

1 **Source Rock Evaluation and Petroleum System Modeling of the East Beni Suef Basin,**
2 **North Eastern Desert, Egypt**

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10 **Highlights**

- 11 • Three kerogen types (II, II/III, and III) are defined in the East Beni Suef Basin.
12 • Abu Roash “F” Member is the main source rock and exists in the early oil window.
13 • Four tectonic episodes can be inferred from the reconstructed burial history.
14 • Sedimentation onset and rates differ across both sides of the Beni Suef Basin.
15 • Erosion and heat flow have proportional and mutual effects on thermal maturity.

16 **Abstract**

17 This study deals with the East Beni Suef Basin (Eastern Desert, Egypt) and aims to evaluate
18 the source-generative potential, reconstruct the burial and thermal history, examine the most
19 influential parameters on thermal maturity modeling, and improve on the models already
20 published for the West Beni Suef to ultimately formulate a complete picture of the whole basin
21 evolution. Source rock evaluation was carried out based on TOC, Rock-Eval pyrolysis, and
22 visual kerogen petrography analyses. Three kerogen types (II, II/III, and III) are distinguished
23 in the East Beni Suef Basin, where the Abu Roash “F” Member acts as the main source rock
24 with good to excellent source potential, oil-prone mainly type II kerogen, and immature to
25 marginal maturity levels. The burial history shows four depositional and erosional phases
26 linked with the tectonic evolution of the basin. A hiatus (due to erosion or non-deposition) has
27 occurred during the Late Eocene-Oligocene in the East Beni Suef Basin, while the West Beni
28 Suef Basin has continued subsiding. Sedimentation began later (Middle to Late Albian) with
29 lower rates in the East Beni Suef Basin compared with the West Beni Suef Basin (Early Albian).
30 The Abu Roash “F” source rock exists in the early oil window with a present-day transformation
31 ratio of about 19 % and 21 % in the East and West Beni Suef Basin, respectively, while the
32 Lower Kharita source rock, which is only recorded in the West Beni Suef Basin, has reached
33 the late oil window with a present-day transformation ratio of about 70 %. The magnitude of
34 erosion and heat flow have proportional and mutual effects on thermal maturity. We present
35 three possible scenarios of basin modeling in the East Beni Suef Basin concerning the erosion
36 from the Apollonia and Dabaa formations. Results of this work can serve as a basis for
37 subsequent 2D and/or 3D basin modeling, which are highly recommended to further investigate
38 the petroleum system evolution of the Beni Suef Basin.

39 **Keywords**

40 Source Rock Evaluation; Kerogen Petrography; Basin Modeling; Sensitivity Analysis; Beni
41 Suf Basin; Egypt.

42 **1. Introduction**

43 The Beni Suf Basin is an extensional rift basin in north-central Egypt lying approximately 150
44 km south of Cairo and is bisected by the Nile Valley into the West and East of the Nile
45 Provinces (Fig. 1). Recently, the Beni Suf Basin is fast emerging as one of the most promising
46 and prolific targets for hydrocarbon exploration with success providing an ample incentive for
47 exploring the petroleum systems of Upper Egypt (Zahran et al., 2011). The promising
48 exploration of the Beni Suf oil field in September 1997 by Seagull Energy Corporation
49 emphasized a new productive basin extends eastward across the Nile River (Nemec and Colley,
50 1998), which triggered Qarun Petroleum Company to continue the exploration activities on the
51 eastern side of the Beni Suf Basin, which resulted in the discovery of Gharibon and Sohba oil
52 fields in 2002 and 2008, respectively (Zahran et al., 2011).

53 Although the East Beni Suf Basin constitutes the major portion of Beni Suf Basin (Zahran et
54 al., 2011), most of the published work focused on the West Beni Suf Basin (Makky et al.,
55 2014; Khalil et al., 2016; Abd El-Gawad et al., 2017; Abdel-Fattah et al., 2017; El-Werr et al.,
56 2017; Elanbaawy et al., 2017; Shehata et al., 2018a, 2018b, 2019; Sakran et al., 2019; Edress
57 et al., 2021), while little has been published on the East Beni Suf Basin (Abd El-Aal et al.,
58 2015; Saber and Salama, 2017; Salem and Sehim, 2017; Tahoun et al., 2017; RabeH et al., 2019)
59 with no detailed focus on the hydrocarbon source potential and basin modeling.

60 The present work deals with the East Beni Suf Basin and endeavors to assess the hydrocarbon-
61 generative potential of the Upper Cretaceous-Middle Eocene sedimentary sequence,
62 reconstruct the burial and thermal history, determine the timing of hydrocarbon generation, and
63 improve the published models on the West Beni Suf Basin to formulate a complete picture of
64 the source rock characterization and basin evolution through the whole basin. Furthermore, the
65 most influential parameters on thermal maturity modeling are examined through sensitivity
66 analysis to minimize the inherent uncertainty of basin modeling, where the impacts of the
67 Syrian-Arc system tectonics and the Miocene thermal uplift of the Red Sea rifting on the source
68 rock maturity are discussed for a more realistic and robust basin modeling.

69 To achieve these goals, we used an extensive data set of geochemical and kerogen analyses
70 including total organic carbon (TOC), Rock-Eval pyrolysis, and visual kerogen composition
71 that were performed on 190 cutting samples from three wells in the East Beni Suf Basin (i.e.,
72 Gharibon-1X, Gharibon NE-1x, and Tareef-1x). PetroMod 1D basin modeling software
73 (Schlumberger; Version 2019) was used to construct the burial and thermal history and to
74 perform the sensitivity analysis.

75 **2. Geological Setting**

76 The sedimentary basins of NE Africa were initiated under tensional tectonics in the wake of the
77 post-Hercynian break-up of Gondwana (Guiraud, 1998; Keeley and Massoud, 1998; Macgregor
78 and Moody, 1998; Badalini et al., 2002; Tawadros, 2011; Wood, 2015) probably attributed to
79 mantle-upwelling during Gondwana disintegration (Storey, 1995, 1996; Wilson et al., 1998;
80 Hawkesworth et al., 1999), leading to the development of extensional half-grabens that formed
81 along the southern margin of the Neo-Tethys Ocean (Wood, 2015; Abdel-Fattah et al., 2020,
82 2021). The Beni Suf Basin experienced an initial Albian extensional phase in the NE-SW

83 direction and a transtensional phase during the Santonian time (Zahran et al., 2011; Abd El-Aal
84 et al., 2015; Salem and Sehim, 2017), these tectonics could be attributed to the relative motion
85 of Africa with respect to Eurasia (Smith, 1971; Meshref, 1990; Moustafa, 2008). The
86 extensional rifting resumed within the basin during the Eocene time (Salem and Sehim, 2017),
87 while a significant uplift took place during the Miocene in response to the pre-rift thermal uplift
88 of the Red Sea (Bosworth and Stockli, 2016; Abdelbaset et al., 2020).

89 The sedimentary section of both sides of the Beni Suef Basin is well correlated (Zahran et al.,
90 2011; Salem and Sehim, 2017; Shehata et al., 2018b, 2020), except for the absence of the Albian
91 Lower Kharita shales -the most thermal mature source rock in the West Beni Suef Basin- and
92 the Oligocene Dabaa Formation in the East Beni Suef Basin (Fig. 2).

93 The stratigraphic column of the East Beni Suef Basin starts with the continental clastics of the
94 Albian Kharita Formation, which is overlain by the shallow marine clastics of the Early
95 Cenomanian Bahariya Formation (Fig. 2). The Late Cenomanian reflects a widespread marine
96 transgression, which resulted in the deposition of the first carbonate succession Abu Roash
97 Formation with sandstone, siltstone, and shale interbeds (Hantar, 1990; Dolson et al., 2014).
98 Based on the clastic to carbonate ratio, the Late Cenomanian-Santonian Abu Roash Formation
99 is divided into seven members from base to top: “G” through “A” (Fig. 2). Members “B”, “D”,
100 and “F” are relatively clean carbonates, whereas the other members contain considerable
101 amounts of clastic sediments (Said, 1962; Norton, 1967; EGPC, 1992). The Abu Roash
102 Formation was dominated by neritic to open marine conditions (El Beialy et al., 2010, 2011;
103 El-Soughier et al., 2014; Shehata et al., 2019), with an exception for the “G” Member, which
104 was deposited under Lagoonal conditions (Hantar, 1990; Shehata et al., 2021). The Chalk of
105 the Campanian-Maastrichtian Khoman Formation represents the top of the Cretaceous
106 sequence and unconformably underlies the Lower-Middle Eocene Apollonia Formation that
107 crops out in the study area.

108 **3. Materials and Methods**

109 A total of 190 cutting samples were collected from three wells (i.e., 40 samples from Gharibon-
110 1X, 68 samples from Gharibon NE-1X, and 82 samples from Tareef-1X) in the East Beni Suef
111 Basin (Fig. 1). Geochemical analyses (total organic carbon (TOC) and Rock-Eval pyrolysis)
112 and organic petrology (Thermal Alteration Index (TAI), petrographic kerogen typing, and
113 vitrinite reflectance (%R_o) were performed by the StratoChem Services Company, New Maadi,
114 Cairo, Egypt and made accessible through the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation in
115 collaboration with the Qarun Petroleum Company.

116 Measured pyrolysis parameters include the quantity of preexisting volatile hydrocarbons within
117 the sample (S1), hydrocarbons that evolved from the thermal cracking of kerogen (S2), the
118 amount of carbon dioxide derived from kerogen pyrolysis (S3), and the maximum pyrolysis
119 temperature at which the S2 peak occurs (T_{max}). Hydrogen Index (HI), Oxygen Index (OI), and
120 Production Index (PI) were derived according to Peters (1986) and Peters et al. (2005).

121 1D basin and petroleum system modeling was performed using PetroMod software
122 (Schlumberger; Version 2019) at the Institute of Geosciences, Potsdam University. Tareef-1X
123 well was chosen as a representative location to reconstruct the burial and thermal history and
124 estimate the timing of hydrocarbon generation because it has the most complete dataset of
125 vitrinite reflectance and temperature for calibration. The input data for the basin modeling

126 including the stratigraphic units, depositional ages, lithologies, depths to the tops of the rock
127 units, and sedimentation events (e.g., deposition, erosion, and hiatus) were defined from well
128 reports and previous studies. Boundary conditions including paleo water depth (PWD),
129 sediment water interface temperature (SWIT), and basal heat flow (HF) were set according to
130 the general tectonostratigraphic evolution of the basin to define the basic energetic conditions
131 within the basin. Easy %R_o model of Sweeney and Burnham, (1990) was used to calculate the
132 vitrinite reflectance, which was calibrated using measured vitrinite reflectance (%R_o). A
133 sensitivity analysis was conducted to examine the most influential parameters of input data and
134 boundary conditions in basin modeling.

135 **4. Results and Discussion**

136 **4.1. Source Rock Evaluation**

137 Measurements of the geochemical analyses including TOC and Rock-Eval pyrolysis are listed
138 in Tables 1-3. A cutoff point of 0.5 wt% TOC was selected to exclude the organic-lean samples
139 from further analyses because of the minimal hydrocarbon-source potential of those samples.
140 The geochemical analyses were interpreted according to the guidelines of Peters et al. (2005).

141 **4.1.1. Organic Matter Richness and Quality**

142 The Apollonia Formation ranges in TOC between 0.53 to 2.77 wt% and S2 from 2.36 to 18.30
143 mg HC/g rock (Table 1) indicating fair to very good source potential (Fig. 3) with oil-prone
144 predominantly type II kerogen as suggested from its high HI (358 to 692 mg HC/g TOC) (Fig.4
145 and Table 1). The sample at 365.76 m in Gharibon-1X well has an anomalous high HI (889 mg
146 HC/g TOC) compared with the uniform trend of all samples, thus we considered it a
147 nonrepresentative sample.

148 The Abu Roash “A” Member varies in TOC from 0.57 to 2.02 wt% and S2 from 1.23 to 9.68
149 mg HC/g (Table 2) rock denoting fair to good source potential (Fig. 3) with HI ranging from
150 134 to 657 mg HC/g TOC suggesting mixed oil- and gas-prone type II/III kerogen (Fig. 4). The
151 Abu Roash “E” Member shows fair to very good source potential (Fig. 3) as indicated by its
152 TOC (0.54-4.99 wt%) and S2 (0.31-12.52 mg HC/g rock) values (Table 2) with mainly gas-
153 prone type III kerogen as indicated by its lower HI values (58-254 mg HC/g TOC) (Fig. 4 and
154 Table 2).

155 The Abu Roash “F” Member ranges in TOC from 1.04 to 4.02 wt% and S2 from 3.55 to 27.91
156 mg HC/g rock (Table 2) indicating good to excellent source potential (Fig. 3) with high HI
157 values between 341 to 713 mg HC/g TOC (Table 2) suggesting oil-prone mainly type II kerogen
158 (Fig. 4). Only one sample from Tareef-1X shows the lowest HI (262 mg HC/g TOC), this could
159 be attributed to organic matter degradation and/or to mineral matrix effect that can result in
160 decreasing hydrogen index for samples with TOC less than 2% due to hydrocarbon retention
161 on the mineral grains as indicated by the presence of shale streaks at this depth in the composite
162 well reports.

163 The TOC and S2 values of Abu Roash “G” range from 0.51 to 2.76 wt% and 0.29 to 12.82 mg
164 HC/g rock (Table 2), respectively denoting fair to very good source potential (Fig. 3) with
165 mixed oil and gas-prone type II/III kerogen (Fig. 4) as suggested from its HI values (56-493
166 mg HC/g TOC) (Table 2). The Bahariya Formation reaches TOC content of 0.5 to 2.25 wt%
167 and S2 of 0.54 to 4.43 mg HC/g rock (Table 3) indicating fair to good source potential (Fig. 3)
168 with low HI values (109-286 mg HC/g TOC) (Table 3) suggesting mainly gas-prone type III

169 kerogen (Fig. 4). Based on the general trend of the pyrolysis results within the Bahariya
170 Formation, the sample at 2241.80 m in Tareef-1X well is anomalously showing very low values
171 of S₂ (0.13 mg HC/g rock) and HI (24 mg HC/g TOC) and the highest PI (0.41), so we regarded
172 it as a nonindigenous sample, where T_{max} is spurious for S₂ <0.2, hence we excluded it from
173 further consideration (Peters, 1986).

174 TOC versus S₂ plot (Fig. 3) indicates that TOC content is in line with S₂ values and
175 demonstrates a wide range of fair to excellent source potential. The Abu Roash “F” Member
176 shows the highest hydrocarbon-generating potential and acts as the main source rock in the
177 study area, while the Bahariya Formation and the Abu Roash “E” Member exhibit the lowest
178 source potential. The very high HI values (>660 mg HC/g TOC) of some samples in the
179 Apollonia and Abu Roash “F” Member showing a shift toward type I kerogen in Figure 4 is
180 possibly due to variations of biological source as algal debris were incorporated into the
181 sediments, or variation in the preservation conditions to be highly reducing. Thus, it should be
182 emphasized that Rock-Eval pyrolysis is not sufficient in precisely defining the present kerogen
183 types and needs to be strengthened by other evaluation techniques such as gas chromatography
184 (Dembicki, 2009, 2017).

185 4.1.2. Organic Matter Maturity

186 Although vitrinite reflectance serves as a principal diagnostic technique for thermal maturity
187 assessment, it is highly recommended to weigh it with other maturity tools to avoid misleading
188 measurements (Peters and Cassa, 1994; McCarthy et al., 2011), thus we employed data from
189 various maturity parameters (e.g. Vitrinite Reflectance (%R_o), pyrolysis temperature (T_{max}),
190 Production Index (PI), and Thermal Alteration Index (TAI)) to obtain a coherent picture of
191 maturity in the analyzed succession.

192 The vitrinite reflectance profiles show that most of the analyzed samples are immature to
193 marginally mature (Fig. 5. a). The analyzed samples vary in vitrinite reflectance from 0.39 to
194 0.47% for Apollonia Formation, 0.49 to 0.56% for Abu Roash “A” Member, 0.57 to 0.71% for
195 Abu Roash “E” Member, 0.49 to 0.62% for the Abu Roash “G” Member, and 0.42 to 0.6% for
196 the Bahariya Formation (Table 4 and Fig. 5. a). Only one value was recorded for the vitrinite
197 reflectance in the Abu Roash “F” Member (0.46%), the scarcity of vitrinite reflectance within
198 the Abu Roash “F” Member is attributed to the dominant rich oil-prone kerogen (mainly
199 composed of lipids), where the depositional setting has not received significant terrestrial
200 organic matter. The vitrinite reflectance values for Abu Roash “G” Member and Bahariya
201 Formation decrease with depth suggesting suppressed maturity data or caved sediments as
202 indicated by the available geochemical logs, thus should be excluded from the calibration of
203 the thermal modeling results. The plot of TAI demonstrates that the studied samples are
204 clustered around immature to marginally mature stages (2-2.7), which strongly correlates with
205 %R_o (Fig. 5. b and Table 4).

206 The Apollonia Formation ranges in T_{max} from 419 to 430 °C and PI from 0.04 to 0.16 (Fig. 6
207 and Table 1), indicating an immature stage. The Abu Roash “A” Member ranges in T_{max} from
208 424 to 438 °C and PI between 0.03 to 0.14 (Fig. 6 and Table 2) denoting immature to marginally
209 mature stages. The Abu Roash “E” Member has T_{max} ranges from 310 to 443 °C and PI range
210 between 0.06 to 0.23 indicating immature to mature stages (Fig. 6 and Table 2). The Abu Roash
211 “F” Member ranges in T_{max} from 424 to 437 °C and PI from 0.09 to 0.18 (Fig. 6 and Table 2)
212 showing immature to marginally mature stages.

213 The T_{max} values range from 274 to 445 °C for the Abu Roash “G” Member with PI range
214 between 0.06 to 0.34 (Fig. 6 and Table 2) indicating immature to mature stages. The Bahariya
215 Formation ranges in T_{max} from 368 to 446 °C and PI from 0.11 to 0.24 (Fig. 6 and Table 3)
216 suggesting immature to mature stages.

