

Carl H. Hilgers Technisches Büro Hauptstraße 82 D 53639 Königswinter Germany http://www.hilgers.com info@hilgers.com

Microscope session

The microscope session was attended by a large number of members and took place Thursday (22/09). In addition to Kimon's microscope, once again Carl Hilgers and his instrument were available.

During this session interested ICCP members had the opportunity to discuss and look at the two lignite samples of the Standardization WG round robin exercise. Samples supplied by Peter Crosdale were also looked at and the problem of the identification and origin of Degradinite was debated by some members. Difficulties to distinguish some macerals and its botanical affinities were discussed looking at peat samples supplied by Stavros Kalaitzidis.

Presentation: "New development of the "Hilgers" instrument for reflectance and maceral analysis" - Carl Hilgers

Last year in Budapest Carl Hilgers introduced to the ICCP participants a measuring microscope equipped with the new software - DISKUS - for reflectance measurement and maceral counting. During this meeting Carl Hilgers showed again the instrument developed and emphasised the improvement and enhancements made during 2004/2005. It includes: oil-free observation and analysis of coal samples; a version to be used with microscopes with a manual stage for reduced costs; software to analyse parasitic reflexions; calibration with one or two reflexion-standards; free selection of the measurement area; automatic storage of the picture with measurements; and, contrast correction to show the picture in "normal" contrast.

Carl Hilgers clearly showed all the improvements made after his presentation at the previous meeting and the advantages of this new technique. Carl Hilgers was available for further discussions on details on the instrument and software during most of the meeting. Interested ICCP members had the chance -and used it massively- to receive all the information that they wanted. Com I sincerely thanks Carl Hilgers for this opportunity.