

Figure S1. Partial GC-MS ion chromatograms (m/z 85; 10–60 min) of the hydrocarbon fractions (F1) from bitumens of the Magadi cherts (LM-1692–1699; a–h) and the Great Geysir reference sinter (IC-1700; i). A narrow bell-shaped n -alkane distribution in the mid-chain range (around n -C₂₁) is visible in all samples analyzed. Additionally, odd-numbered long-chain n -alkanes are abundant in bitumens from most of the Green Bed cherts (LM-1697–1699; f–h). Notably, 6-methyl heptadecane appears in LM-1696 (e).

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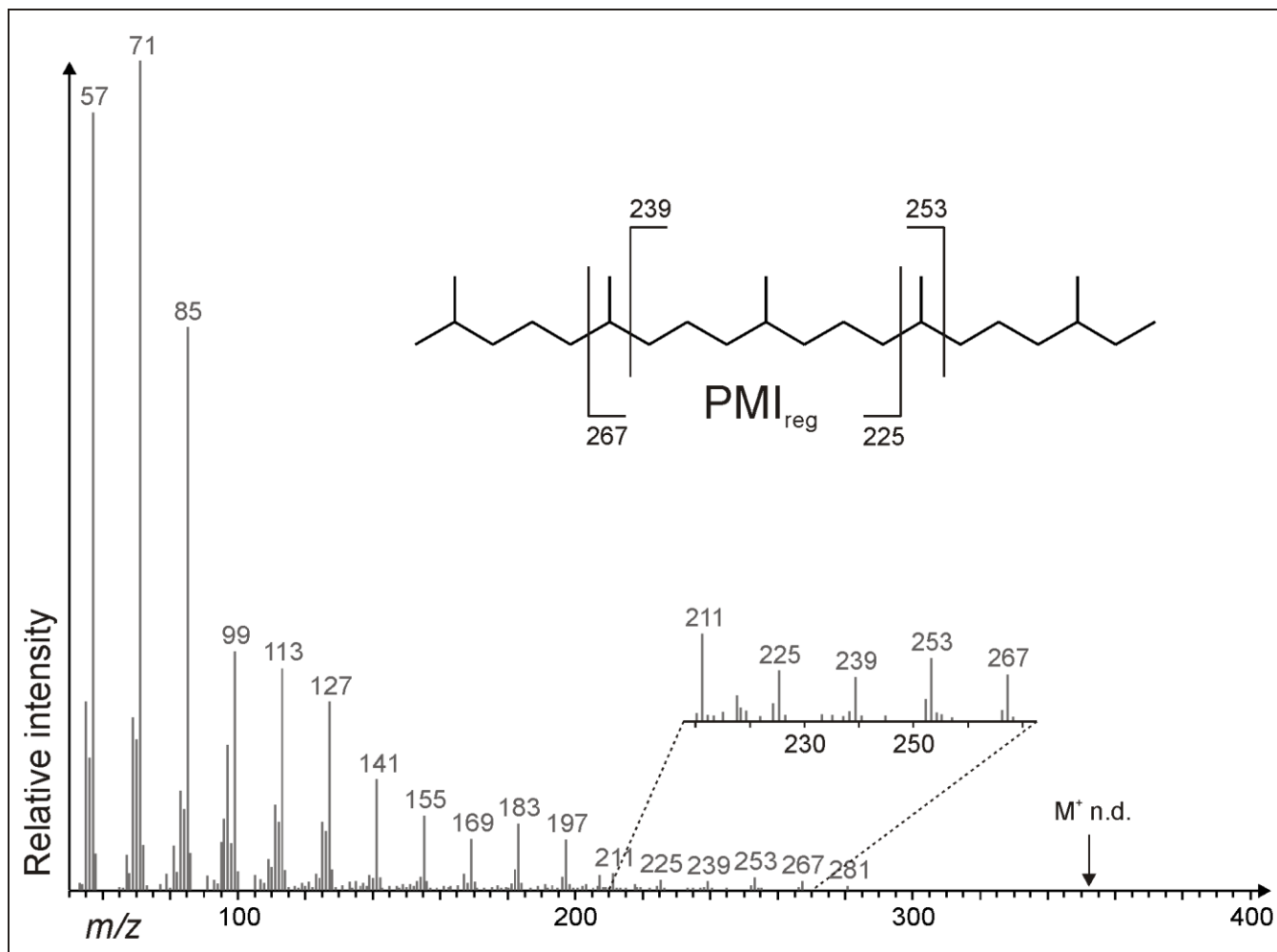


Figure S2. Mass spectrum of the regular C₂₅ isoprenoid 2,6,10,14,18-pentamethylcosane (PMI_{reg}) from kerogen of LM-1693 (similar in kerogen pyrolysates from LM-1692 and LM-1695). Typical for this C₂₅ isoprenoid isomer is the high abundance of the fragments at 225 and 253 amu, as compared to 239 and 267 amu (Risatti et al., 1984; Greenwood and Summons, 2003). The molecular ion (M⁺) at 352 amu was not detected (n.d.).

