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# A Comparison of the Effectiveness of Eight Methods for the Removal of Organic Matter from Clay

A. D. van Langeveld, S. J. van der Gaast and D. Eisma

Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, Texel

**Abstract:** Organic matter present in clayey sediments may act as a cement between the clay particles as well as a blocking agent for the swelling of clay minerals like montmorillonite.

Removal of the organic matter is important when a clay sample is to be characterized by X-ray powder diffraction, or when it is to be separated into the composing minerals on the basis of differences in density.

Eight different methods for the removal of organic matter from a North Sea clay sample have been studied. Of all methods tried bromine oxidation was found to be the most effective.

**Key Words:** Carbon disulfide • Hydrogen peroxide • Hypobromite • Montmorillonite • Organic

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