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1 Low fossilisation potential of keratin protein revealed by experimental taphonomy

2

3 Evan T. Saitta<sup>1</sup>, Chris Rogers<sup>2</sup>, Richard A. Brooker<sup>1</sup>, Geoffrey D. Abbott<sup>3</sup>, Sumit Kumar<sup>4</sup>, Shane

4 S. O'Reilly<sup>5,6</sup>, Paul Donohoe<sup>3</sup>, Suryendu Dutta<sup>4</sup>, Roger E. Summons<sup>6</sup>, & Jakob Vinther<sup>1</sup>

5

6 <sup>1</sup>School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1RJ, United Kingdom; e-mails:

7 [evansaitta@gmail.com](mailto:evansaitta@gmail.com) (ORCID ID: [orcid.org/0000-0002-9306-9060](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9306-9060)),

8 [richard.brooker@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:richard.brooker@bristol.ac.uk) (ORCID ID: [orchid.org/000-0003-4931-9912](https://orcid.org/000-0003-4931-9912)),

9 [jakob.vinther@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:jakob.vinther@bristol.ac.uk) (ORCID ID: [orcid.org/0000-0002-3584-9616](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3584-9616))

10 <sup>2</sup>School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University College Cork, Cork T23

11 XA50, Ireland; e-mail: [christopher.rogers@ucc.ie](mailto:christopher.rogers@ucc.ie)

12 <sup>3</sup>School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Drummond Building, Newcastle University,

13 Newcastle NE1 7RU, UK; e-mails: [geoff.abbott@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:geoff.abbott@newcastle.ac.uk) (ORCID ID: [orcid.org/0000-](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9803-8215)

14 [0001-9803-8215](https://orcid.org/0001-9803-8215)), [paul.donohoe@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:paul.donohoe@newcastle.ac.uk)

15 <sup>4</sup>Department of Earth Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, Maharashtra

16 400 076, India; e-mails: [sumit.kumar@iitb.ac.in](mailto:sumit.kumar@iitb.ac.in), [s.dutta@iitb.ac.in](mailto:s.dutta@iitb.ac.in)

17 <sup>5</sup> School of Earth Sciences, University College Dublin, Dublin 4, Ireland; e-mail:

18 [shane.oreilly@ucd.ie](mailto:shane.oreilly@ucd.ie) (ORCID ID: [orcid.org/0000-0001-6303-4329](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6303-4329))

19 <sup>6</sup>Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of

20 Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA; e-mail: [rsummons@mit.edu](mailto:rsummons@mit.edu) (ORCID ID:

21 [orcid.org/0000-0002-7144-8537](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7144-8537))

22

23 **ABSTRACT:** Recent studies have suggested the presence of keratin in Cenozoic- to Mesozoic-  
24 aged fossils. However, ultrastructural studies revealing exposed melanosomes in many fossil  
25 keratinous tissues suggest that keratin should rarely, if ever, be preserved. In this study, keratin's  
26 stability through diagenesis was tested using microbial decay and maturation experiments on  
27 various keratinous structures. The residues were analyzed by pyrolysis-gas chromatography-  
28 mass spectrometry and compared to unpublished feather and hair fossils and published fresh and  
29 fossil melanin from squid ink. Results show that highly matured feathers (200–250 °C/250  
30 bars/24 hours) become a volatile-rich, thick fluid with semi-distinct pyrolysis compounds from  
31 those observed in less degraded keratins (i.e., fresh, decayed, moderately matured, and decayed  
32 and moderately matured), suggesting hydrolysis of peptide bonds and potential degradation of  
33 free amino acids. Neither melanization nor keratin (secondary) structure (e.g.,  $\alpha$ - vs.  $\beta$ -keratin)  
34 produced different pyrograms – melanin pyrolysates are largely a subset of those from proteins  
35 and proteins have characteristic pyrolysates. Analyses of fossil fur and feather lacked amides,  
36 succinimide, and piperazines (present even in highly matured keratin) and showed pyrolysis  
37 compounds more similar to fossil and fresh melanin than to non-matured or matured keratin.  
38 Although the highly matured fluid was not water soluble at room temperature, it readily  
39 dissolved at elevated temperatures easily attained during diagenesis, meaning it can leach away  
40 from the fossil. Future interpretations of fossils must consider that calcium phosphate and  
41 pigments are the only components of keratinous structures known to survive fossilisation in  
42 mature sediments.