Table S1. Mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{V-PDB}}$ values in ‰ of fatty acids from bitumens

	LM-1692		LM-1693		LM-1694		LM-1695		LM-1696		LM-1697		LM-1698		LM-1699		IC-1700					
	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±				
C _{12:0}	-25.7	0.1	-25.0	0.1															-26.5	0.1		
C _{13:0}			-26.1	0.5																-21.2	0.2	
C _{14:0}	-26.1	<0.1	-27.5	0.1	-27.4	<0.1	-32.2	0.1			-28.5	0.8								-26.4	0.2	
<i>i</i> -C _{15:0}			-25.3	<0.1	-27.3	0.1															-18.2	<0.1
<i>ai</i> -C _{15:0}	-30.9	<0.1	-28.8	0.1	-29.5	0.1															-21.2	0.7
C _{15:0}	-27.8	0.1	-28.0	0.2	-26.1	0.1	-31.4	0.2			-21.5	0.4	-29.2	<0.1	-23.9	0.1					-24.8	0.2
C _{16:1}													-26.9	0.5								
C _{16:1}													-23.7	0.5								
<i>ai</i> -C _{16:0}	-28.3	<0.1	-25.3	<0.1	-26.4	<0.1	-23.9	0.1	-27.0	0.5	-27.5	0.1	-23.9	<0.1	-25.3	0.1					-26.1	<0.1
C _{17:0}	-34.0	<0.1	-30.0	0.3	-25.7	0.1																
C _{17:0}	-29.4	0.2	-27.3	0.2	-24.8	0.7	-27.3	<0.1	-18.8	0.1	-22.8	0.1	-24.1	0.9	-30.5	0.5					-24.2	0.2
C _{18:2}			-27.8	1.0	-18.3	0.7			-35.2	0.2			-27.5	0.2								
C _{18:1}	-29.1	0.1	-26.5	0.1	-25.8	<0.1			-26.9	<0.1	-28.1	0.5	-23.2	0.2	-30.2	0.1						
C _{18:1}	-21.7	0.2	-22.5	0.1									-21.2	0.2								
C _{18:0}	-28.3	0.2	-26.3	0.1	-29.1	0.1	-29.6	0.1	-26.2	0.4	-28.7	0.1	-25.1	0.2	-28.4	0.7					-27.2	0.1
C _{19:0}											-22.1	0.1	-32.0	0.1							-27.9	<0.1
C _{20:0}	-28.8	0.6	-28.2	<0.1	-27.2	<0.1			-20.2	0.1	-20.8	0.1	-27.3	0.7	-27.5	0.2					-21.1	0.1
C _{21:0}											-21.3	<0.1	-30.9	0.3								
C _{22:0}									-30.5	0.3	-24.3	0.1	-28.0	0.7	-26.7	<0.1					-33.7	0.3
C _{23:0}											-25.7	<0.1	-30.8	0.1							-30.6	<0.1
C _{24:0}	-24.5	0.1	-28.0	0.1	-22.2	0.1	-28.9	0.1	-28.5	0.3	-26.3	0.1	-27.5	0.1	-28.8	<0.1					-29.5	0.1
<i>i</i> -C _{25:0}			-24.8	0.2																		
<i>ai</i> -C _{25:0}			-27.1	0.2																		
C _{25:0}			-22.5	0.2							-26.8	0.1	-24.7	0.7							-33.8	0.1
C _{26:0}	-25.8	0.2	-30.6	<0.1	-30.4	0.4			-16.3	0.2	-24.6	0.2	-30.0	0.3	-30.5	0.3					-35.4	0.1
C _{27:0}											-22.5	0.2									-31.9	0.2
C _{28:0}											-25.4	<0.1									-32.0	<0.1

Table S2. Mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{V-PDB}}$ values in ‰ of alcohols, ketones, mono- and diethers from bitumens

