

**Zeitschrift:** Bulletin für angewandte Geologie  
**Herausgeber:** Schweizerische Vereinigung der Petroleum-Geologen und –Ingenieure;  
Schweizerische Fachgruppe für Ingenieur-Geologie  
**Band:** 4 (1999)  
**Heft:** [1]: Geological results of a hydrocarbon exploration campaign in the  
southern Upper Rhine Graben  
  
**Artikel:** Geological results of a hydrocarbon exploration campaign in the  
southern Upper Rhine Graben (Alsace Centrale, France)  
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**Inhaltsverzeichnis**  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-221515>

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part of the graben and the adjacent highs, which caused erosion of up to 1 - 1.5 km of Early Neogene and older strata in the Graben. As from the Late Burdigalian, the uplifted southern part of the Graben was overlapped from north and south by younger Neogene strata, ranging in age from Late Burdigalian in the Swiss to Alsatian Jura and the Badish Kaiserstuhl Mountains, to Late Miocene („Pontian“) in the Sundgau and the northern Alsace, and Late Pliocene in the larger part of the area discussed. Quaternary subsidence amounted to 100-300 m only.

The wells drilled encountered hydrocarbon shows only. It is concluded that the reasons for the absence of hydrocarbons in economically producible quantities are:

- the difficulty in charging the Lower Triassic (M. Buntsandstein) reservoirs (originally the prime target) from the Lower Jurassic (Toarcian) source rock, and the absence of deeper (Late Paleozoic) source rocks,
- the large distance - c. 100 m - between the top of these reservoirs and the first reliable seal;
- the variability of the reservoir quality of the Grande Oolithe (the secondary objective) changing from moderate to none within the area, and, above all,
- the unfavourable temporal relation between the main phase of hydrocarbon generation during maximum burial in the Aquitanian, and the final structural development completed only after the Burdigalian uplift.

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