONS FOR FUTURE STUDIES	490
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	490
REFERENCES	490

16

Hydrocarbon Behavior at Nanoscale Interfaces

*David R. Cole, Salim Ok,
Alberto Striolo, Anh Phan*

INTRODUCTION	495
Probing C-O-H behavior with neutron scattering and NMR.....	498
NON-AQUEOUS FLUID ADSORPTION BEHAVIOR: EXPERIMENTAL	499
Background on adsorption concepts and approaches.....	499
C-O-H pore fluid densities.....	501
Hydrocarbon-interfacial microstructure	503
NON-AQUEOUS FLUID DYNAMICS AT INTERFACES: EXPERIMENTAL	506
QENS probe of hydrocarbons in nanopores	506
NMR probes of hydrocarbons in nanopores.....	509
Representative NMR studies	511
ATOMIC AND MOLECULAR-LEVEL SIMULATIONS	515
Properties of confined fluids: do they differ compared to the bulk?.....	515
Selected simulations of alkanes within alumina and silica-based pores	525
Simulation details	531
SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	534
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	535
REFERENCES	536

17

Nature and Extent of the Deep Biosphere

Frederick S. Colwell, Steven D'Hondt

INTRODUCTION	547
EARLY STUDIES AND COMPREHENSIVE REVIEWS	547
WHERE WE ARE NOW – THE TERROIR OF SUBSURFACE LIFE.....	548
THE TOOLS THAT WE NEED	550
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.....	553
IS DIVERSITY THE SPICE OF SUBSURFACE LIFE?.....	555
BIOMASS OF SUBSURFACE LIFE.....	557
PHYSIOLOGICAL PROCESSES OF SUBSURFACE LIFE.....	558
WHERE AND WHEN DOES LIFE IN THE SUBSURFACE REALLY MATTER TO US?.....	560
PROJECTIONS AND PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE STUDIES.....	562
Imagining how we might sample and visualize deep life.....	563
Unexplored adaptations of subsurface microbes.....	563
Unstudied physiologies and genotypes for the subsurface.....	564
Subsurface coupling of the living and the non-living.....	565
SUMMARY	566
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	566
REFERENCES	566

18

Serpentinization, Carbon, and Deep Life

*Matthew O. Schrenk, William J. Brazelton,
Susan Q. Lang*

INTRODUCTION	575
THE PROCESS OF SERPENTINIZATION	575
Physical and chemical consequences of serpentinization	575
Types of serpentinizing habitats	577
BIOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF SERPENTINIZATION	583
Metabolic strategies in serpentinite-hosted ecosystems.....	583
Challenges of high pH.....	591
Limitations to carbon fixation	591
Sources of nutrients	593
Microbe-mineral interactions	594
Serpentinization and the origins of life	594
WHERE DOES THE ABIOTIC CARBON CYCLE END AND BIOGEOCHEMISTRY BEGIN?.....	597
Abiogenesis in thermodynamic and experimental studies	597
Distinguishing biotic from abiotic processes	598
Linking abiotic and biological processes	599
COMMON THEMES AND UNCHARTED TERRITORY	600
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	601
REFERENCES	601

19

High-Pressure Biochemistry and Biophysics

*Filip Meersman, Isabelle Daniel,
Douglas H. Bartlett, Roland Winter
Rachael Hazael, Paul F. McMillan*

INTRODUCTION	607
PROTEINS AND POLYPEPTIDES	608
Structures of proteins and polypeptides	608
Thermodynamic considerations: volume <i>versus</i> compressibility arguments	609
The protein volume paradox.....	610
Mechanistic aspects of pressure-induced protein unfolding	611
Pressure effects on multimeric proteins and aggregates.....	612
Pressure effects on protein energy landscapes	613
From free energy landscapes to <i>P-T</i> phase diagrams	616
Kinetic aspects of the phase diagram	619
Relevance of biophysical studies on proteins to deep carbon	620
NUCLEIC ACIDS.....	620
LIPIDS AND CELL MEMBRANES	622
Lamellar lipid bilayer phases.....	622
Lipid mixtures, cholesterol, and peptides.....	626
Nonlamellar lipid phases	628
Biological and reconstituted membranes.....	630
Relevance of lipid biophysics for deep carbon.....	631
HIGH-PRESSURE MICROBIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMICAL CYCLES	632
Who’s down there?	632
Genomic attributes at depth.....	634
Metabolism: organic matter, energy and nutrients	636
ACQUISITION OF RESISTANCE TO GIGAPASCAL PRESSURES	637
Exploring extreme pressure limits for life.....	637
Acquisition of gigapascal pressure resistance by higher organisms.....	638
Resistance to extreme shock pressures.....	639
CONCLUSIONS.....	640
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	640
REFERENCES	640

20

The Deep Viriosphere: Assessing the Viral Impact on Microbial Community Dynamics in the Deep Subsurface

*Rika E. Anderson, William J. Brazelton,
John A. Baross*

INTRODUCTION	649
DIVERSITY IN THE VIRAL WORLD	650
Viral life cycles.....	650
Viral sizes and morphologies.....	652

Carbon in Earth – Table of Contents

Genetic diversity	654
VIRAL IMPACTS ON HOST ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION	654
Bottom-up effects: the biogeochemical impact	655
Top-down effects: altering population structure	655
Viral manipulation of genetic content and expression	657
VIRAL MANIPULATION OF THE DEEP SUBSURFACE BIOSPHERE	658
Hydrologically active regions of the subsurface	658
Deeply buried sediments	660
Viral impacts on surface-attached communities	661
Tools for analysis: viral metagenomics in the deep subsurface	662
VENTS, VIRUSES AND THE ORIGIN OF LIFE	666
Hydrothermal vents and the deep subsurface: key settings in the origin of life	666
The viral role in the origin of life	667
CONCLUSION	669
REFERENCES	670