	LM- 1692	LM- 1693	LM- 1694	LM- 1695	LM- 1696	LM- 1697	LM- 1698	LM- 1699	IC- 1700									
	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±						
<i>Alkan-1-ols</i>																		
C ₁₂											-29.9	0.4						
C ₁₃											-25.2	0.1						
C ₁₄	-28.5	0.2	-39.5	0.1	-37.3	0.1	-19.6	0.5	-27.1	0.7	-19.4	0.2	-30.2	0.1				
C ₁₅													-27.3	<0.1				
C ₁₆	-34.8	0.2	-25.1	<0.1	-35.5	0.4	-36.0	0.3	-35.9	0.2	-33.1	0.2	-33.6	0.4	-30.9	0.3	-24.4	0.1
C ₁₈	-37.2	0.3	-31.9	0.2	-35.0	0.3	-35.9	0.4	-34.8	0.1	-33.2	<0.1	-35.1	0.4	-32.8	0.4	-29.4	0.3
C ₂₀	-30.9	0.1	-29.9	0.6	-32.7	0.1	-30.3	0.2	-29.8	0.1	-24.8	0.2	-29.5	0.1	-30.9	0.1		
C ₂₁							-33.3	0.2										
C ₂₂	-29.6	0.4	-32.4	0.3	-28.7	0.1	-30.3	0.2	-25.2	0.4	-34.6	0.2	-26.7	0.3	-31.5	0.3	-25.9	0.2
C ₂₃													-31.1	0.1	-20.2	0.4		
C ₂₄	-20.2	0.3	-36.5	0.1	-28.3	0.3	-32.3	0.6	-30.1	0.7	-22.6	0.8	-25.0	0.2	-30.0	0.3	-24.0	0.1
C ₂₅													-17.5	0.2	-25.3	0.2		
C ₂₆	-32.1	0.5	-33.8	0.7	-17.4	0.2	-28.5	0.9	-26.5	0.3	-29.2	0.1	-21.7	0.3	-21.8	0.2	-27.7	0.5
C ₂₇													-26.4	0.3				
C ₂₈	-21.3	1.0	-26.7	0.5	-20.6	0.4	-26.6	1.0	-18.7	0.3	-22.8	0.1	-25.4	<0.1	-23.5	0.1	-23.0	0.2
C ₃₀					-14.6	0.3					-20.3	0.7			-19.6	0.1	-29.5	0.5
C ₃₂	-26.4	0.7																
<i>Glycerol mono- and diethers</i>																		
<i>i</i> -C _{16:0}	-21.8	0.1	-20.3	<0.1	-12.2	<0.1												
C _{16:0}	-20.4	0.1	-20.2	0.7	-11.4	0.4												
10Me-C _{16:0}	-21.5	0.1	-23.0	0.1	-19.7	<0.1												
<i>i</i> -C _{17:0}	-25.2	0.2	-21.3	0.5														
<i>ai</i> -C _{17:0}	-17.4	0.1	-25.0	0.7														
C _{17:0}	-19.0	0.1	-26.9	0.1	-10.7	0.2												
Me-C _{17:0}	-22.1	0.1	-17.9	0.4	-10.9	0.1												
Me-C _{17:0}	-22.5	0.3	-9.8	<0.1	-9.4	<0.1	-18.6	0.1										
C _{18:1}	-20.9	0.2	-15.7	0.1														
C _{18:1}	-19.1	0.8	-22.9	0.7	-7.0	0.2												
C _{18:0}	-12.5	0.2	-19.0	0.8	-5.7	0.4												
A	-21.7	0.4	-18.5	0.5	-12.2	0.4	-22.2	0.1	-14.8	0.5					-16.6	0.4		
ExA	-18.3	0.6	-19.9	0.2	-15.3	0.4	-19.4	0.5	-19.6	0.5								
<i>Other compounds</i>																		
Tetrahyd.							-33.3	0.3	-27.7	0.1	-25.4	0.2	-24.1	0.5	-29.3	0.2		

Table S3. Mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{V-PDB}}$ values in ‰ of alkanes and isoprenoids from bitumens