217 **4.2. Kerogen Data Analysis**

218 Visual kerogen analysis represents an integral part of source rock evaluation through appraising
219 the chemical and physical characteristics of kerogen and supplementing the pyrolysis
220 techniques (Waples, 1985). Microscopic kerogen examination reveals that the upper
221 Cretaceous-Eocene succession varies in maceral composition from liptinite to vitrinite with
222 minor traces of inertinite (Table 4).

223 The Apollonia Formation and the Abu Roash “A” and “F” members contain a significant
224 amount of liptinites -mainly unstructured lipids- with little vitrinite (Fig. 7) indicating oil-prone
225 kerogen, while vitrinite macerals represent the main kerogen constituents in the Abu Roash “E”
226 Member and the Bahariya Formation (Fig. 7) confirming gas-prone kerogen. The Abu Roash
227 “G” Member contains a mixture of the three main macerals (Fig. 7) indicating a mixed oil/gas-
228 prone kerogen, this heterogeneity of kerogen in the Abu Roash “G” Member arises from a
229 mixture of terrigenous and marine organic matter due to variation in depositional conditions.
230 Kerogen petrography of the examined sedimentary succession (Fig. 7) confirms the Rock-Eval
231 pyrolysis results in terms of the different kerogen quality shown in Figure 4. As the unstructured
232 lipids could originate from various biological sources with different depositional environments,
233 palynofacies and/or biomarker studies are essential to investigate the origin of these
234 unstructured lipids and to gain detailed insights into their depositional conditions (e.g. Peters et
235 al., 2005; El Nady, 2008; El Beialy et al., 2010; El Diasty and Moldowan, 2013; Tahoun et al.,
236 2017; Ghassal et al., 2018; Mohamed et al., 2020).

237 Based on the source rock evaluation, the analyzed samples of the upper Cretaceous-Eocene
238 succession of the East Beni Suef Basin show a wide range of fair to excellent source rock
239 potential, immature to marginally maturity levels, and three kerogen types (II, mixed II/III, and
240 III). The low source rock potential of some rock units could be attributed to a deficiency in the
241 organic matter production, preservation, and/or oxidizing depositional conditions. The thermal
242 maturity derived from vitrinite reflectance ($\%R_o$) correlates well with the thermal alteration
243 index (TAI) but differs slightly from the determined maturity by T_{max} and PI due to procedural
244 differences, where the vitrinite reflectance and TAI are defined from optical kerogen analysis,
245 whereas the T_{max} and PI are based on Rock-Eval pyrolysis. The maturity profiles show a gradual
246 increase with depth, except for the Abu Roash “G” Member and the Bahariya Formation, which
247 could be attributed to suppressed maturity data or caved sediments. The low maturity levels of
248 the East Beni Suef strata are the result of the relatively shallower burial and younger
249 sedimentary succession (Albian-Eocene) compared with the much thicker and older succession
250 (Paleozoic-Cenozoic) of the northern Western Desert basins (EGPC, 1992; Moustafa, 2008).

251 In general, the analyzed samples of the sedimentary units are distributed along most of the
252 kerogen evolutionary pathways (Fig. 4) due to variations in the organic matter content (i.e.,
253 liptinite, vitrinite, and inertinite), which reflect different depositional environments of the
254 sedimentary succession from lagoonal to open marine setting. Although the kerogen data
255 analysis confirms the results of the Rock-Eval pyrolysis regarding the variation in the organic
256 matter, a distinctive differentiation of the kerogen types of the Apollonia Formation and Abu

257 Roash “F” Member is infeasible, as the unstructured lipids can contribute to both type I and II
258 kerogens (Jones, 1984; Tissot and Welte, 1984; Merrill, 1991).

259 Former studies on the Cretaceous sequence of the West Beni Suef Basin show similar results
260 of kerogen types and source rock potential to these presented here for the East Beni Suef Basin.
261 Makky et al. (2014) and Abdel-Fattah et al. (2017) defined three kerogen types (I/II (II), II/III,
262 and III) with fair to very good organic matter richness and thermal maturity ranging from
263 immature to postmature. Edress et al. (2021) reported five kerogen types (I, II, II/III, III, and
264 IV) with fair to very good source potential and mature to postmature stages. Abd El-Gawad et
265 al. (2017) studied only the source rock potential of the Abu Roash “F” Member and defined
266 type I/II kerogen with good to very good hydrocarbon generative potential and immature to
267 marginally mature levels.

268 **4.3. Basin Modeling**

269 **4.3.1. Input Data and Boundary Conditions**

270 A conceptual model for the geological history of the study area was first developed using the
271 stratigraphic units, absolute age assignment, lithologic description, and geological events
272 (deposition, erosion, and hiatus) based on the composite log reports of the studied wells and
273 literature studies (Zahran et al., 2011; Abd El-Aal et al., 2015; El Batal et al., 2016; Salem and
274 Sehim, 2017; Shehata et al., 2018b; Abdelbaset et al., 2020) (Table 5). According to the
275 available well reports, the drilled stratigraphic succession of the East Beni Suef Basin does not
276 record the Late Eocene-Oligocene Dabaa Formation, compared with the West Beni Suef Basin,
277 thus a hiatus is suggested during this period, but the probability of the deposition and later
278 complete erosion of the Dabaa Formation could be a possible scenario, which will be discussed
279 later in the sensitivity analysis section.

280 For a more realistic representation and simulation, we created custom lithologies for Abu Roash
281 Formation using PetroMod Lithology Editor based on the clastic to carbonate ratio to overcome
282 the heterogeneity and reduce the uncertainty inherited by assigning a single lithology for a
283 mixed section. Abu Roash “G” Member was further divided into three units based on the
284 available composite well reports to define the reservoir and seal rocks.

285 Estimation of the eroded overburden thickness represents a crucial step in basin modeling
286 procedures and has profound implications on the evolution of the petroleum systems within
287 sedimentary basins (Poelchau, 2001; Corcoran and Doré, 2005). As a first estimation, we
288 applied Dow’s method (1977) and the stratigraphic correlation approach discussed by Corcoran
289 and Doré (2005) to define the scale of erosion at the two erosional unconformities of Khoman
290 and Apollonia formations. The maximum preserved section of the Khoman Formation (about
291 340 m) exists in the EON well, thus we suggest about 200 m of erosion has occurred at the top
292 of the Khoman Formation in Tareef-1X well. Dow’s method (1977) indicates about 300 m of
293 erosion from the Apollonia Formation by projecting the %R_o profile to 0.2% at the present day
294 surface (Fig. 8). In this case, we dealt with the basin as a continuously subsiding basin, where
295 the erosional unconformity at the Khoman Formation has no impact on the present-day maturity
296 levels as indicated by the uniform and relatively low maturity %R_o values across this
297 unconformity (Fig. 5. a). Based on the two methods, a hundred-meter scale of erosion was
298 defined at the top of the Khoman and Apollonia formations, while the absolute values are finely
299 tuning during the basin modeling simulation.

300 Log-derived temperatures provide valuable constraints on the present-day geothermal regime
301 of the subsurface strata, however, they must always be adjusted for the cooling effects of the
302 circulating drilling fluids prior to any application in basin modeling (Evans and Coleman, 1974;
303 Deming, 1989; Peters and Nelson, 2012; Dembicki, 2017; Aabø and Hermanrud, 2019). Several
304 BHT correction procedures have been developed; most of them are summarized by Hermanrud
305 et al. (1990) and Goutorbe et al. (2007). Corrected BHT for Tareef-1X well using the statistical
306 method of Waples and Ramly (2001) (for shallow depths <3500 m) and the model put forward
307 by Aabø and Hermanrud (2019) are about 111°C and 115°C, respectively, which are quite
308 similar. The corrected geothermal gradient to be used in model calibration is about 32 °C/Km.

309 We defined the kinetics of kerogen cracking to oil and gas based on the organofacies type and
310 the depositional age of the source rock (Mesozoic and younger). Thus, Pepper and Corvi's
311 (1995)_TII(B) kinetic was assigned for the Abu Roash "F" source rock that contains marine
312 organofacies type B (Abdelbaset et al., 2020).

313 Boundary conditions determine the basis of the energetic conditions for the temperature
314 development of all rock units and the organic matter maturity history and strongly constrain the
315 simulation quality. Boundary conditions to be assigned in basin modeling include paleo water
316 depth (PWD), sediment water interface temperature (SWIT), and basal heat flow (HF)
317 (Hantschel and Kauerauf, 2009) (Fig. 9).

318 The basal heat flow was initially defined in the context of the tectonic history of the basin
319 following the concept of McKenzie (1978) for exponential drop in heat flow from syn to post-
320 rift phases and the guidelines of Allen and Allen (2013) for average heat flow in active syn-
321 rifting phases, post-rifting thermal subsidence, and compressional uplifts, while the mean
322 present-day heat flow in the study area was inferred from Morgan and Swanbf (1978) and
323 Mohamed et al. (2015). After iterating multiple runs of models to fine-tune the heat flow and
324 achieve a good calibration, the following heat flows are assigned; 80 mW/m² for the Albian
325 rifting, 45 mW/m² for the Late Cretaceous-Paleocene tectonic uplift, 64 mW/m² for the Miocene
326 thermal uplift, and 62 mW/m² for the present-day heat flow (Fig. 9).

327 The Paleo water depth (PWD) was estimated based on the interpreted depositional
328 environments of different rock units from previous sedimentological and paleontological
329 studies (e.g. El Beialy et al., 2011; Salem and Sehim, 2017; Tahoun et al., 2017; Farouk et al.,
330 2018; Shehata et al., 2018a, 2019; Ibrahim et al., 2020; Mahfouz et al., 2020). The Sediment-
331 Water Interface Temperature (SWIT) was calculated using the global mean temperature at sea
332 level for latitudes of 28° and 29°, Northern Africa, based on Wygrala (1989).

333 **4.3.2. Burial History**

334 Figure 10 portrays the burial history curve with temperatures overlay of Tareef-1X well and
335 shows four alternating episodes of deposition and erosion linked with tectonic/thermal
336 subsidence and uplift events: The Albian rifting phase, the Late Cretaceous- Paleocene tectonic
337 uplift, the Eocene tectonic subsidence, and the Miocene thermal uplift. These episodes are
338 interrupted by an erosional/non-depositional hiatus event during the Late Eocene-Oligocene
339 time. Sedimentation was initiated during the Albian syn-rift phase with low burial rates of about
340 33 m/My, followed by rapid thermal subsidence accompanied by relatively moderate average
341 sedimentation rates of around 117 m/My during the post-rift period until the Late Cretaceous,
342 where an erosional uplift occurred and culminated through the entire Paleocene resulting in the

343 removal of some parts of the Khoman Formation. Subsidence had resumed during the Eocene
344 due to extensional tectonics with elevated average sedimentation rates of approximately 145
345 m/My, which resulted in a maximum burial depth of 3060 m. The Late Eocene-Oligocene hiatus
346 is followed by the Miocene thermal uplift that lasted till the present and led to significant
347 erosion from the Apollonia Formation. A maximum bottom temperature of 125 °C was reached
348 at about 23 Ma in response to the maximum burial during the Eocene and the elevated heat flow
349 associated with the thermal uplift of the Red Sea pre-rifting phase.

350 **4.3.3. Thermal History**

351 The thermal maturity history (Fig. 11) indicates that the Abu Roash “F” source rock has entered
352 the early mature stage (0.55 - 0.7 %R_o) and commenced generating oil during the Late Eocene
353 (35 Ma) at depth of around 2400 m and has not reached the peak oil window till present.
354 Initiation of hydrocarbon generation within the source rock was triggered by the extensive
355 sedimentation during the Early to Middle Eocene resulting in maximum burial and
356 temperatures.

357 Model calibration (Fig. 10 and 11) was achieved by the best fit between measured and predicted
358 temperatures and vitrinite reflectance modeled according to Sweeney and Burnham (1990). The
359 model was calibrated using 400 and 200 m of erosion from Apollonia and Khoman formations,
360 respectively. Note that the higher vitrinite values are selected for the best fit to account for any
361 potential suppression effect on the sediment maturity associated with the lower values as shown
362 in Figures 5. a and 8.

363 The quantity of generated hydrocarbons is strongly controlled by the type and concentration of
364 present kerogen as well as the associated thermal maturity levels (Cooles et al., 1986).
365 Transformation ratio expresses the amount of converted kerogen over the total amount of
366 available kerogen (Dembicki, 2017) and can be used as an indicator for the oil generation of
367 source rocks. The Abu Roash “F” source rock has a present-day transformation ratio of about
368 19 % (Fig. 12), which confirms that the effective oil generation peak has not yet reached.

369 **4.4. Sensitivity Analysis**

370 Due to the intrinsic uncertainties of basin modeling, sensitivity analysis presents a means to
371 examine the influence of the input parameters and boundary conditions on the reconstruction
372 of the burial and thermal histories and to test alternate modeling scenarios considering different
373 geologic interpretations (Cao and Lerche, 1990; Thomsen, 1998; Hicks Jr. et al., 2012;
374 Dembicki, 2017). The paleo water depth has a minor impact on the modeling routine because
375 it does not affect the compaction (Wygrala, 1989); we focused the sensitivity analysis on the
376 eroded thickness and heat flow for the sensitivity analysis because they may contribute to
377 uncertainty.

378 Although the basin has experienced two erosional events during its tectonic evolution, we
379 considered only the younger erosion from the Apollonia Formation for the sensitivity analysis
380 because the older erosion from the Khoman Formation is overprinted by the later geological
381 events from the Eocene to the present and, consequently, has no impact on thermal maturity.

382 To finely tune the estimated eroded thickness and to examine the impact of varying the amount
383 of erosion and heat flow on the thermal maturity of the sedimentary succession, we simulated
384 three scenarios following the procedure introduced by Grobe et al. (2015); The first scenario

385 (Fig. 13. a) was modeled using the assigned heat flow in Figure 9 with varying the amount of
386 erosion (300-500 m). This scenario shows that 400 m of erosion from the Apollonia Formation
387 is required for the best fit between the measured and predicted vitrinite reflectance data and
388 indicates that as the amount of eroded thickness increases, the maturity levels increase as shown
389 by shifting the modeled thermal profiles to higher values. The increase in maturity levels with
390 increasing the magnitude of eroded sections can be attributed to the greater paleo burial depths
391 the strata reached prior to the erosional uplift events. The second scenario (Fig. 13. b) was
392 simulated using a constant amount of erosion of 400 m with various fixed heat flows (55-65
393 mW/m^2) only from the Paleocene to Recent, as changing the heat flow before this period has
394 no significant impact on the thermal maturity because this period has witnessed the tectonic
395 uplift that was culminated during the Paleocene followed by the Eocene extensive overburden
396 sedimentation and the subsequent Miocene thermal uplift. We found that higher heat flows
397 resulted in higher thermal maturity levels indicating the same impact as the eroded thickness
398 and in this case, the best fit is achieved with a heat flow of 60 mW/m^2 .

399 The third scenario (Fig. 13. c) was performed using a fixed heat flow of 65 mW/m^2 representing
400 the average global heat flow (Allen and Allen, 2013) with varying the amount of erosion (100-
401 300 m). In this scenario, 200 m of erosion is sufficient for model calibration, which is half of
402 the amount of erosion in the previous scenarios. In this case, the decrease in the amount of
403 erosion is compensated by the higher heat flow during the Late Cretaceous-Paleocene tectonic
404 uplift, which emphasizes the mutual impact of the heat flow and the amount of erosion on the
405 thermal maturity, hence underlying the significance of a reasonable and realistic adjustment of
406 both parameters as a prerequisite for a more reliable basin modeling.

407 Although the available composite reports of the studied wells in the East Beni Suef Basin
408 indicate the absence of the Oligocene Dabaa Formation compared with the West Beni Suef
409 Basin, we present another two possible scenarios of the basin models (Fig. 14) suggesting the
410 deposition and later complete erosion of the Dabaa Formation compared with the reference
411 model (Fig. 10 and 11). The first scenario proposed a complete erosion of the Dabaa Formation,
412 while the second one was simulated by a combined erosion of the Dabaa and Apollonia
413 formations, both scenarios were constructed using the same predefined heat flow (Fig. 9) with
414 a slight decrease in the present-day heat flow from 62 to 60 mW/m^2 .

415 The results of these scenarios demonstrate that 250 m representing a complete erosion of the
416 Dabaa Formation or a combined erosion of 200 m and 100 m from the Dabaa and Apollonia
417 formations, respectively, are required to accomplish the best fit curve. Also, Figure 14 clearly
418 indicates that the required amount of erosion is strongly dependent on the eroded lithology that
419 in turn affects the maturity levels, where the eroded thickness of shale is lower than the eroded
420 thickness of limestone, this can be related to the different thermal properties of rocks like
421 thermal conductivity and thermal heat capacity, as the thermal conductivity of shale is
422 approximately half of that for limestone.

423 **4.5. Comparison with the West Beni Suef Basin**

424 Based on recently published literature on the geologic history of the Beni Suef Basin (e.g.
425 Zahran et al., 2011; Abd El-Aal et al., 2015; El Batal et al., 2016; Abd El-Gawad et al., 2017;
426 Elanbaawy et al., 2017; Salem and Sehim, 2017; Shehata et al., 2018a, 2018b, 2019, 2020,
427 2021; Sakran et al., 2019; Abdelbaset et al., 2020), there is a general consensus that the basin
428 differs from the north Western Desert basins regarding the timing of rift inception that occurred

429 during the Aptian/Albian time with Kharita Formation representing the oldest recorded deposits
430 on the Pre-Cambrian basement.

431 Four published studies have focused on the construction of the burial and thermal history of the
432 West Beni Suef Basin including Makky et al. (2014), Abd El-Gawad et al. (2017), Abdel-Fattah
433 et al. (2017), and Edress et al. (2021), which are discussed briefly in the next section.