43

44 **KEY WORDS:** keratin, protein, experimental taphonomy, Py-GC-MS, fossilisation

45

45  
46 BIOMOLECULES vary in preservation potential. From least to most robust, these are roughly:  
47 nucleic acids, proteins, carbohydrates, aromatics, and lipids (Briggs and Summons 2014). The  
48 fossilization potential of these biomolecules can also be influenced by the interaction with  
49 inorganic components (Curry *et al.* 1991). Keratin is a diverse family of fibrous structural  
50 proteins and a common component of vertebrate tissues. Some keratinous structures are  
51 hardened through deposition of calcium phosphate salts (Pautard 1964) such as baleen, claws and  
52 feather rachises (Blakey *et al.* 1963). These salts are known from the fossil record (Mayr *et al.*  
53 2016; Vinther *et al.* 2016) as thin, usually white, phosphate sheets (Benton *et al.* 2008;  
54 Bergmann *et al.* 2010). Tissues bearing melanin—a widely distributed group of pigments, also  
55 preserve well as original organic remains (Vinther *et al.* 2008; Vinther 2015). However, the  
56 survival of keratin protein itself remains controversial given that keratinous materials such as  
57 feathers or textiles are considered to have poor preservation in the archaeological record  
58 (Hargrave 1960; Messinger 1965; Brom 1986; Reinhard & Bryant 1992; Rogers *et al.* 2002;  
59 Dove *et al.* 2005). Studies have claimed to have found evidence of intact keratin based on  
60 immunohistochemistry experiments (Schweitzer *et al.* 1999a, 1999b; Moyer *et al.* 2016; Pan *et*  
61 *al.* 2016). These experiments indicate the preservation of tertiary protein structure, but use a  
62 method prone to false positives or statistical artefacts (Buckley *et al.* 2007; True 2008; Bern *et*  
63 *al.* 2009). Other studies on fossil keratinous structures have relied on infrared spectroscopy,  
64 recovering amide bands (Manning *et al.* 2009; Edwards *et al.* 2011), although pyrolysis-gas  
65 chromatography-mass spectrometry (Py-GC-MS) data did not yield any unambiguous markers  
66 for amino acids. Here we determine through taphonomic experiments what signatures degraded  
67 and intact keratin might leave in the fossil record and clarify if keratin is likely to persist in  
68 exceptionally preserved fossil material over million-year time scales.

69

## 70 MATERIAL AND METHODS

71

72 Various integumentary structures, such as feathers, hair, and scales, were subjected to microbial  
73 decay and maturation treatments (Table 1; extended methods in Saitta *et al.* 2017). Samples were  
74 either (a) fresh, (b) microbially decayed (with a treatment using cultured, naturally occurring  
75 feather microbes in a salt broth at ~37 °C/50 days), (c) matured and not decay treated, or (d)  
76 matured after decay treatment. These were chemically analysed using Py-GC-MS (analytical  
77 details in Saitta *et al.* 2017). Samples were sealed in noble metal (Au<sup>90</sup> Pd<sup>10</sup>) capsules and  
78 maturation was performed in a cold-seal, water pressurized autoclave ranging from 100–250 °C  
79 (measured with a calibrated K-type thermocouple) and 250 bars for 24 hours. The product of the  
80 highest condition maturation experiments (250 °C/250 bars/24 hours) on feather samples was  
81 subjected to solubility tests in water at room temperature for a year and then in a steam autoclave  
82 at 121 °C for 45 minutes.

83 Analyses were compared to previously obtained and unreported Py-GC-MS data on fossil  
84 hair from the Eocene *Palaeochiropteryx* (Messel Shale, SMF-ME 11406a) and feather material  
85 from a Lower Eocene bird head (Fur Formation, Danekræ 200, MGUH 28.929). Associated  
86 sediment was also analysed as a control and these were compared to published fossil and modern  
87 squid ink data as a reference for melanin (Glass *et al.* 2012).

88

89 *Institutional abbreviations*

90

91 Fossil specimens for which novel data is presented are deposited at the following institutions:  
92 Geological Museum of Copenhagen (MGUH), Copenhagen, Denmark and Naturmuseum  
93 Senckenberg (SMF), Frankfurt, Germany.