	LM- 1692	LM- 1693	LM- 1694	LM- 1695	LM- 1696	LM- 1697	LM- 1698	LM- 1699	IC- 1700									
	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±						
<i>n</i> -C ₁₆											-37.1	0.1						
<i>n</i> -C ₁₇			-30.5	0.6			-30.1	0.6	-38.0	1.2		-32.9	<0.1					
6Me-C ₁₇							-30.3	0.2										
<i>n</i> -C ₁₈	-32.5	<0.1	-32.1	<0.1	-31.8	0.5	-35.6	0.5	-33.8	<0.1	-34.4	0.1	-34.3	0.1		-33.4	<0.1	
<i>n</i> -C ₁₉	-32.0	0.2	-31.6	0.1	-32.0	0.1	-33.3	0.3	-32.9	0.5	-33.3	0.4	-32.9	<0.1	-14.7	0.5	-35.2	0.1
<i>i</i> -C ₂₀	-31.1	0.1	-30.0	<0.1	-34.1	0.3							-29.8	0.2				
<i>ai</i> -C ₂₀	-32.1	0.8	-33.2	0.1	-29.0	0.8							-27.5	0.1				
<i>n</i> -C ₂₀	-31.4	<0.1	-30.7	0.2	-30.9	0.3	-32.3	0.4	-33.2	<0.1	-32.6	0.4	-32.7	0.2	-38.9	0.3	-33.6	<0.1
<i>i</i> -C ₂₁	-32.3	<0.1	-31.2	<0.1	-32.7	<0.1	-30.9	0.1	-34.4	0.7	-35.3	0.5	-33.2	0.3				
<i>ai</i> -C ₂₁	-29.8	<0.1	-31.5	<0.1	-30.5	0.3	-31.9	0.4	-28.6	0.1	-36.5	0.3	-32.2	0.1				
<i>n</i> -C ₂₁	-31.6	<0.1	-31.0	0.2	-31.2	0.4	-31.9	0.1	-32.9	<0.1	-31.6	<0.1	-33.6	<0.1	-35.0	0.7	-34.0	<0.1
<i>i</i> -C ₂₂	-29.9	0.8	-33.2	0.1	-29.6	0.1	-34.0	0.3	-34.1	0.1	-34.9	0.1	-33.6	0.1				
<i>ai</i> -C ₂₂	-29.1	0.2	-37.4	0.8	-28.9	0.1	-34.4	0.2	-33.3	<0.1	-32.6	0.1	-33.3	0.3				
<i>n</i> -C ₂₂	-32.1	0.2	-31.7	<0.1	-32.0	0.3	-32.3	0.1	-32.8	<0.1	-31.6	0.2	-34.4	0.2	-36.7	0.3	-37.5	<0.1
<i>i</i> -C ₂₃	-33.8	0.1	-30.3	0.1	-29.1	0.1	-32.1	<0.1	-31.4	<0.1	-36.5	0.1	-31.3	0.2				
<i>ai</i> -C ₂₃	-33.7	0.2	-27.3	0.1	-28.8	0.1	-33.1	0.1	-32.1	0.1	-39.1	0.4	-30.2	0.4				
<i>n</i> -C ₂₃	-32.1	<0.1	-32.2	0.2	-32.2	<0.1	-32.4	0.1	-32.6	0.3	-34.5	<0.1	-33.4	0.1	-25.4	0.1	-39.6	0.1
<i>i</i> -C ₂₄	-31.8	<0.1	-33.9	0.1	-32.5	<0.1	-29.8	0.4	-35.2	<0.1			-36.3	0.3				
<i>ai</i> -C ₂₄	-26.2	0.5	-32.6	0.2	-31.5	0.1	-29.0	0.1	-34.3	0.3			-29.5	0.7				
<i>n</i> -C ₂₄	-32.7	0.2	-33.7	<0.1	-31.6	<0.1	-31.8	0.2	-32.5	0.5	-30.6	0.2	-32.2	0.1	-27.6	0.2	-39.2	<0.1
<i>i</i> -C ₂₅	-30.8	<0.1	-31.2	0.4	-25.3	<0.1	-34.6	0.1	-28.4	0.4								
<i>ai</i> -C ₂₅	-26.8	0.4	-35.9	0.4	-22.6	0.2	-30.4	0.7	-28.0	0.2								
<i>n</i> -C ₂₅							-32.0	<0.1	-30.2	0.1	-34.7	0.1	-34.9	0.2	-25.6	0.1		
<i>n</i> -C ₂₆							-29.8	0.1	-29.9	0.2	-34.0	0.2	-25.8	<0.1	-34.8	0.3		
<i>n</i> -C ₂₇											-36.3	0.2	-23.7	0.1	-30.8	0.1		
<i>n</i> -C ₂₈											-33.8	0.2	-24.2	0.3	-27.9	0.1		
<i>n</i> -C ₂₉											-28.8	0.4	-23.9	0.5	-21.5	0.2		
<i>n</i> -C ₃₀															-26.9	0.1		
<i>n</i> -C ₃₁											-20.9	0.6	-24.4	0.1	-21.1	0.4		
<i>n</i> -C ₃₂															-24.5	0.2		
<i>n</i> -C ₃₃															-25.8	<0.1		
<i>Isoprenoids</i>																		
Pr			-31.7	0.1					-30.2	0.1	-32.2	0.2	-35.8	0.1			-34.5	0.2
Ph	-33.3	<0.1	-30.9	0.4	-30.0	0.6	-36.1	1.2	-34.7	0.1	-33.8	0.1	-35.3	<0.1			-38.6	0.1