434 Makky et al. (2014) have assumed the deposition of a Jurassic succession and adopted the
435 general stratigraphy of the northern Western Desert for the West Beni Suef Basin. Abd El-
436 Gawad et al. (2017) have postulated a hiatus from the Late Eocene to the present, which in
437 contrast with the recorded Late Eocene-Oligocene Dabaa Formation in the west Beni Suef
438 Basin and incorporated an uplift during the beginning of the Upper Cretaceous, which is
439 however inconsistent with the post-rift cooling subsidence of this time. Abdel-Fattah et al.
440 (2017) have presumed the deposition of the pre-Kharita section of Alam El-Bueib Formation
441 on the basement and subsequently suggested seven depositional and erosional episodes. A
442 detailed comparison with the modeling results of Edress et al. (2021) is not possible because
443 their input data and boundary conditions are not included in the publication. In contrast to our
444 model, they assumed continuous subsidence during the Miocene thermal uplift of the Red Sea
445 (Abdelbaset et al., 2020) thereby ignoring the impact of this significant tectonic event on
446 organic matter maturation, which results in a much later (Early Miocene) onset of hydrocarbon
447 generation compared to all other published hydrocarbon generation models and our model
448 presented here.

449 Moreover, none of these published models have adjusted the heat flow history in context with
450 the tectonic evolution of the basin, which plays a crucial role in the modeling process and output
451 as discussed in the sensitivity analysis.

452 All these assumptions have resulted in uncertainties within the published models; in this study,
453 we reconstructed the burial and thermal history of the West Beni Suef Basin according to the
454 recently published tectonic and stratigraphic studies of the basin. We selected the Fayoum-IX
455 well from the literature (Makky et al., 2014; Abdel-Fattah et al., 2017) as it contains more
456 available data of the Lower Cretaceous section, where the top of the Lower Kharita Shale
457 Member is picked approximately as the top of the Alam El-Bueib Formation in Abdel-Fattah
458 et al. (2017) and is verified through gamma-ray log correlation with other wells in the study
459 area from previous stratigraphic literature (Shehata et al., 2018a), then we assigned the absolute
460 age, lithologic description, and geochemical analyses accordingly. For the Lower Kharita Shale
461 source rock in the West Beni Suef basin, which includes terrestrial organofacies type DE
462 (Abdelbaset et al., 2020), we applied the kinetic of Pepper and Corvi (1995)_TIIH(DE).

463 We modeled the West Beni Suef Basin (Fig. 15-17) using almost the same heat flow of the East
464 Beni Suef Basin for the Albian rifting and Late-Cretaceous-Paleocene uplift tectonics, while
465 the heat flows for the Miocene thermal uplift and the present-day are 59 and 52 mW/m²,
466 respectively, as deduced from the best fit of model calibration. These lower heat flow values
467 could be attributed to the presence of thick shale succession with lower thermal conductivity in
468 the West Beni Suef Basin compared with the East Beni Suef Basin. Regarding the amount of
469 eroded thickness, 500 m from the Dabaa Formation and 100 m from the Khoman Formation
470 are required to explain the present levels of maturity.

471 Our results of the burial history of the West Beni Suef Basin reveal the same four alternating
472 episodes of deposition and erosion as the East Beni Suef Basin without the Late Eocene-
473 Oligocene hiatus event, where the basin has continued subsiding and resulted in the deposition
474 of the Dabaa Formation (Fig. 15). The burial history curve illustrates major subsidence and
475 high sedimentation rates of about 210 m/My during the Albian time associated with the
476 deposition of the syn-rift Kharita Formation. This stage was followed by the post-rift phase,
477 which is characterized by gentle subsidence and moderate sedimentation rates of about 97
478 m/My and lasted till the end of the Cretaceous prior to the first tectonic uplift event that
479 culminated during the Paleocene time and resulted in erosion of Khoman Formation. From the
480 Eocene to the end of the Paleogene period, increased tectonic subsidence has occurred with
481 relatively low sedimentation rates of approximately 74 m/My. The last tectonic stage is
482 represented by the Miocene thermal uplift (Abdelbaset et al., 2020), which led to a considerable
483 erosion from the Dabaa Formation. The burial history of the West Beni Suef Basin shows that
484 the sedimentation began earlier (Early Albian) and with higher rates compared with the East
485 Beni Suef Basin. Regarding the sedimentation start, the paleo basement high as deduced from
486 previous seismic interpretation studies (e.g. Zahran et al., 2011; Abd El-Aal et al., 2015; Salem
487 and Sehim, 2017) has hindered the deposition of the Lower Kharita shales in the East Beni Suef
488 Basin, thus caused a delay at the beginning of the deposition. The different rates of
489 sedimentation could be attributed to various factors such as the amount of sediment supply from
490 erosional catchment, climate, relief, different slopes along both sides of the basin, and /or
491 lithology (Leeder et al., 1998).

492 A maximum temperature of 160 °C was reached at the maximum burial depth of 4000 m, which
493 was triggered by the continued deposition by the end of the Oligocene coupled with the
494 enhanced heat flow during the Miocene thermal uplift (Fig. 15). The thermal maturity model
495 (Fig. 16) shows that the Abu Roash “F” source rock has entered the early mature stage of the
496 oil window during the Early Oligocene (around 31 Ma) at a depth of 2150 m, where the peak
497 oil window has not been reached yet. The Lower Kharita Shale source rock has initiated oil
498 generation during the Cenomanian age (about 95 Ma) at a depth of 1600 m, entered the peak
499 maturity stage during the Coniacian (88 Ma) at a depth of 2150 m, and the Late oil generation
500 window during the Early Miocene (19 Ma) at depth 3500 m and has not reached the postmature
501 stage until the present. These successive maturity levels are attributed to the integrated effects
502 of the greater thicknesses of the overburden associated with the tectonic subsidence and the
503 elevated heat flows during the Early Cretaceous rifting and the Miocene thermal uplift.

504 The transformation ratio of the Abu Roash “F” and the Lower Kharita source rocks at the
505 present day is about 21 % and 70 % respectively (Fig. 17) indicating the presence of the Abu
506 Roash “F” in the early generation stage, while the lower Kharita shale reached the late oil
507 window.

508 **4.6. Petroleum System of the Beni Suef Basin**

509 A petroleum system offers a dynamic record of all essential geological elements and processes
510 that drive hydrocarbons to accumulate (Hantschel and Kauerauf, 2009). These elements
511 include: an active source rock, reservoir rock, seal rock, and overburden rocks, while the
512 processes encompass: trap formation, hydrocarbon generation, migration, and accumulation
513 (Magoon and Dow, 1994; Beaumont and Magoon, 1999).

514 Figure 18 summarizes the petroleum system analysis of the East Beni Suef Basin as a genetic
515 relation in time between all involved elements and processes. Based on the results of the source
516 rock evaluation, the Turonian Abu Roash “F” Member represents the main source rock.
517 Reservoir rocks including sandstones of the Upper Cenomanian and the Coniacian Abu Roash
518 “E” and “G” members and seal rocks represented by shales and carbonates of the Abu Roash
519 “G” and “D” members are defined after Zahran et al. (2011). According to Abd El-Aal et al.
520 (2015) and Salem and Sehim (2017), traps formed within the East Beni Suef Basin are structural
521 traps in the form of three-way dip closures associated with the extensional faulted blocks and
522 the anticlines related to the transtensional movements during the Late Cretaceous-Early
523 Paleogene in response to the dextral motion of Africa relative to Eurasia. The timing of
524 hydrocarbon generation, migration, and accumulation is determined based on the results of the
525 thermal modeling from this study. With regard to the West Beni Suef Basin, we updated the
526 events charts presented in Abdel-Fattah et al. (2017) and Sakran et al. (2019) in terms of the
527 timing of the oil generation, migration, and accumulation and the critical moment in the view
528 of our results as shown in Figure 19.

529 To present a complete picture of the Beni Suef Basin, Table 6 summarizes and compares the
530 results of this work and previously published studies (Makky et al., 2014; El Batal et al., 2016;
531 Abd El-Gawad et al., 2017; Abdel-Fattah et al., 2017; Sakran et al., 2019; Edress et al., 2021)
532 on the source rock characteristics and thermal modeling results of both the East and West Beni
533 Suef basins. The Abu Roash “F” Member, which is recorded throughout the entire Beni Suef
534 Basin, displays compatible source characteristics of very good richness, oil-prone mainly type
535 II kerogen, and marginal thermal maturity across both sides of the basin. It commenced oil
536 generation during the Late Eocene and has not exceeded the early oil window yet. The Lower
537 Kharita source rock is restricted to the West Beni Suef Basin and characterized by fair to good
538 potential, gas-prone type III kerogen with late maturity levels. It has entered the early oil
539 window during the Cenomanian, the peak oil window during the Coniacian, and the late oil
540 window during the Early Miocene but has not reached the postmature stages yet.

541 **5. Conclusions**

542 Detailed source rock evaluation, basin modeling, and sensitivity analysis for the sedimentary
543 succession of the East Beni Suef Basin were conducted, where the following findings can be
544 concluded:

- 545 1. Three kerogen types can be distinguished: oil-prone type II kerogen in the Apollonia
546 Formation and Abu Roash “F” Member, mixed type II/III kerogen in the Abu Roash
547 “A” and “G” members, and gas-prone type III kerogen in the Abu Roash “E” Member
548 and Bahariya Formation.
- 549 2. Kerogen data analysis reveals variation in the maceral composition of the sedimentary
550 succession from liptinite to vitrinite with minor traces of inertinite, which reflects
551 variations in the depositional conditions.
- 552 3. The Abu Roash “F” Member represents the main source rock exhibiting good to
553 excellent source-potential, oil-prone type II kerogen, and immature to marginal thermal
554 maturity levels.
- 555 4. The reconstructed burial history of the Beni Suef Basin shows four alternating
556 depositional and erosional phases from the Late Cretaceous to Recent interrupted by
557 an erosional/non-depositional hiatus period during the Late Eocene-Oligocene in the
558 East Beni Suef Basin, while the West Beni Suef Basin has continued subsiding.

559 Sedimentation began later (Middle to Late Albian) with lower rates in the East Beni
560 Suef Basin than in the West Beni Suef Basin (Early Albian).

- 561 5. The Abu Roash “F” source rock is in the early oil window in both sides of the basin,
562 while the Lower Kharita source rock occurs only in the West Beni Suef Basin in the
563 late oil window.
- 564 6. Based on basin model calibration, eroded thickness of 400 m from the Apollonia
565 Formation and 500 m from the Dabaa Formation are estimated in the East and west
566 Beni Suef basins, respectively.
- 567 7. We could not constrain the deposition of the Late Eocene-Oligocene Dabaa Formation
568 within the East Beni Suef Basin compared with the western side of the basin, thus we
569 suggested two additional possible scenarios of basin modeling concerning the
570 deposition and later complete erosion of the Dabaa Formation.
- 571 8. Palynofacies and biomarker studies are highly recommended to determine the
572 depositional environment of the Abu Roash “F” source rock and to precisely
573 differentiate the oil-prone kerogen type.
- 574 9. Results of this work can serve as a basis for subsequent 2D and/or 3D basin modeling
575 to further investigate the petroleum system evolution of the Beni Suef Basin.

576

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585

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867 **Tables Captions**

868 **Table 1** Rock-Eval pyrolysis and TOC data for the Apollonia Formation in Gharibon-1X,
869 Gharibon NE-1X, and Tareef-1X Wells, East Beni Suef basin, Egypt.

870 **Table 2** Rock-Eval pyrolysis and TOC data for the Abu Roash Formation in Gharibon-1X,
871 Gharibon NE-1X, and Tareef-1X Wells, East Beni Suef basin, Egypt.

872 **Table 3** Rock-Eval pyrolysis and TOC data for the Bahariya Formation in Gharibon-1X,
873 Gharibon NE-1X, and Tareef-1X Wells, East Beni Suef basin, Egypt.

874 **Table 4** Vitrinite reflectance, Thermal Alteration Index, and petrographic kerogen typing of the
875 Upper Cretaceous-Eocene Section in Gharibone-1X, Gharibon NE-1x, and Tareef-1X wells,
876 East Beni Suef basin, Egypt.

877 **Table 5** Input data used for the burial and thermal history modeling for the Tareef-1X well,
878 East Beni Suef Basin.

879 **Table 6** Summary and comparison of the source rocks characteristics throughout the entire
880 Beni Suef Basin based on the results of this study and previous literature.

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900 **Figures Captions**

901 **Fig. 1** Location Map showing the Beni Suef Basin bisected by the Nile Valley into West and East
902 of Nile provinces and main sedimentary basins in the Western Desert and Upper Egypt
903 (modified after Dolson et al., 2001; Bosworth et al., 2008; Moustafa, 2008), Beni Suef
904 Concession added after Zahran et al. (2011).

905 **Fig. 2** General stratigraphic column of the East Beni Suef Basin (as indicated by the penetrated
906 lithologies of the Gharibon-1X and Tareef-1X wells) in correlation with the West Beni Suef
907 Basin (modified after Zahran et al., 2011; Salem and Sehim, 2017).

908 **Fig. 3** Plot of TOC versus remaining hydrocarbon potential (S₂) indicating source rock richness
909 of the Upper Cretaceous-Eocene sediments, East Beni Suef Basin, Egypt.

910 **Fig. 4** Modified van-Krevelen diagram showing kerogen types of the Upper Cretaceous-Eocene
911 sediments, East Beni Suef Basin, Egypt.

912 **Fig. 5** Thermal maturity profiles of the Upper Cretaceous-Eocene sediments from (a) vitrinite
913 reflectance and (b) Thermal Alteration Index data showing immature to marginally mature
914 stages and a strong correlation between %Ro and TAI. The red oval indicates suppressed %Ro
915 or caved sediments.

916 **Fig. 6** Plot of PI versus T_{max} revealing the maturation and nature of hydrocarbons of the Upper
917 Cretaceous-Eocene sediments, East Beni Suef Basin, Egypt.

918 **Fig. 7** Ternary plot of the maceral composition showing hydrocarbon phases of the Upper
919 Cretaceous-Eocene sediments, East Beni Suef Basin, Egypt.

920 **Fig. 8** Erosion estimation at the top of Apollonia Formation using Dow's method (1977).

921 **Fig. 9** Boundary Conditions for the thermal history of the Tareef-1X well including paleo water
922 depth (PWD), sediment water interface temperature (SWIT), and heat flow (HF).

923 **Fig. 10** Burial history with temperature overlay and model calibration by measured
924 temperatures for Tareef-1X well, East Beni Suef Basin.

925 **Fig. 11** Thermal maturity history with hydrocarbon zones overlay and model calibration by
926 measured vitrinite reflectance for Tareef-1X well, East Beni Suef Basin.

927 **Fig. 12** Transformation ratio of the Abu Roash "F" source rock, Tareef-1X well.

928 **Fig. 13** Sensitivity analysis of the eroded thickness and heat flow. (a) using the predefined heat
929 flow with different amounts of erosion, (b) using a constant eroded thickness of 400 m with
930 different fixed heat flows, and (c) using a constant heat flow of 65 mW/m² with various
931 amounts of erosion.

932 **Fig. 14** Possible scenarios of thermal maturity modeling concerning erosion from the Apollonia
933 and Dabaa formations.

934 **Fig. 15** Burial history with temperature overlay and model calibration by measured
935 temperatures for Fayoum-1X well, West Beni Suef Basin.

936 **Fig. 16** Thermal maturity history with hydrocarbon zones overlay and model calibration by
937 measured vitrinite reflectance for Fayoum-1X well, West Beni Suef Basin.

938 **Fig. 17** Transformation ratios of the Abu Roash "F" and Lower Kharita Shale source rocks,
939 Fayoum-1X well, West Beni Suef Basin.

940 **Fig. 18** Petroleum system events chart depicting the essential geological elements and
941 processes of the East Beni Suef Basin.

942 **Fig. 19** Petroleum system events chart depicting the essential geological elements and
943 processes of the West Beni Suef Basin (modified and updated after Abdel-Fattah et al., 2017;
944 Sakran et al., 2019).

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Table 1 Rock-Eval pyrolysis and TOC data for the Apollonia Formation in Gharibon-1X, Gharibon NE-1X, and Tareef-1X Wells, East Beni Suef basin, Egypt.

Well	Depth (m)	TOC (wt%)	S1 (mg HC/g rock)	S2 (mg HC/g rock)	S3 (mg CO ₂ /g rock)	Tmax (°C)	HI (mg HC/g TOC)	OI (mg CO ₂ /g TOC)	PI S1/(S1+S2)
Gharibon-1X	262.13	0.53	0.41	3.28	0.29	422	619	55	0.11
	365.76	1.05	0.55	9.33	0.31	419	889	30	0.06
	441.96	0.49							
	554.74	0.31							
	646.18	0.28							
	728.47	0.35							
	819.91	0.39							
	938.78	0.79	0.47	5.25	0.18	424	665	23	0.08
	1021.08	0.44							
	1103.38	0.43							
	1194.82	0.49							
	1249.68	0.57	0.36	2.36	0.22	422	414	39	0.13
	1258.82	0.93	0.91	4.82	0.26	420	518	28	0.16
	1267.97	1.67	0.48	8.81	0.21	420	528	13	0.05
	1295.40	0.39							
1304.54	0.49								
Gharibon NE-1X	306.32	0.78	0.18	2.78	0.58	422	358	75	0.06
	388.62	0.82	0.24	4.48	0.28	428	547	34	0.05
	480.06	1.47	0.47	8.98	0.26	423	613	18	0.05
	571.50	0.87	0.35	5.19	0.23	426	597	26	0.06
	662.94	0.36							
	754.38	0.59	0.46	3.41	0.28	424	582	48	0.12
	845.82	0.46							
	937.26	1.72	0.39	10.40	0.27	424	606	16	0.04
	1028.70	1.30	0.34	7.66	0.34	427	592	26	0.04
	1120.14	0.77	0.29	4.65	0.27	430	607	35	0.06
	1211.58	0.69	0.25	3.86	0.28	428	559	41	0.06
	1303.02	0.70	0.19	3.35	0.29	425	480	42	0.05
	Tareef-1X	306.32	2.77	0.87	18.3	0.6	420	660	22
361.19		2.23	0.69	13.71	0.39	421	616	18	0.05
425.20		1.24	0.4	7.5	0.3	423	604	24	0.05
480.06		0.55	0.28	3.09	0.04	420	560	7	0.08
544.07		0.65	0.31	4.17	0.02	425	646	3	0.07
608.08		0.2							
662.94		0.45							
726.95		0.19							
790.96		0.34							
845.82		0.48							
909.83		0.36							
973.84		0.31							
1028.70		0.4							
1092.71		0.35							
1156.72		0.35							

1211.58	0.68	0.62	4.69	0.28	427	692	41	0.12
1275.59	2.08	0.67	10.47	0.02	426	505	1	0.06

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949 **Table 2** Rock-Eval pyrolysis and TOC data for the Abu Roash Formation in Gharibon-1X, Gharibon NE-1X, and
950 Tareef-1X Wells, East Beni Suef basin, Egypt.

