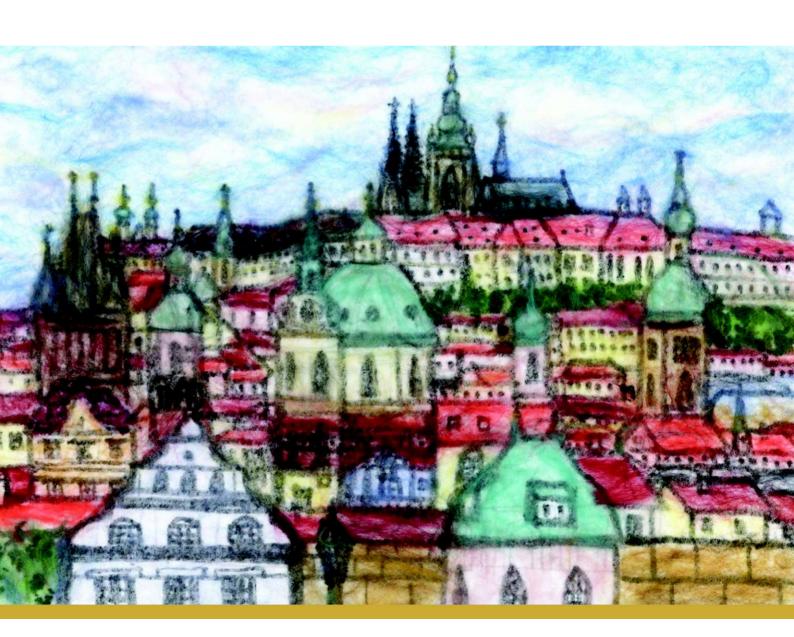


**Prague, September 13 - 18, 2015** 

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# Composition of Natural Bitumens and heavy Oil Fields in Tatarstan and Kazakhstan

### Rustam Z Mukhametshin\*\*, Dauit Nukenov<sup>2</sup>, Svetlana A Punanova<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University, ul. Kremlevskaya 18, Kazan, 420008 Tatarstan, Russia <sup>2</sup>Independent expert of the Central commission on development of minerals of Ministry of oil and gas of republic of, Aktau, Kazakhstan

<sup>3</sup>Oil and Gas Research Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, 119331, Russia (\* corresponding author: punanova@mail.ru)

This report introduces the study into non-traditional sources of hydrocarbons, such as raw materials-natural bitumen and heavy oils in Tatlrstan and Kazakhstan. Identification of their characteristics is necessary for assessing merchantability hydrocarbons, which include the industrially important toxic metals.

The term of natural bitumen used in this paper refers to viscous, viscoplastic, and solid bitumens, which cannot be extracted by methods commonly used in oil production. The most part of this is a disregarded reserve of hydrocarbon resources.

Our studies with the generalization of the results of other works demonstrated (Kayukova et al., 1998; Mukhametshin, Punanova, 2012) that the samples of bitumen from the Permian deposits of the region are the products of the supergene transformation of oils with high sulfur contents (2.8-5.9%) to different degrees with variations in oil, tar, and asphaltene contents from 24.8 to 69.4, from 19.4 to 48, and from 6.0 to 62%, respectively, that is, from superviscous oils to the viscoplastic asphalts of viscosity to 440 Pa • s or higher and solid asphaltites. Naphthides even within each particular bitumenbearing complex are characterized by various physicochemical properties and component compositions in spite of a comparatively narrow range of depths.

The temperature factor, which is +6-+8°C in the sandstone beds of the Ufa layer plays an important role in the accumulation of naphthides with a specific composition; because of this, the segregation of oil components and the solidification of paraffin in the pore space of collectors were observed.

This phenomenon was supported by the data of a comparative analysis of the properties of petroleum bitumens obtained from boreholes and extracts separated from the reservoir rocks of the Ufa layer: the former were characterized by the predominance of isoprenoid alkanes up to the complete absence of paraffin structures, whereas the latter were characterized by the Al type petroleum containing alkanes and normal and isoprenoid hydrocarbons in oils. According to Ashirov (Ashirov, 1962), a similar phenomenon was also observed in the Sadkinskoe deposit (northeastern board of the Buzuluk depression): E.K. Frolova found the occurrence of paraffin and ozocerite in Lower Permian dolomite cavities. Next, Ashirov noted that the precipitation of paraffin in the Lower Permian deposits is related to the rise of deep oils into the zone of lower temperatures, which caused its crystallization.

In the zone of hypergenesis, not only the physicochemical properties of naphthides and their hydrocarbon composition but also the concentrations of trace elements changed under the action of the above processes( Nukenov et al., 2001). Because of the loss of light fractions, the absolute concentrations of the elements bound to tar-asphaltene components (V, Ni, Co, Mo, Cr, Cu, etc.) in naphthides considerably increased. Furthermore, the heteroatomic tar-asphaltene components of naphthides, which contact with low-mineralized stratal water in the zone of hypergenesis, are capable of sorbing trace elements with variable valence such as V, Fe, and U. Not only an increase in the absolute concentrations of trace elements in naphthides but also a change in the ratio between metal concentrations are the process characteristics of hypergenesis approved with petroleum from the oil fields of many regions. As a result of experimental studies on the interaction of oils with low-mineralized water (Punanova, Chakhmakhchev, 1992), the washout of some elements (Zn) from oils and the absorption of other elements by oils as a result of active chemisorption from contacting water were found (the concentrations of newly formed V and Fe increased by a factor of 1.3-12). The V content of oils increased especially intensely in the presence of hydrogen sulfide and elemental sulfur. As a result of these conversions, as a rule, the Zn/Co ratio in hypergenically changed oils considerably decreased, whereas the V/Ni ratio noticeably increased. The V and Ni contents of natural bitumen from Permian layers are very high (Permskie bitumy Tatarii, 1976). The maximum average concentrations of V and Ni were found in bitumens from Lower Permian deposits (V = 910 g/t and Ni = 177 g/t).

Thus, the geological development of particular tectonic elements in the Ural-Volga Region is responsible for the specific mechanisms of oil conversion into natural bitumen, which is reflected in their composition and properties.

Kazakhstan and Tatarstan produce oils that are mostly heavy, high viscous, belongs to the category of non-traditional resources with a high content of metals, especially nickel and vanadium, that associate in crude oils from the asphalt-resinous components. All those factors draw the attention of the researchers to the need for an integrated approach to industrial V-naphthides and some of the modern methods of extraction of metals.

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