Table S4. Mean $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{V-PDB}}$ values in ‰ of alkanes and isoprenoids from kerogens

	LM- 1692		LM- 1693		LM- 1695		LM- 1697		LM- 1698	
	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±	Mean	±
<i>n</i> -C ₁₅					-30.5	0.6				
<i>n</i> -C ₁₆					-30.4	0.1			-30.9	0.1
<i>n</i> -C ₁₇					-30.3	<0.1	-26.0	0.3	-31.3	<0.1
<i>n</i> -C ₁₈	-36.3	0.7	-35.0	0.9	-31.5	0.2	-25.4	0.4	-34.9	<0.1
<i>n</i> -C ₁₉	-32.0	0.3	-29.2	0.7	-27.2	0.1	-24.0	<0.1	-34.6	0.1
<i>n</i> -C ₂₀	-27.8	0.6	-33.7	0.8	-26.9	0.1	-22.1	<0.1	-35.8	0.2
<i>n</i> -C ₂₁	-28.1	0.4	-31.5	0.3	-27.6	0.7	-22.0	0.2	-34.3	0.8
<i>n</i> -C ₂₂	-31.1	<0.1	-30.9	0.2	-28.8	0.1	-23.0	0.9	-32.9	0.1
<i>n</i> -C ₂₃	-31.8	0.1	-29.3	0.4	-27.3	<0.1	-22.4	0.1	-34.5	0.8
<i>n</i> -C ₂₄	-26.5	0.6	-30.5	0.3	-26.9	0.2	-22.9	0.5	-35.3	0.2
<i>n</i> -C ₂₅	-28.7	0.5	-30.9	1.0	-27.3	<0.1	-24.4	0.3	-34.9	<0.1
<i>n</i> -C ₂₆	-26.6	0.5	-27.4	0.1	-25.4	<0.1	-24.1	0.1	-29.7	0.1
<i>n</i> -C ₂₇	-29.8	0.3	-30.6	0.1	-24.8	<0.1	-22.9	0.4	-28.0	0.1
<i>n</i> -C ₂₈	-30.4	0.4	-28.8	0.7	-23.6	0.3	-22.6	0.3	-28.0	0.1
<i>n</i> -C ₂₉	-25.9	<0.1	-29.1	0.8	-25.8	0.2	-22.8	0.2	-26.3	0.3
<i>n</i> -C ₃₀	-29.6	0.6	-32.3	0.4	-24.3	0.3	-22.1	<0.1	-26.0	0.1
<i>n</i> -C ₃₁	-24.7	0.2	-31.0	0.4	-23.5	<0.1	-22.4	0.1	-27.1	0.6
<i>n</i> -C ₃₂	-26.7	0.4	-31.3	1.0	-22.6	0.4	-21.5	<0.1	-24.1	0.6
<i>n</i> -C ₃₃	-24.8	0.7			-23.6	0.2	-21.4	0.4	-26.2	0.2
<i>n</i> -C ₃₄	-27.6	0.1			-23.2	0.1	-21.2	0.1	-25.4	<0.1
<i>n</i> -C ₃₅	-28.9	0.3			-24.4	0.7	-20.4	0.5	-28.2	0.5
<i>n</i> -C ₃₆					-27.4	0.7	-21.0	0.1	-23.7	0.4
<i>n</i> -C ₃₇					-27.7	0.9	-20.8	0.4	-26.9	0.2
<i>n</i> -C ₃₈					-25.6	<0.1	-19.3	0.6	-25.3	<0.1
<i>n</i> -C ₃₉							-21.8	0.1		
<i>n</i> -C ₄₀							-21.6	0.5		
<i>Isoprenoids</i>										
Far					-33.0	0.2				
Nor					-35.3	0.1				
Pr					-32.3	0.3				
Ph	-25.1	0.3	-26.8	0.2	-28.5	<0.1				
PMI _{reg}	-22.0	0.3	-24.0	0.4	-24.6	0.1				