Well Name	Member	Depth (m)	TOC (wt%)	S1 (mg HC/g rock)	S2 (mg HC/g rock)	S3 (mg CO ₂ /g rock)	T _{max} (°C)	HI (mg HC/g TOC)	OI (mg CO ₂ /g TOC)	PI S1/(S1+S2)
Gharibon-1X	Abu Roash "A"	1499.62	1.34	0.59	8.81	1.15	424	657	86	0.06
		1554.48	1.54	0.45	6.30	0.89	428	409	58	0.07
		1612.39	0.65	0.38	2.53	0.86	430	389	132	0.13
Gharibon NE-1X	Abu Roash "A"	1552.96	0.70	0.15	2.90	0.20	428	415	29	0.05
		1568.20	0.78	0.15	3.18	0.22	429	406	28	0.05
		1583.44	2.02	0.25	7.93	0.87	434	393	43	0.03
		1598.68	1.06	0.13	1.42	1.08	435	134	102	0.08
		1613.92	1.24	0.20	4.10	0.88	437	330	71	0.05
		1629.16	1.37	0.23	4.24	0.99	436	310	72	0.05
		1644.40	0.99	0.26	3.93	0.81	437	399	82	0.06
		1659.64	0.38							
Tareef-1X	Abu Roash "A"	1461.52	1.07	0.27	5.63	0.03	432	527	3	0.05
		1476.76	1.67	0.66	9.68	1.98	428	581	119	0.06
		1492.00	1.43	0.58	7.51	1.38	428	524	96	0.07
		1507.24	0.59	0.19	2.63	1.28	431	444	216	0.07
		1522.48	0.61	0.23	2.8	1.68	432	462	277	0.08
		1537.72	1.5	0.26	5.27	1.32	435	351	88	0.05
		1552.96	1.05	0.24	1.47	1.8	436	140	172	0.14
		1568.20	1.07	0.18	2.96	1.25	437	276	116	0.06
		1583.44	0.85	0.17	2.54	0.98	438	300	116	0.06
		1598.68	0.57	0.15	1.23	1.08	436	214	188	0.11
Gharibon-1X	Abu Roash "E"	1613.92	0.3							
		1990.34	0.58	0.34	1.20	0.57	310	207	98	0.22
		2036.06	1.63	0.60	3.02	1.60	430	185	98	0.17
		2042.16	1.76	0.58	3.09	1.77	432	176	101	0.16
Gharibon NE-1X	Abu Roash "E"	2048.26	1.78	0.87	4.53	1.55	431	254	87	0.16
		1918.72	1.48	0.26	2.25	0.64	439	152	43	0.10
		1933.96	1.00	0.23	1.14	0.61	438	114	61	0.17
		1949.20	2.06	0.19	2.23	0.41	438	108	20	0.08
		1964.44	0.85	0.13	0.71	0.52	439	83	61	0.15
		1979.68	0.54	0.09	0.31	0.92	436	58	172	0.23
		1994.92	0.22							
Tareef-1X	Abu Roash "E"	2010.16	0.68	0.18	1.23	0.67	437	182	99	0.13
		1873.00	4.99	0.81	12.52	0.5	437	251	10	0.06

		1888.24	0.77	0.17	0.74	0.29	443	96	38	0.19
		1903.48	2.71	0.64	5.02	1.01	438	185	37	0.11
		1918.72	0.8	0.21	0.82	0.97	441	102	121	0.2
		1933.96	2	0.27	3.05	0.6	441	152	30	0.08
		1949.20	0.41							
		1964.44	0.41							
		1979.68	0.67	0.11	0.58	0.99	438	86	148	0.16
		1982.72	0.97	0.15	1.17	1.21	441	120	124	0.11
		1985.77	1.27	0.25	2.87	0.88	439	227	70	0.08
		1988.82	1.21	0.36	2.83	1.21	438	234	100	0.11
Gharibon-1X	Abu Roash "F"	2054.35	1.43	1.11	8.07	0.98	430	564	69	0.12
		2060.45	4.02	4.23	27.91	0.89	425	694	22	0.13
		2066.54	2.99	2.11	18.73	1.28	424	626	43	0.10
		2072.64	2.59	2.08	18.46	0.88	431	713	34	0.10
Gharibon NE-1X	Abu Roash "F"	2016.25	3.99	3.50	25.40	0.58	429	637	15	0.12
		2022.35	3.53	3.16	22.65	0.71	432	642	20	0.12
		2028.44	3.35	2.75	20.54	0.49	432	613	15	0.12
		2034.54	3.23	1.80	14.92	1.65	431	462	51	0.11
Tareef-1X	Abu Roash "F"	1991.87	1.04	0.77	3.55	1.34	434	341	129	0.18
		1994.92	1.43	0.39	3.74	1.35	437	262	94	0.09
		1997.96	2.07	1.47	9.86	1.51	435	476	73	0.13
		2001.01	3.66	3.13	19.37	0.96	435	530	26	0.14
		2004.06	3.66	3.61	20.56	1.18	436	561	32	0.15
		2007.11	3.37	3.29	19.3	1.34	435	573	40	0.15
		2010.16	3.44	3.32	19.64	1.41	435	571	41	0.14
Gharibon-1X	Abu Roash "G"	2078.74	1.08	0.37	2.36	1.16	431	219	107	0.14
		2087.88	1.05	0.34	1.19	1.07	425	113	102	0.22
		2103.12	0.71	0.32	1.11	1.04	274	156	146	0.22
		2118.36	0.76	0.95	1.81	0.77	384	238	101	0.34
		2142.74	0.98	0.42	1.33	1.27	274	136	130	0.24
		2176.27	1.00	0.47	1.59	1.02	344	159	102	0.23
		2197.61	0.90	0.43	1.64	1.03	331	182	114	0.21
		2206.75	0.90	0.43	1.30	1.02	305	144	113	0.25
		2264.66	0.54	0.22	1.12	0.66	435	207	122	0.16
Gharibon NE-1X	Abu Roash "G"	2043.68	2.52	1.51	11.67	1.11	432	464	44	0.11
		2052.83	2.76	1.35	12.82	1.25	433	465	45	0.10
		2061.97	1.38	0.39	4.23	0.90	431	307	65	0.08
		2071.12	1.53	0.36	5.20	0.72	431	340	47	0.06
		2080.26	0.24							
		2089.40	0.38							
		2098.55	0.90	0.24	1.01	1.15	434	112	127	0.19
		2107.69	0.69	0.10	0.54	0.67	432	79	98	0.16
		2116.84	0.90	0.15	1.07	1.18	435	119	131	0.12

	2125.98	0.61	0.18	1.21	0.56	437	198	92	0.13	
	2135.12	0.35								
	2144.27	0.29								
	2153.41	0.52	0.11	0.29	0.89	433	56	171	0.28	
	2162.56	0.41								
	2171.70	0.57	0.16	1.06	0.70	441	185	122	0.13	
	2180.84	1.27	0.48	3.01	0.60	435	237	47	0.14	
	2189.99	0.74	0.22	1.65	0.26	441	223	35	0.12	
	2199.13	0.59	0.17	1.23	0.53	443	207	89	0.12	
	2208.28	0.54	0.14	0.80	0.53	440	148	98	0.15	
	2217.42	0.21								
	2226.56	0.25								
Tareef-1X	Abu Roash "G"	2019.30	2.44	2.07	12.02	1.48	434	493	61	0.15
		2028.44	0.82	0.52	1.95	1.61	434	238	197	0.21
		2037.59	0.74	0.23	1.22	1.2	435	164	162	0.16
		2046.73	0.42							
		2055.88	0.2							
		2065.02	0.33							
		2074.16	0.29							
		2083.31	0.39							
		2092.45	0.48							
		2101.60	0.39							
		2110.74	0.81	0.36	1.17	0.84	441	144	104	0.24
		2119.88	0.65	0.17	0.81	0.42	439	125	65	0.17
		2129.03	0.6	0.1	0.72	1.01	439	120	168	0.12
		2138.17	0.3							
		2147.32	0.3							
		2156.46	0.59	0.13	0.79	0.96	440	133	162	0.14
		2165.60	1.3	0.3	3.36	0.9	445	258	69	0.08
		2174.75	0.73	0.17	1.22	0.82	443	168	113	0.12
		2183.89	0.61	0.13	0.77	1.58	441	127	261	0.14
		2193.04	0.51	0.17	0.76	1.1	442	148	214	0.18
		2202.18	0.27							
		2211.32	0.21							
		2220.47	0.41							

951

952 **Table 3** Rock-Eval pyrolysis and TOC data for the Bahariya Formation in Gharibon-1X, Gharibon NE-1X, and
953 Tareef-1X Wells, East Beni Suef basin, Egypt.

Well Name	Depth (m)	TOC (wt%)	S1 (mg HC/g rock)	S2 (mg HC/g rock)	S3 (mg CO ₂ /g rock)	T _{max} (°C)	HI (mg HC/g TOC)	OI (mg CO ₂ /g TOC)	PI S1/(S1+S2)
Gharibon-1X	2307.34	0.83	0.42	1.43	0.58	368	172	70	0.23
	2350.01	2.25	0.83	4.01	0.86	439	178	38	0.17
	2386.58	1.43	0.58	2.91	1.86	438	203	130	0.17
	2462.78	0.74	0.67	2.12	1.62	404	286	219	0.24

Gharibon NE-1X	2238.76	1.56	0.47	3.90	0.46	443	250	29	0.11
	2247.90	0.57	0.16	0.94	0.44	442	164	77	0.15
	2257.04	0.29							
	2269.24	0.58	0.14	0.72	0.87	443	125	151	0.16
	2281.43	1.55	0.44	3.02	0.76	442	195	49	0.13
	2287.52	1.24	0.29	2.15	1.42	443	173	114	0.12
	2296.67	1.22	0.27	2.17	0.84	442	178	69	0.11
	2327.15	1.79	0.40	2.85	1.68	441	160	94	0.12
	2336.29	1.07	0.33	1.74	0.85	442	162	79	0.16
	2357.63	1.72	0.72	3.71	0.89	440	216	52	0.16
	2369.82	2.11	0.74	4.43	0.73	442	210	35	0.14
	2391.16	0.22							
	2403.35	0.12							
	2418.59	0.15							
	2427.73	0.23							
	2503.93	0.25							
Tareef-1X	2229.61	0.42							
	2235.71	0.41							
	2241.80	0.55	0.09	0.13	0.97	440	24	176	0.41
	2269.24	0.96	0.34	1.79	1.18	446	187	123	0.16
	2281.43	1.15	0.38	1.84	0.95	444	160	82	0.17
	2299.72	0.87	0.29	1.25	0.53	445	143	61	0.19
	2311.91	1.36	0.41	1.95	1.07	443	143	79	0.17
	2330.20	1.69	0.6	2.81	0.39	442	166	23	0.18
	2375.92	0.61	0.16	0.79	0.59	442	130	97	0.17
	2388.11	0.5	0.15	0.54	0.41	442	109	83	0.22
	2442.97	0.49							
	2449.07	0.27							
	2470.40	0.41							

954

955 **Table 4** Vitrinite reflectance, Thermal Alteration Index, and petrographic kerogen typing of the Upper Cretaceous-
956 Eocene Section in Gharibone-1X, Gharibon NE-1x, and Tareef-1X wells, East Beni Suef basin, Egypt.

Well Name	Formation	Depth (m)	%Ro	TAI	Macerals Composition		
					Liptinite (%)	Inertinite (%)	Vitrinite (%)
Gharibon-1X	Apollonia	1255.78		2	100	0	0
	Abu Roash "A"	1496.57		2	100	0	0
		1609.34		1.9	95	0	5
	Abu Roash "C"	1825.75	0.62		40	5	55
	Abu Roash "E"	1987.30	0.64		20	5	75
		2039.11	0.71	2.7	50	0	50
	Abu Roash "F"	2057.40		2	100	0	0
Abu Roash "G"	2075.69		2	70	5	25	

		2194.56		2.6	80	0	20
Gharibon NE-1X	Bahariya	2346.96		2	50	10	40
		2459.74		2	40	5	55
	Apollonia	480.06	0.39	2.35	95	0	5
		937.26	0.41	2.45	95	0	5
	Abu Roash "A"	1583.44	0.51	2.55	90	0	10
		1629.16	0.51	2.55	80	5	15
	Abu Roash "C"	1751.08	0.58	2.55	15	5	80
		1827.28	0.62	2.55	10	5	85
	Abu Roash "E"	1918.72	0.57	2.55	15	5	80
	Abu Roash "F"	2016.25	0.46	2.55	95	0	5
	Abu Roash "G"	2061.97	0.6	2.55	65	5	30
		2116.84	0.62	2.45	70	5	25
		2180.84	0.49	2.55	25	5	70
	Tareef-1X	Bahariya	2238.76	0.5	2.55	20	5
		2281.43	0.54	2.55	15	5	80
		2327.15	0.54	2.55	15	5	80
		2369.82	0.54	2.55	25	5	70
		2503.93	0.42	2.55	80	5	15
Apollonia		1275.59	0.47	2.45	95	0	5
Abu Roash "A"		1461.52	0.49	2.45	95	0	5
		1537.72	0.56	2.55	80	5	15
Abu Roash "C"		1690.12	0.6	2.55	25	5	70
		1781.56	0.62	2.55	30	5	65
Abu Roash "E"		1873.00	0.57	2.55	20	5	75
		1933.96	0.58	2.55	20	5	75
		1985.77	0.65	2.65	35	5	60
Abu Roash "F"		2004.06		2.55	95	0	5
Abu Roash "G"		2110.74	0.57	2.55	30	5	65
		2165.60	0.52	2.55	55	10	35
Bahariya		2269.24	0.56	2.55	25	5	70
		2281.43	0.6	2.65	30	5	65
	2330.20	0.58	2.65	20	5	75	
	2388.11	0.6	2.65	20	15	65	

957

958 **Table 5** Input data used for the burial and thermal history modeling for the Tareef-1X well, East Beni Suef Basin.

Formation/Event	Present thickness (m)	Eroded thickness (m)	Age (Ma)		Lithology
			From	To	
Apollonia- Erosion		400	23.70	0	
Dabaa-Hiatus			37.20	23.70	
Apollonia	1327		56.00	37.20	Limestone

Khoman-Erosion		200	66.00	56.00	
Khoman	125		83.60	66.00	Chalk
Abu Roash "A"	171		86.30	83.60	Limestone + Shale + Sandstone
Abu Roash "B"	54		89.80	86.30	Limestone + Siltstone + Sandstone
Abu Roash "C"	110		90.45	89.80	Siltstone + Limestone + Sandstone + Shale
Abu Roash "D"	83		90.90	90.45	Limestone + Siltstone + Shale
Abu Roash "E"	123		92.70	90.90	Shale + Siltstone + Sandstone + Limestone
Abu Roash "F"	25		93.90	92.70	Argillaceous Limestone
U. Abu Roash "G"	93		95.25	93.90	Shale + Limestone + Siltstone + Sandstone
M. Abu Roash "G"	53		95.85	95.25	Shale + Limestone + Siltstone + Sandstone
L. Abu Roash "G"	56		96.60	95.85	Limestone + Shale + Siltstone + Sandstone
Upper Bahariya	129		98.90	96.60	Siltstone + Sandstone + Shale
Lower Bahariya	141		100.50	98.90	Sandstone + Siltstone
Kharita	175		108.50	100.50	Sandstone + Siltstone
Basement	6		140.00	108.50	Granite

959

960 **Table 6** Summary and comparison of the source rocks characteristics throughout the entire Beni Suef Basin based
961 on the results of this study and previous literature.

Basin		Beni Suef Basin		
Sub-basin		West		East
Source Rock		Lower Kharita	A/R "F"	A/R "F"
Organic Richness		Fair to good ^{2,6}	Very good ^{1,3} Good to very good ^{2,4} Fair to very good ⁶	Good to Excellent ⁷
Kerogen Type		Mixed type II/III ² Gas-prone type III ⁶	Oil-prone type II ^{2,3} Oil-prone mixed type I/II ^{1,4} Oil-prone type II and II/III ⁶	Oil-prone type II ⁷
Thermal Maturity		Mature ⁵ Mature to postmature ^{2,6}	Immature ³ Immature to marginally mature ^{1,4,5} Marginally mature ² Mature ⁶	Immature to marginally mature ⁷
Hydrocarbon Generation	Early stage	Cenomanian (97 Ma) ⁶ and (95 Ma) ⁷ Late Cretaceous ⁵	Early Oligocene (30Ma) ⁴ and (31 Ma) ⁷ Middle Oligocene (28 Ma) ³ Late Oligocene (24 Ma) ¹ Early Miocene (18 Ma) ⁶	late Eocene (35 Ma) ⁷

	Peak stage	Turonian (91 Ma) ⁶ Coniacian (88 Ma) ⁷ Late Cretaceous ⁵	Late Miocene (8 Ma) ³ Not yet reached ^{1,4,6,7}	Not yet reached ⁷
	Late stage	Late Paleocene (58 Ma) ⁶ Early Oligocene ⁵ Early Miocene (19 Ma) ⁷	Not yet reached ^{1,3,4,6,7}	Not yet reached ⁷
	Transformation Ratio	70 % ⁷	24 % ³ 16 % ⁴ 21 % ⁷	19 % ⁷

962 ¹(Makky et al., 2014), ²(El Batal et al., 2016), ³(Abdel-Fattah et al., 2017), ⁴(Abd El-Gawad et
963 al., 2017), ⁵(Sakran et al., 2019), ⁶(Edress et al., 2021), and ⁷(This work).

