

Contents

Acknowledgement	vii
Abbreviation Index	ix
List of Equations	xi
1 Introduction	1
2 State of the Art: “Kellwasser Horizons”	3
3 Dissertation Objectives	7
4 Geological Background	9
4.1 The Earth 360 <i>Ma</i> ago	9
4.1.1 Early Paleozoic Plate Tectonics and Palaeogeography	9
4.1.2 Climate during the Late Devonian	10
4.1.3 Palaeoecology: Evolution of Land Plants	12
4.2 Geological Settings	13
4.2.1 Baltica/Avalonia	13
4.2.2 Laurentia	16
5 Basics of organic geochemistry.	21
5.1 Accumulation, Preservation and Characterization of the Organic Matter .	21
5.2 Organic Petrology	23
5.3 Kerogen Types	24
5.4 Carbon and Sulphur Cycle	24
5.5 Trace Elements	26
5.6 Molecular Geochemistry	26
5.6.1 Aliphatic Hydrocarbons	26
5.6.2 Aromatic Hydrocarbons	30
5.6.3 Biomarker parameters	30
5.7 Carbon and Nitrogen Stable Isotope Geochemistry	32
5.7.1 Carbon Isotope Geochemistry	32
5.7.2 Nitrogen Isotope Geochemistry	33

6	Experimental Methods	35
6.1	Determination of Elemental Carbon and Sulphur	36
6.2	Rock-Eval Pyrolysis	37
6.3	Extraction	38
6.4	Liquid Chromatographic Fractionation	38
6.5	Gas Chromatography	40
6.6	Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry	40
6.7	Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry	40
6.8	Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry	41
6.9	Microscopy	42
7	Results	43
7.1	In General	43
7.2	Results: Rhenish Massif	47
7.2.1	Büdesheimer Bach	47
7.2.2	Paffrather Mulde	53
7.2.3	Rügen Island: H9	58
7.3	Results: Appalachian Basin	62
7.3.1	West Valley Core	62
7.4	Results: Michigan Basin	68
7.4.1	State Chester	69
7.4.2	Dowerda	78
8	Discussion	91
8.1	Comparison of the three basins	91
8.1.1	Maturity	91
8.1.2	Sources of Organic Matter	98
8.1.3	Redox Conditions during the Upper Devonian	104
8.1.4	Carbon Isotope Shifts - Clue to the Kellwasser Horizons?	115
8.2	Causes for the Mass Extinctions	125
8.2.1	Evidences for a Biotic Event	125
8.2.2	Sea Level and/or Climate Changes	127
8.2.3	Anoxia	130
8.2.4	Summary: Causes for the Mass Extinctions	130
8.3	Discussion of the Basins	132
8.3.1	Rhenish Basin	132
8.3.2	Appalachian Basin	134
8.3.3	Michigan Basin	135
9	Conclusions	137
	Bibliography	139
	List of Figures	154
	List of Tables	158

A	Elemental Analysis	161
B	C_{15+} Soluble Organic Matter	171
C	Biomarkers	179
D	Trace Element Results	183
E	Microscopy	185
F	Isotopic Data	187