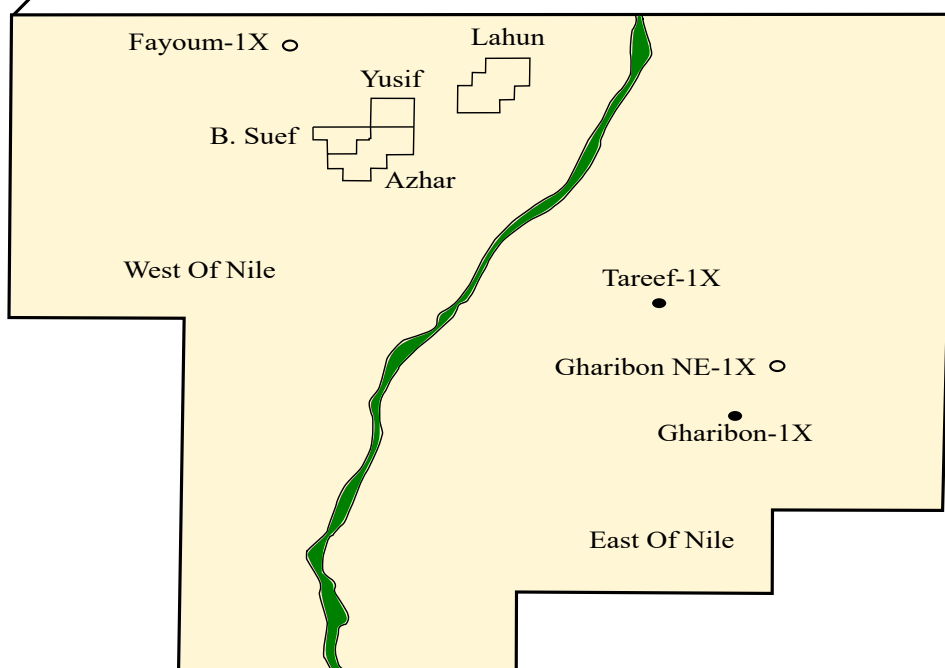
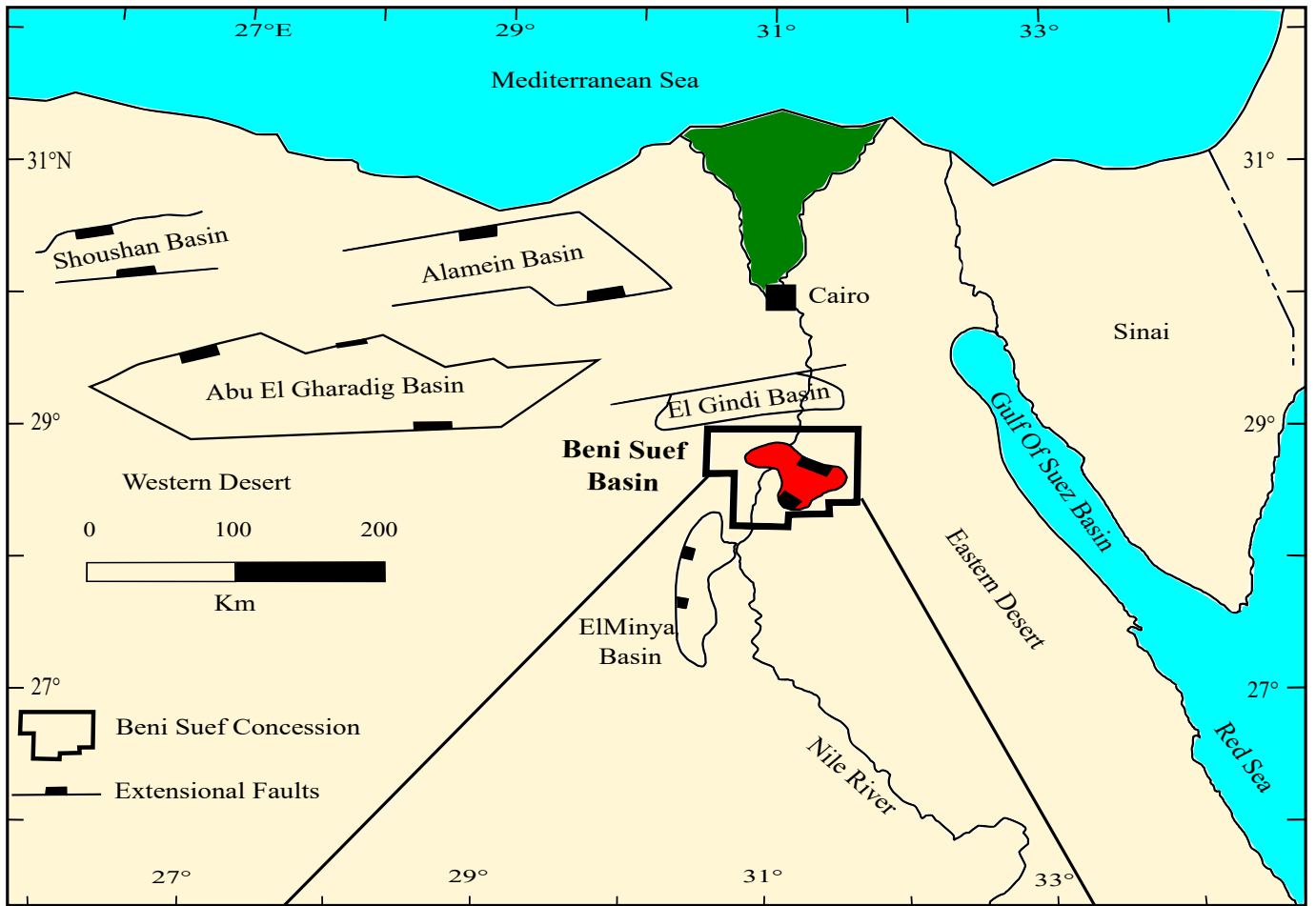


Fig. 1

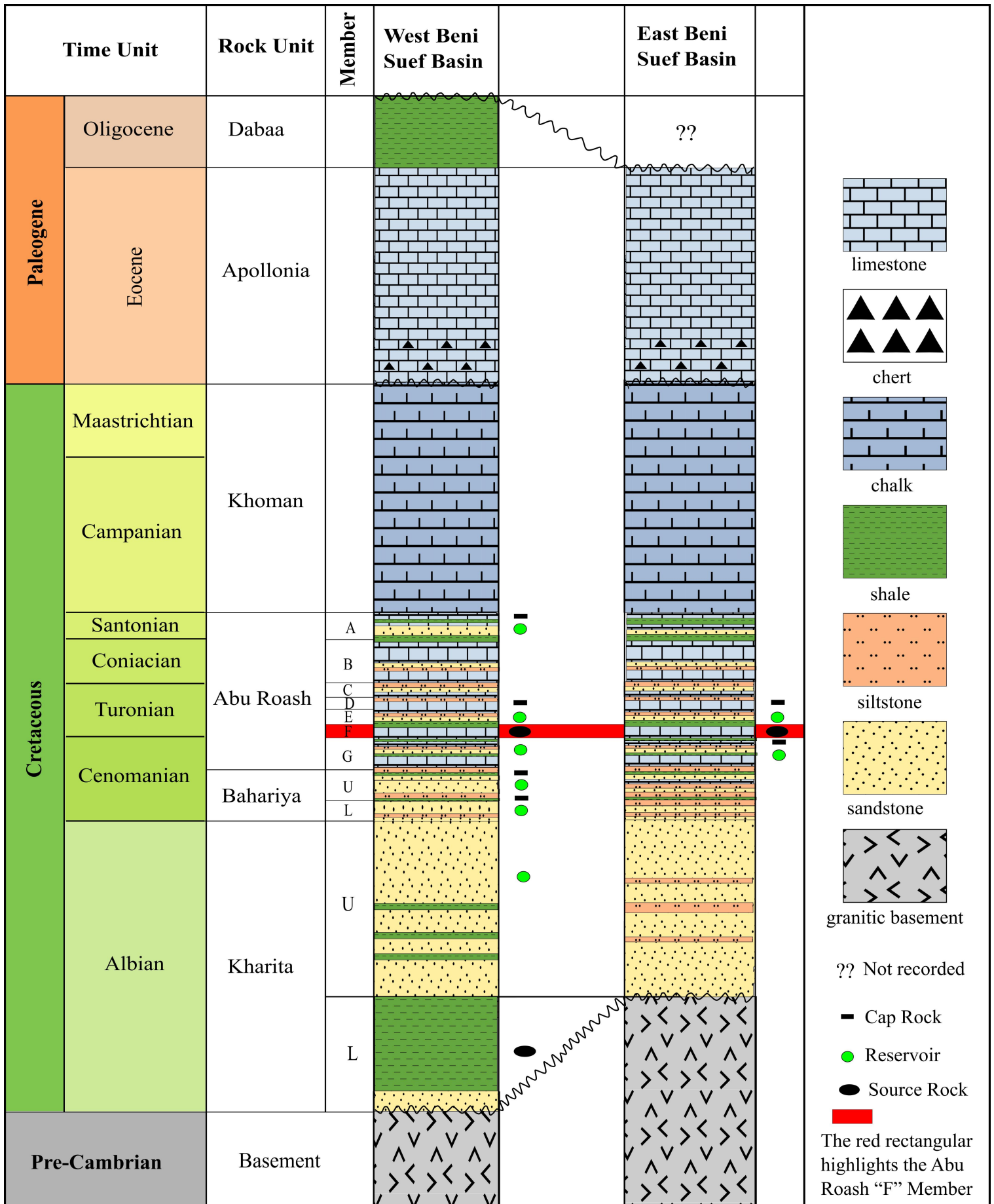


Fig. 2

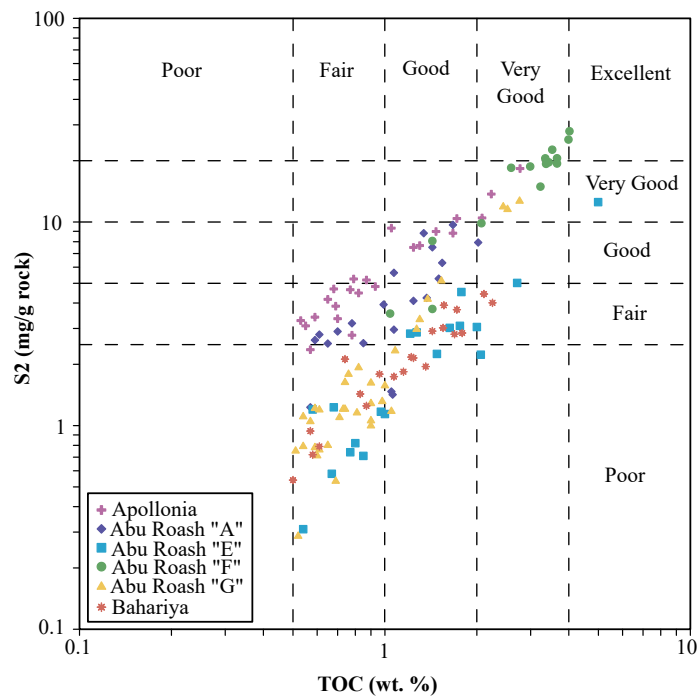


Fig. 3

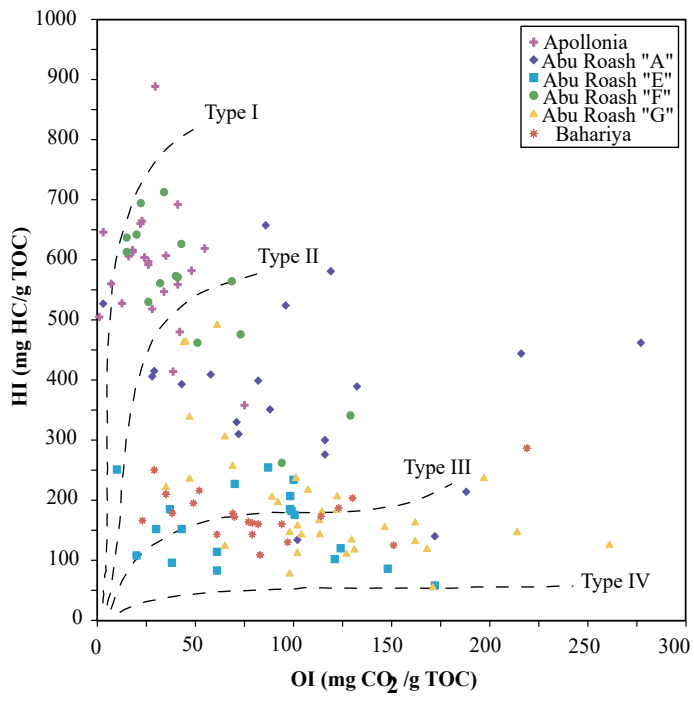


Fig. 4

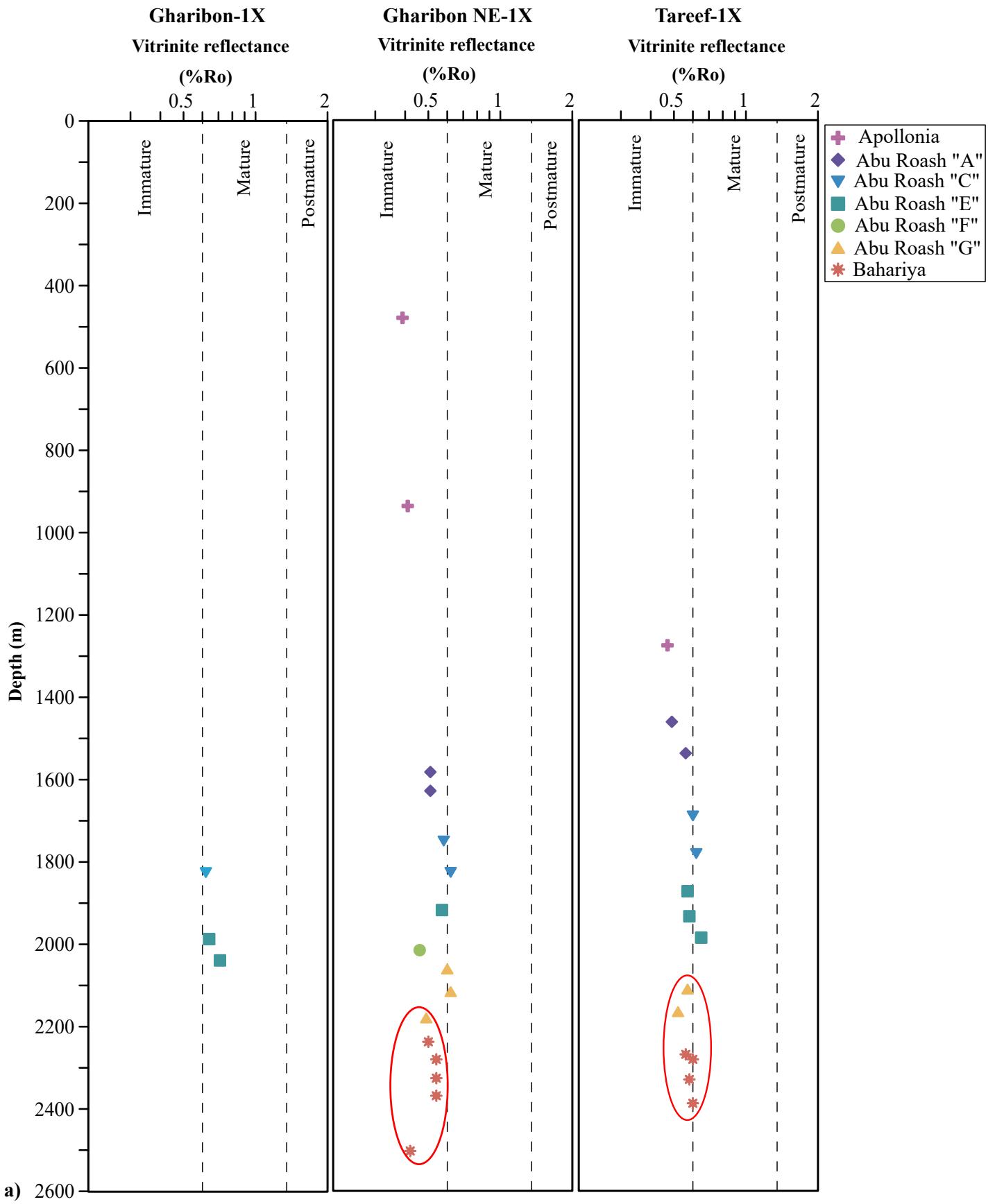


Fig. 5. a

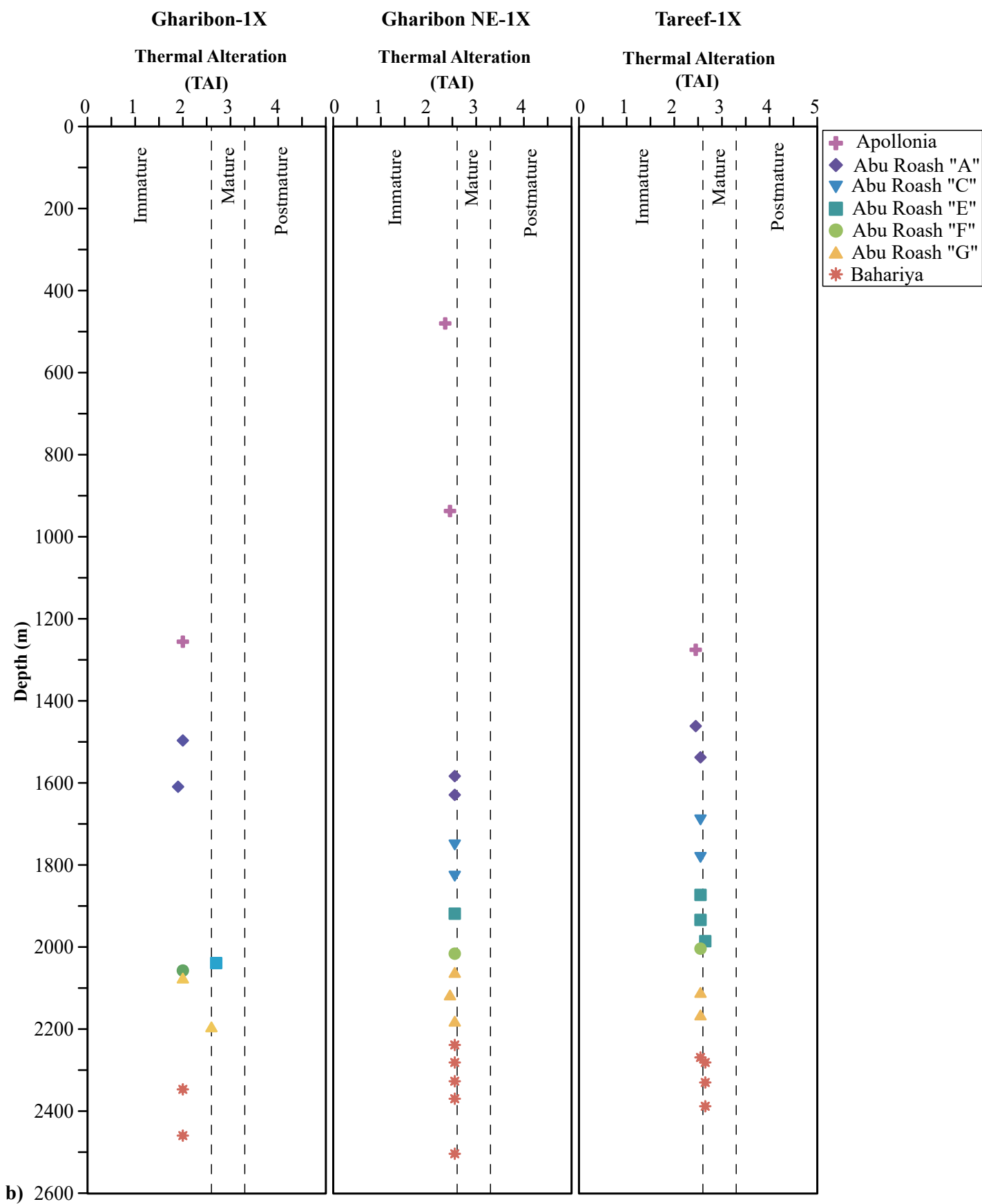


Fig. 5. b

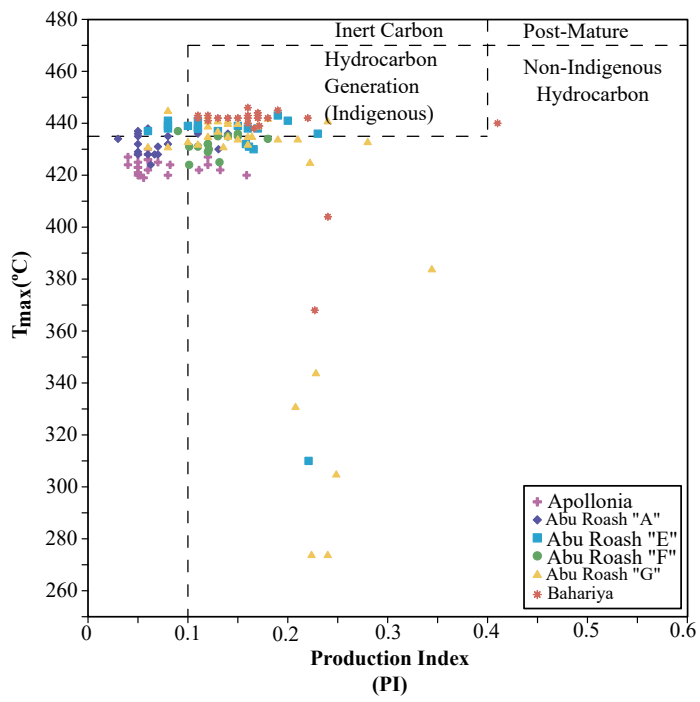


Fig. 6

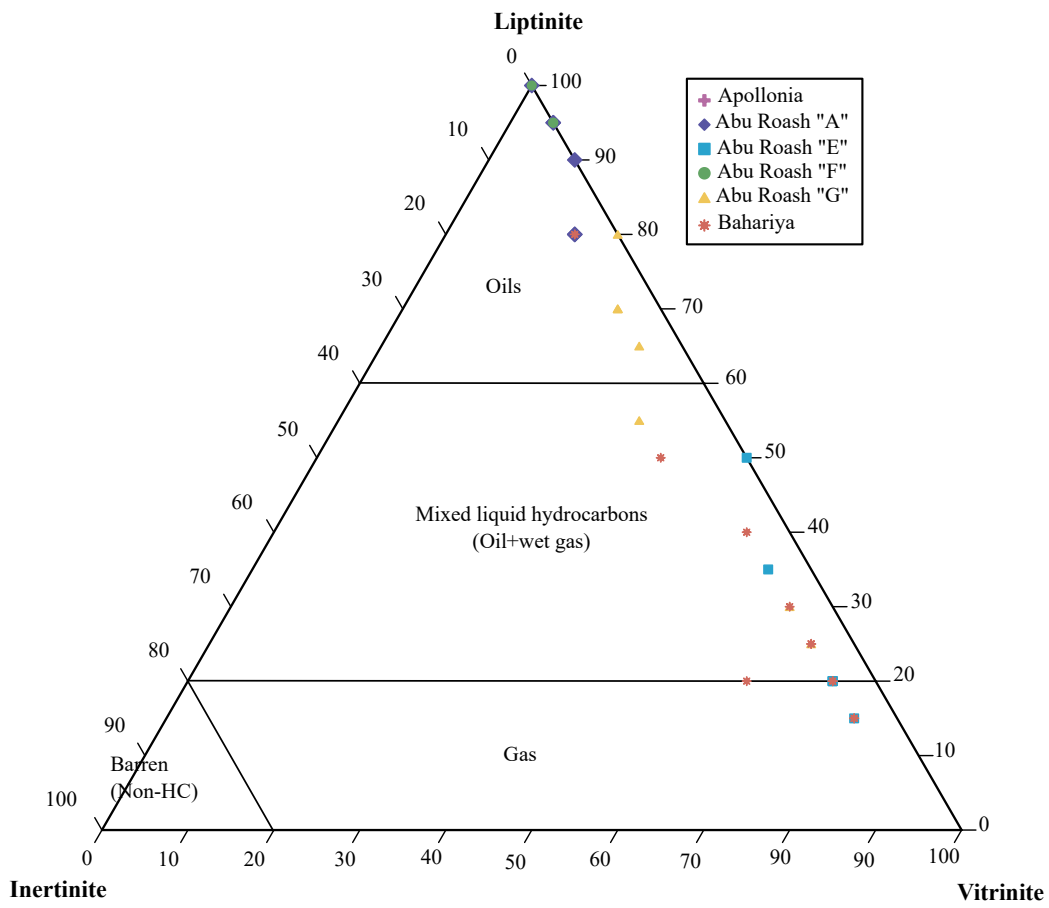


Fig. 7

Tareef-1X

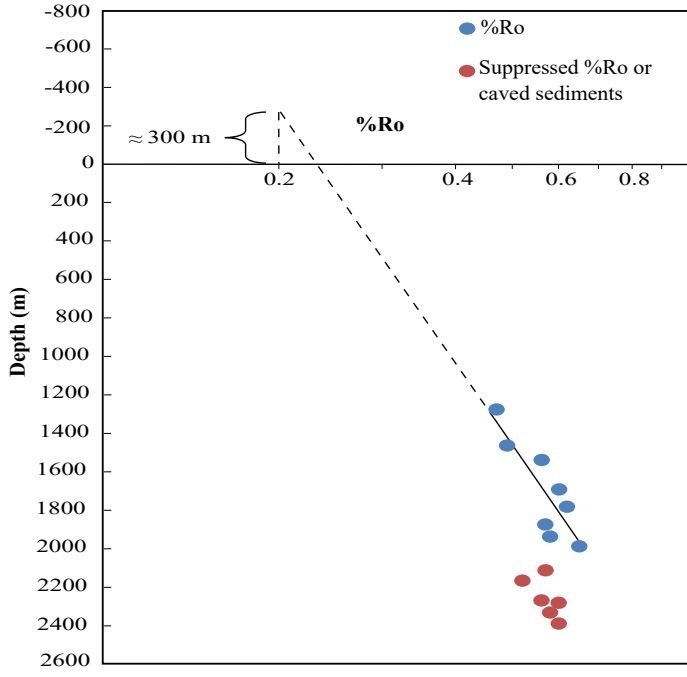
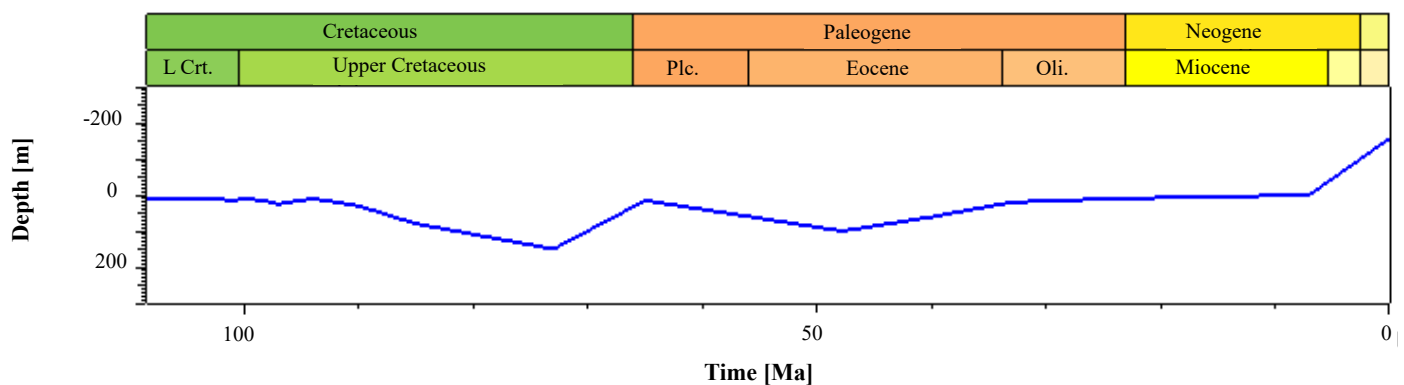
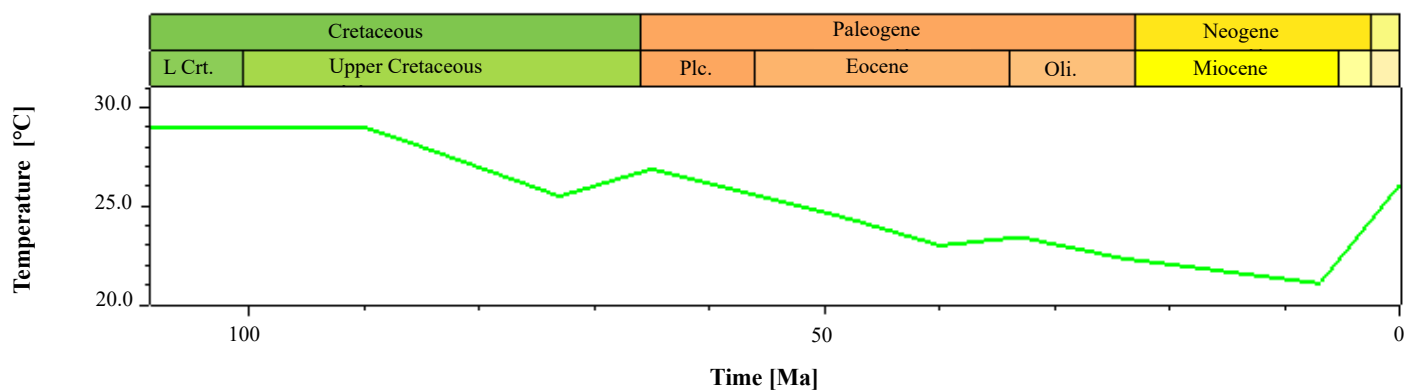


Fig. 8

Paleo Water Depth, Tareef-1X



SWI-Temperature, Tareef-1X



Heat Flow, Tareef-1X

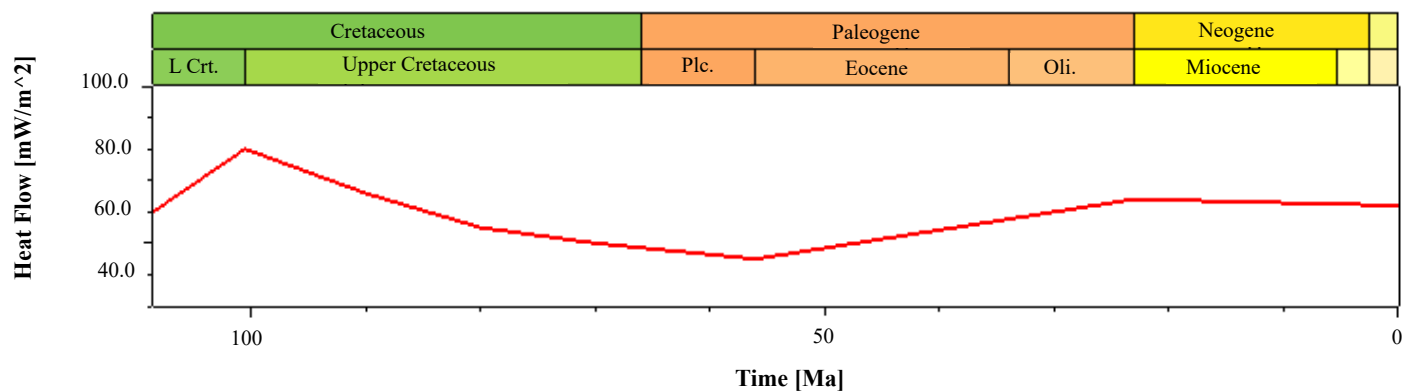


Fig. 9

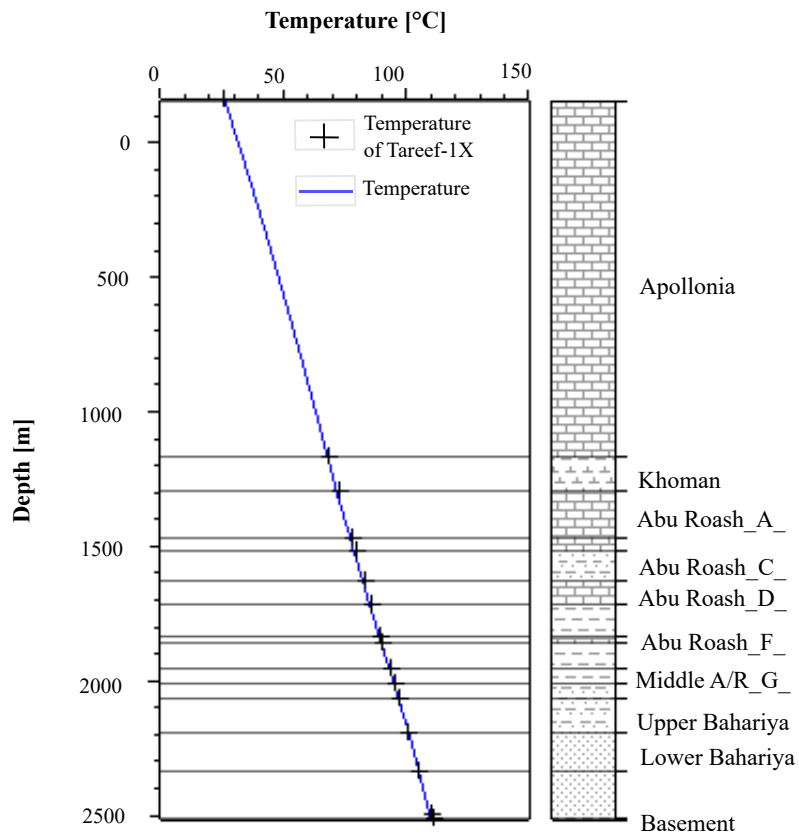
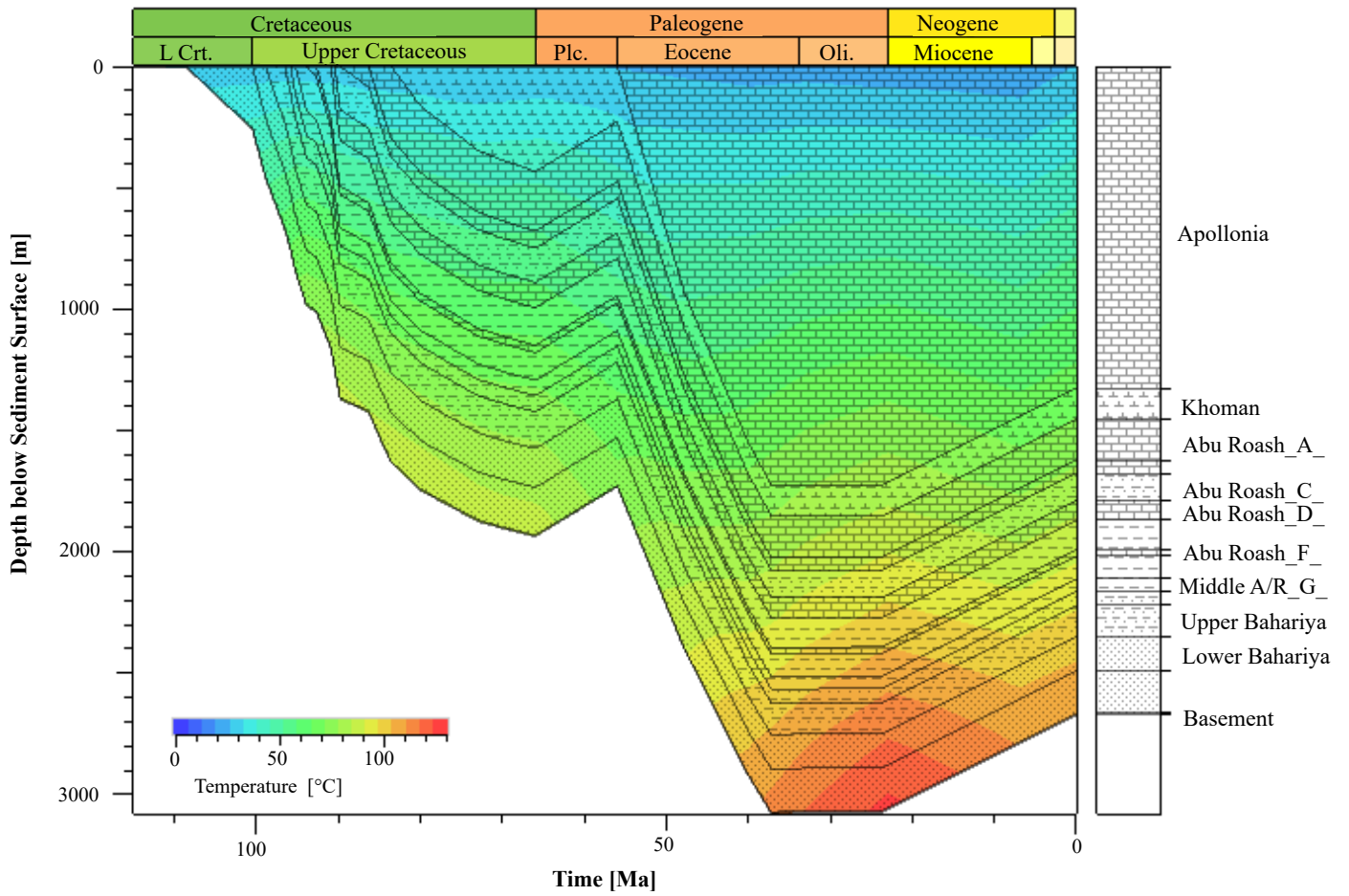


Fig. 10

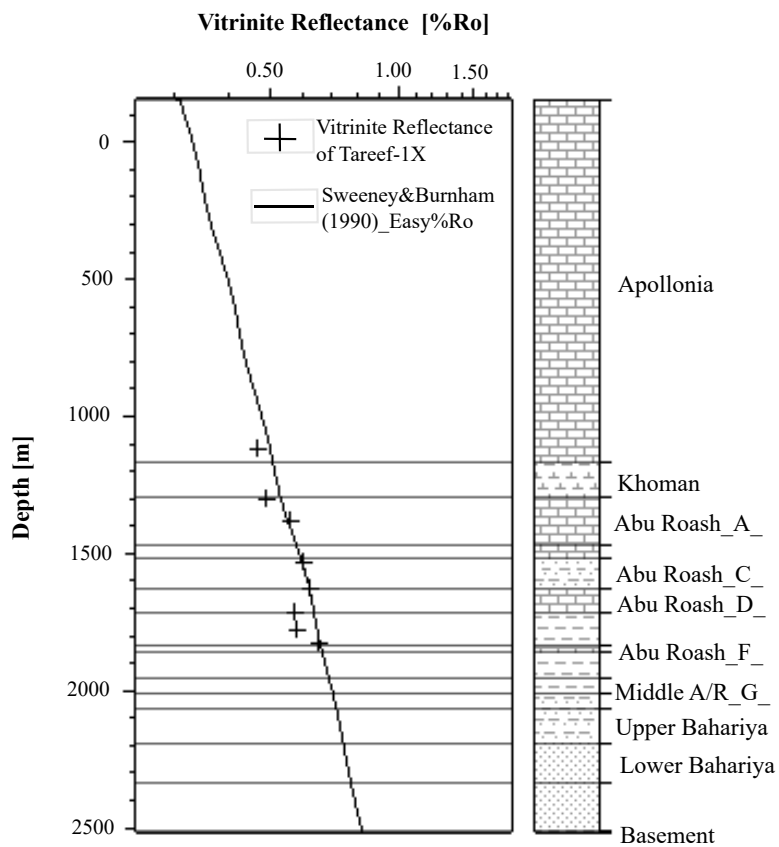
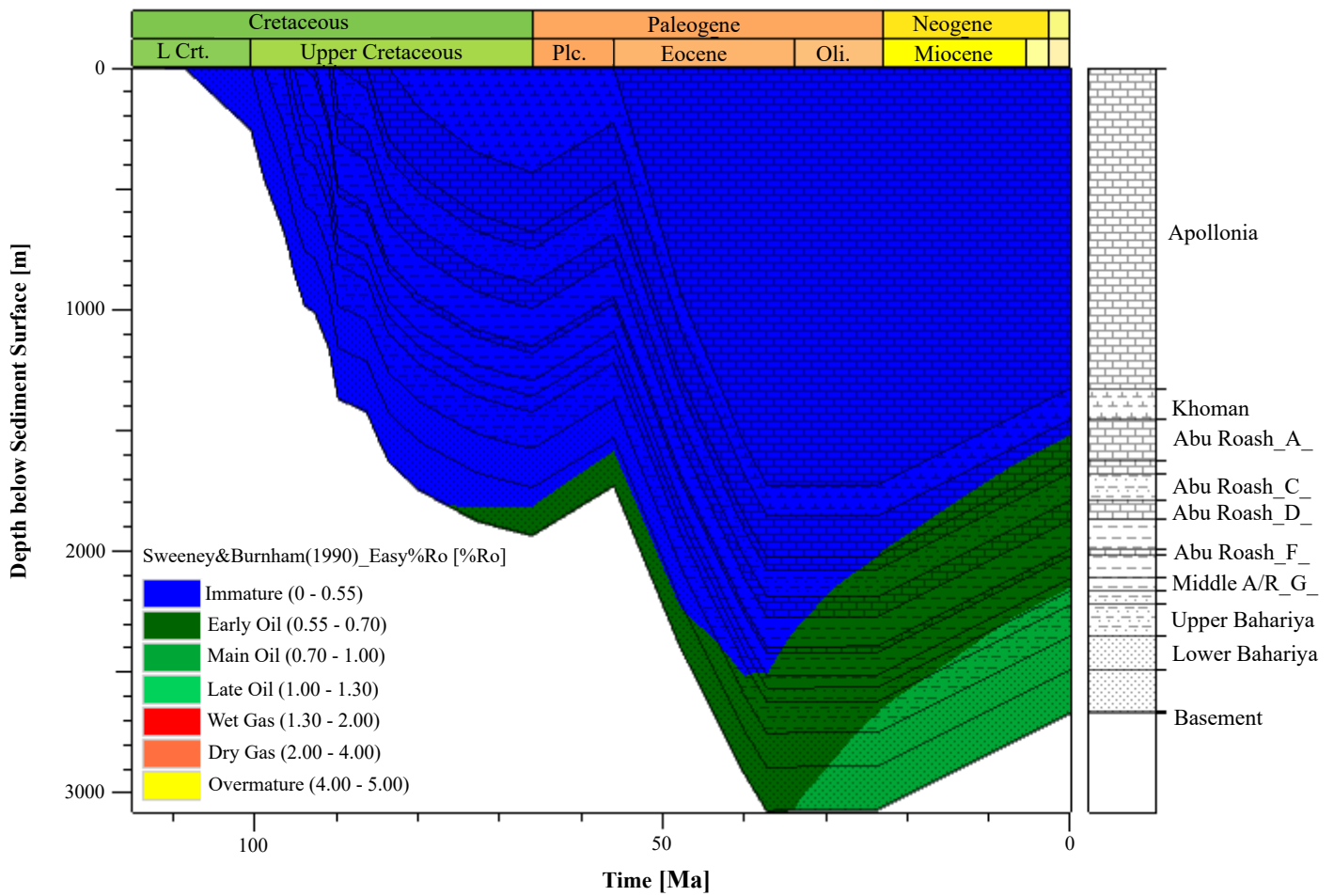


Fig. 11

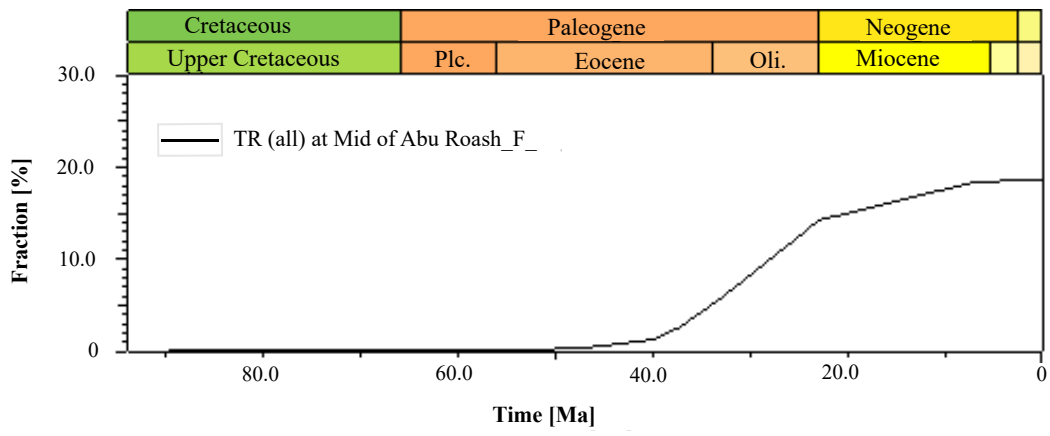


Fig. 12

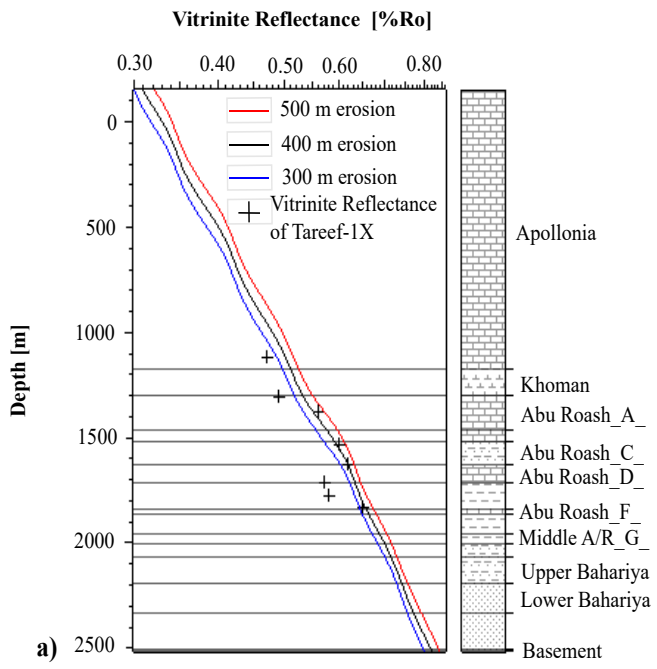
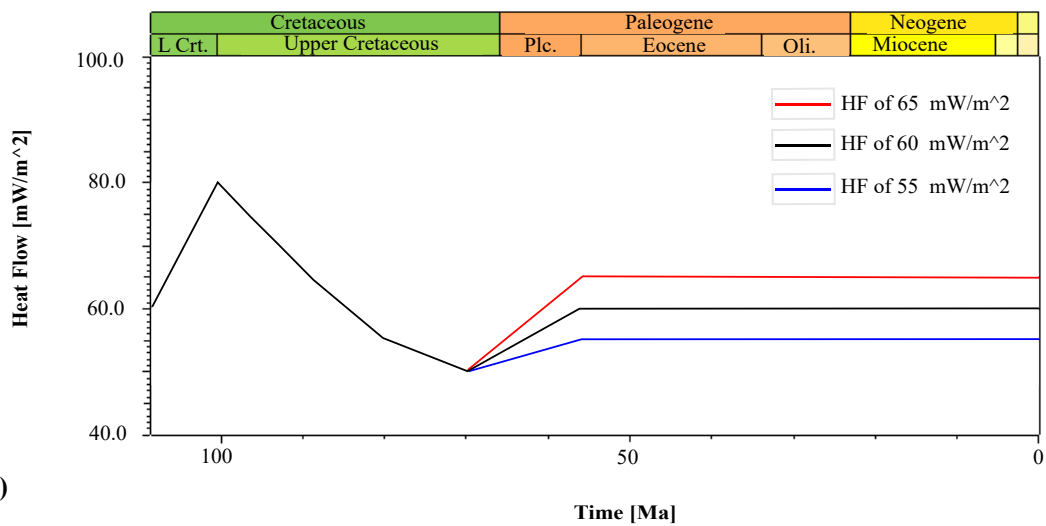
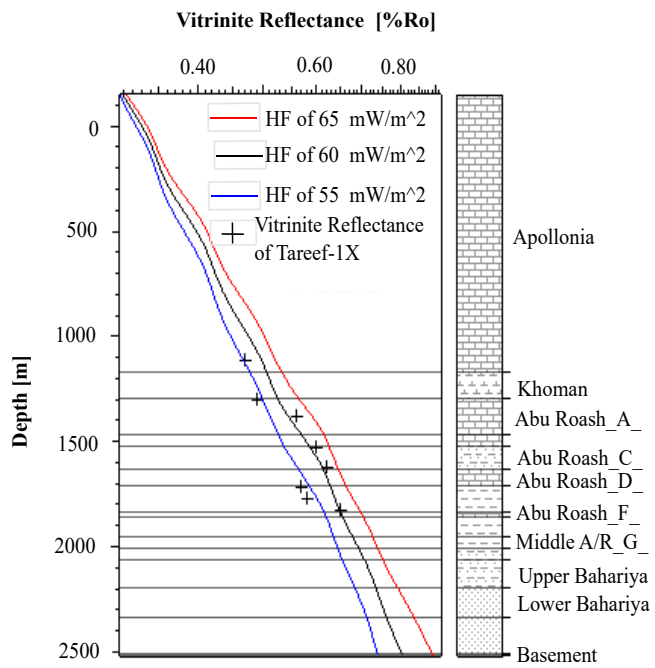


Fig. 13. a



b)

Fig. 13. b

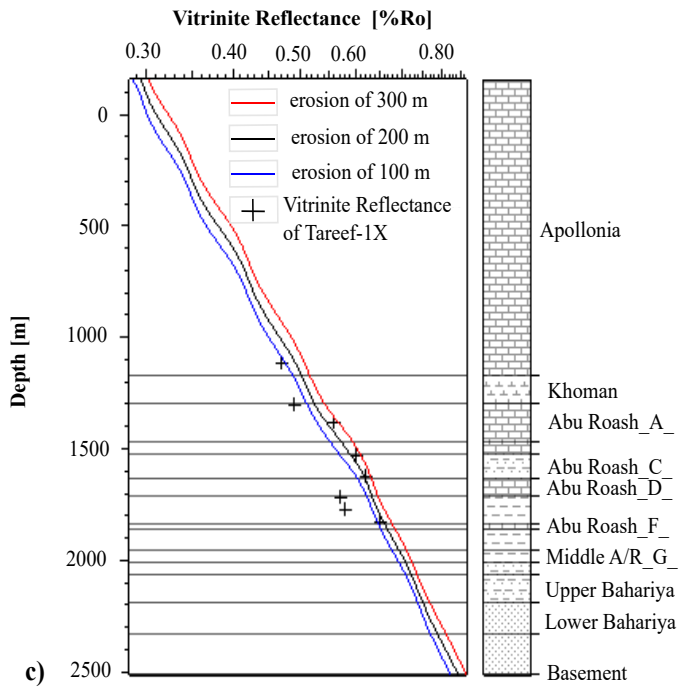


Fig. 13. c

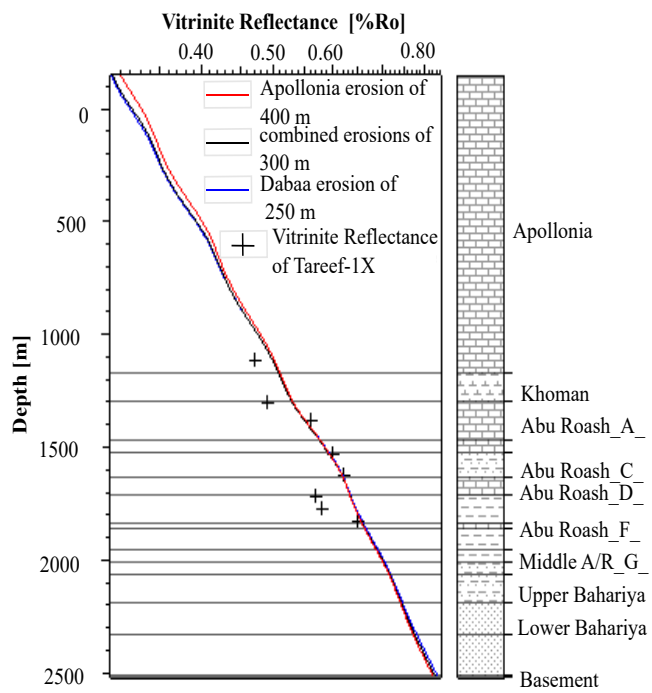


Fig. 14

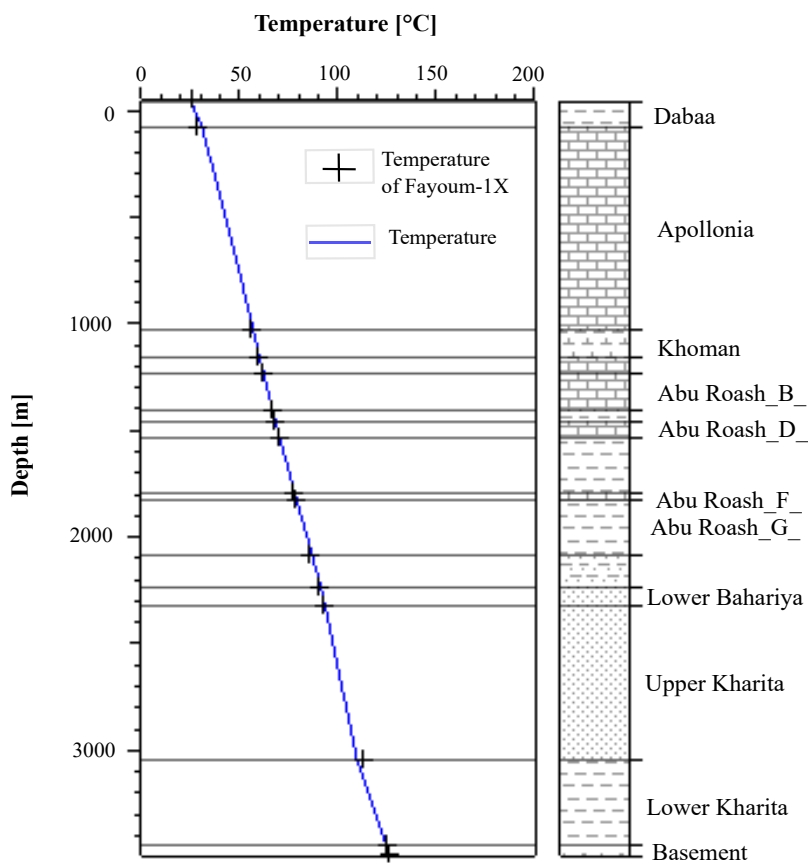
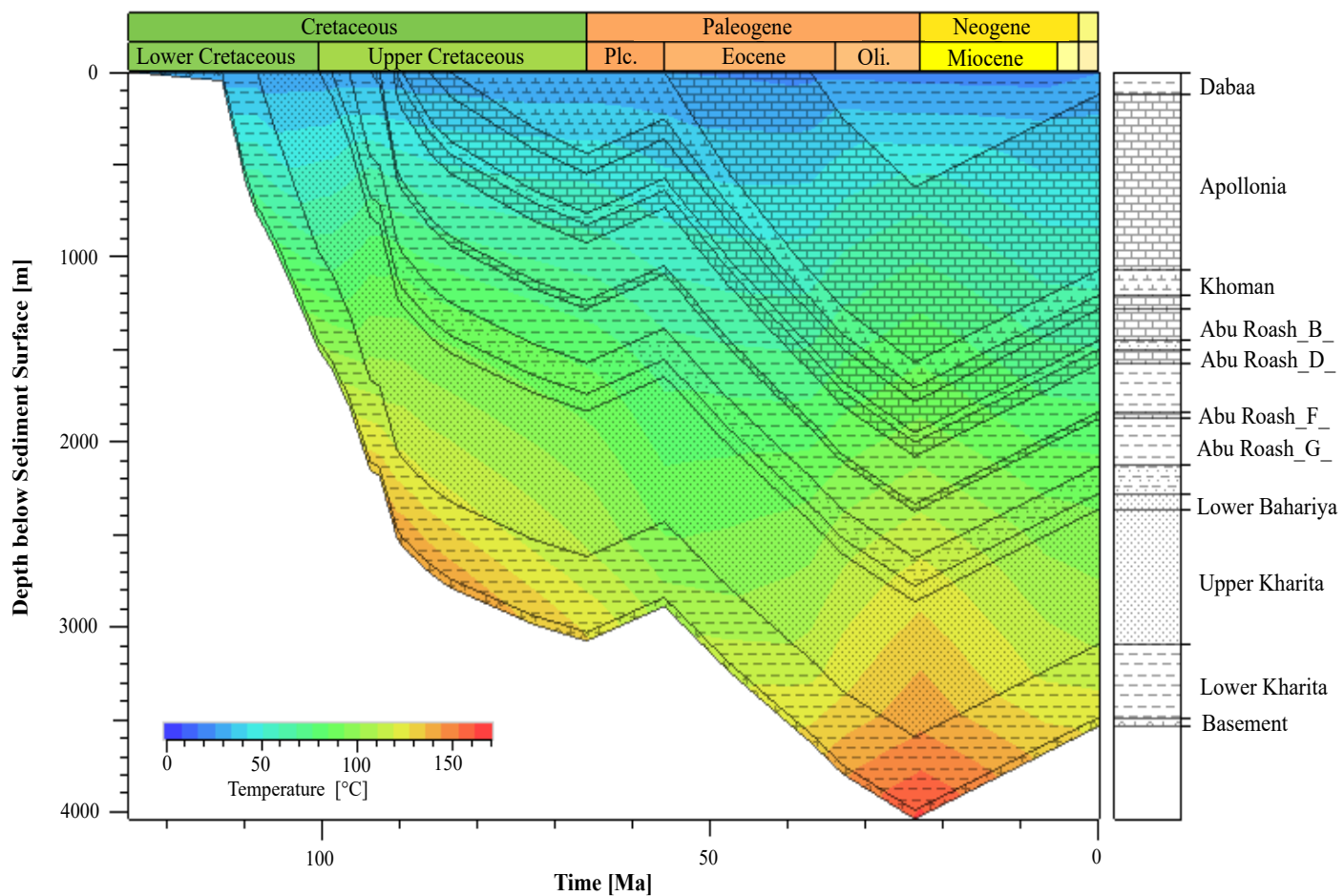


Fig. 15

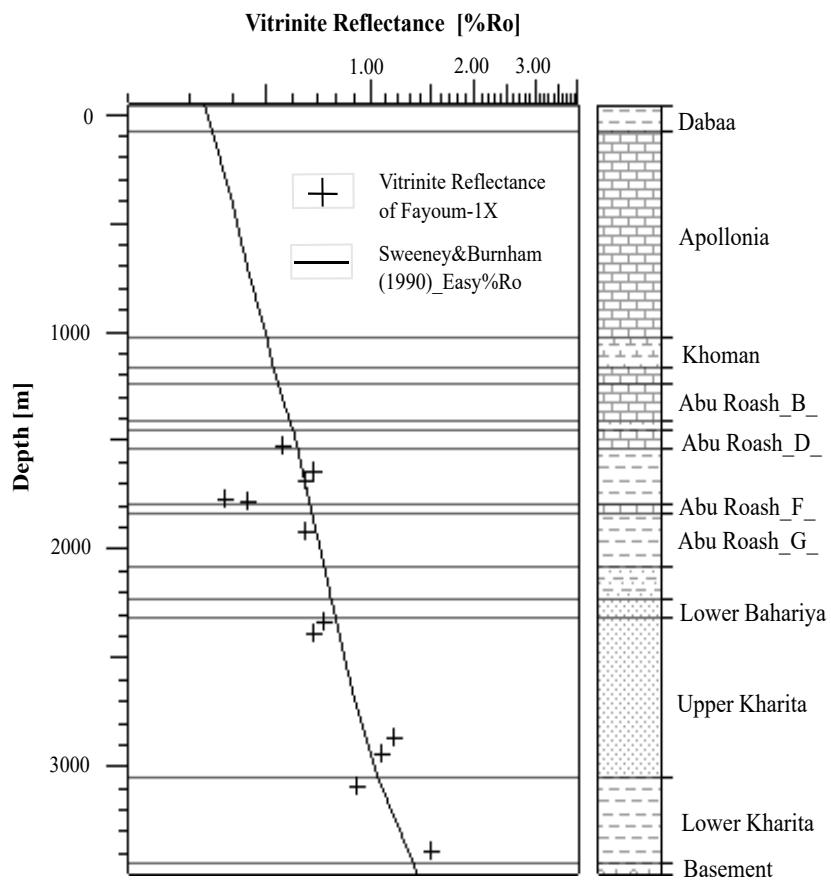
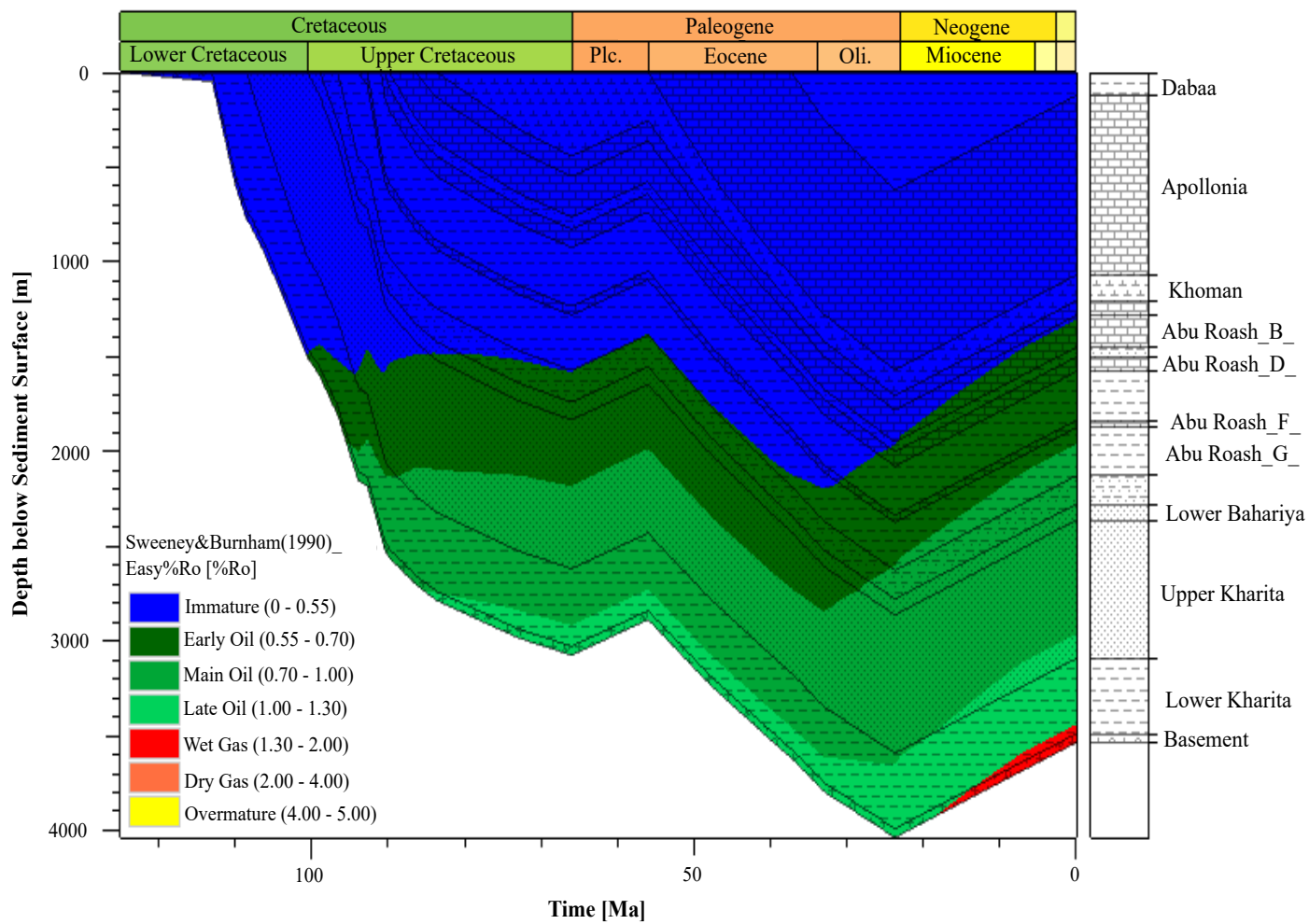


Fig. 16

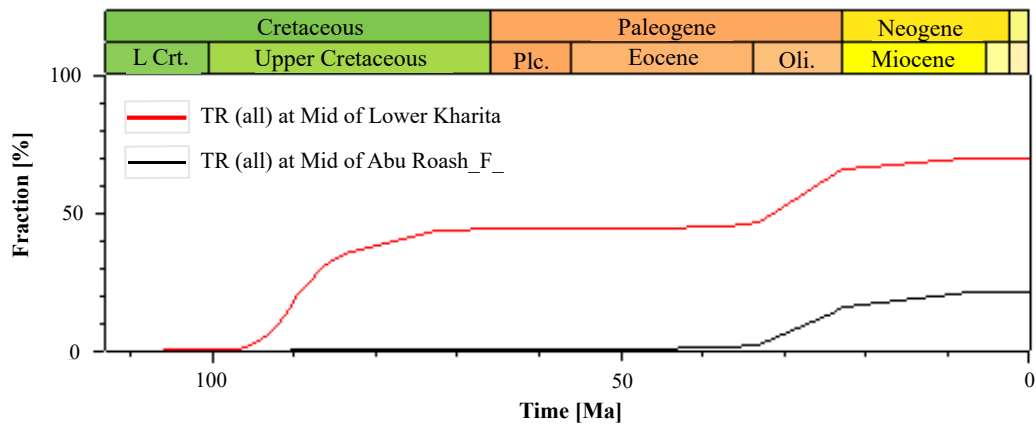


Fig. 17

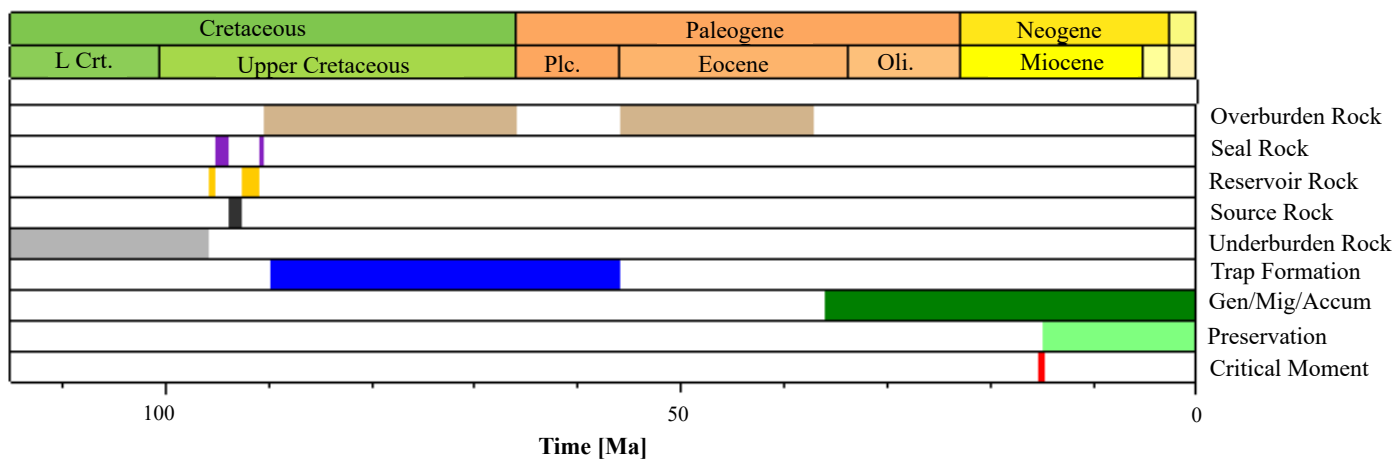


Fig. 18

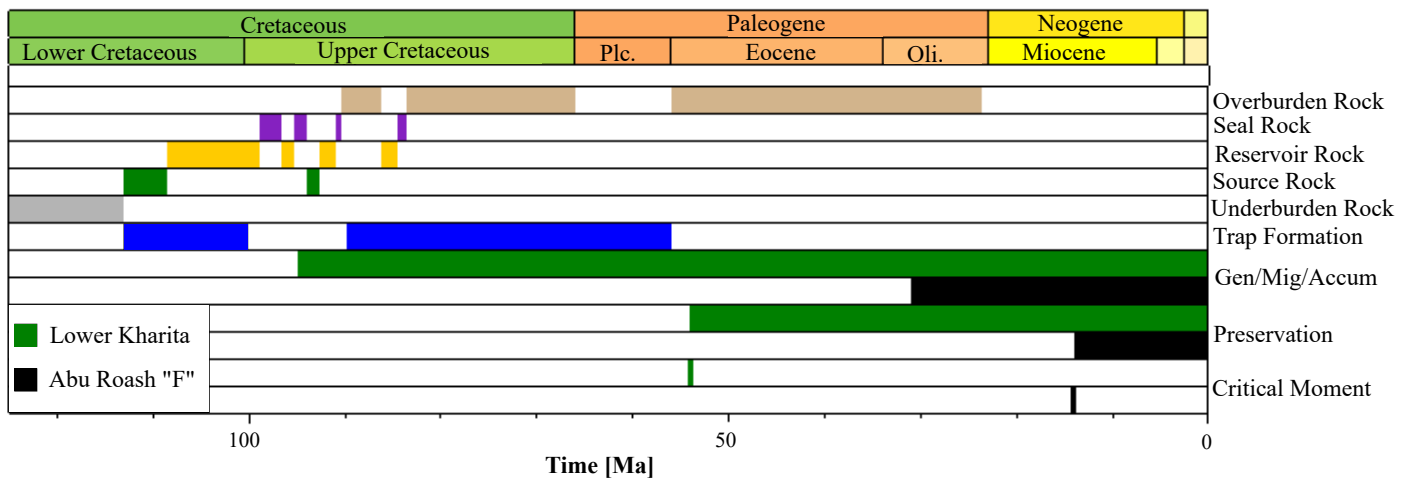


Fig. 19