94

## 95 **RESULTS**

96

97 Very similar pyrolysis compounds were observed in the fresh, decayed, moderately matured, and  
98 decayed and moderately matured samples, regardless of keratin type or melanisation (Fig. 1;  
99 extended results in Saitta *et al.* 2017) including acetic acid, nitriles, pyridines, benzenes, toluene,  
100 amides, pyrrole-related compounds, indoles, phenols, styrene, and 2,5-diketopiperazine. Highly  
101 matured feathers (250 °C/250 bars/24 hours) lost all structural integrity and became a viscous  
102 liquid with a strong odour. Pyrolysis compounds for these highly matured samples did not differ  
103 between the white and dark feathers. Highly matured feathers shared many similar categories of  
104 compounds with the less degraded samples (i.e., nitriles, benzenes, toluene, amides, pyrrole-  
105 related compounds, phenols, styrene, and 2,5-diketopiperazine) but specific compounds showed  
106 distinct variations and their pyrograms produced noticeably different ‘fingerprints’ (Fig. 1).  
107 Highly matured feathers had more diverse nitriles and amides and less diverse benzenes, pyrrole-  
108 related compounds, and phenols compared to the less degraded samples. The highly matured  
109 feather fluid product showed no sign of dissolution when left in water at room temperature for  
110 over one year. However, placing this same vial in a steam autoclave (121 °C/45 minutes)  
111 resulted in rapid dissolution. It should be noted that earlier maturation runs on white feathers  
112 matured at 200 °C and 250 °C (250 bars/24 hours) in an argon gas autoclave resulted in a similar

113 fluid that leaked out of the unsealed sample tubes and could not be analysed, which prompted the  
114 protocol ultimately used here.

115 Both the fossil hair and feathers and their associated sediments yielded pyrolysates  
116 containing nitrogen or sulphur (Table 2). Slight differences were apparent between the two  
117 localities, and the sediments yielded many compounds with similar affinities to the fossils, which  
118 may be due to the presence of aromatics, such as algal porphyrins. Although some categories of  
119 compounds are shared between the fossils and experimental keratin (Table 2), fossils lacked  
120 acetic acid, pyridines, toluene, amides, indoles, styrene, succinimide, and piperazines found in  
121 the experimental keratin. Furthermore, the fossils shared many categories of compounds with the  
122 melanin of squid ink: nitriles, benzenes, pyrrole-related compounds, thiophenes, and phenols  
123 (Table 2). The fossils, compared to the fresh and treated experimental keratin and melanin,  
124 showed many unique ketones, pyrrole-related compounds, and thiophenes. Caution must be  
125 taken when comparing Py-GC-MS datasets obtained separately (Fossil data analysed at MIT,  
126 keratin data analysed at the University of Newcastle); therefore, it is important to compare more  
127 general categories of compounds rather than precise chemical species between the experiment  
128 keratin and the fossils/sediment.

129

## 130 **DISCUSSION**

131

132 The pyrolysis results from the experimental keratin are consistent with previous studies using  
133 Py-GC-MS on keratin (Brebou and Spiridon 2011) and protein in general (Bland *et al.* 1998;  
134 Reeves and Francis 1998). Py-GC-MS can detect protein or degraded protein but cannot  
135 distinguish between different keratin types nor can it distinguish between melanized and non-

136 melanized keratin. This is not entirely unexpected given that proteins appear to produce fairly  
137 characteristic pyrolysates. Different keratin types are not molecularly diverse enough to result in  
138 distinct pyrolysates. Also, pyrolysis compounds from melanin (Glass *et al.* 2012; Dzierżęga-  
139 Łęcznar *et al.* 2012) are largely a subset of those from protein; melanin is a polymer formed from  
140 oxidation products of the amino acid tyrosine. Py-GC-MS can distinguish between highly  
141 matured and less degraded keratin. Succinimide was found in the highly matured feathers. It is  
142 known to be linked to non-enzymatic protein degradation, acting as an intermediate during  
143 deamidation, racemization, and isomerization (Geiger and Clarke 1987; Stephenson and Clarke  
144 1989). However, these studies observed low temperature reactions, and the succinimide detected  
145 here would be a product of pyrolysis. Combined with the observed liquefaction, the results  
146 suggest a breakdown of the protein structure and peptide bonds, is likely coupled with further  
147 breakdown of the free amino acids in the highly matured feathers since they experienced  
148 temperatures within the range of many amino acid decomposition temperatures (Dunn and  
149 Brophy 1932; Lien and Nawar 1974). Diketopiperazines were found in all of the experimental  
150 keratin. Although they can be byproducts of peptide terminal cleavage (Martins and Carvalho  
151 2007), those identified here likely formed during pyrolysis of either peptides or free amino acids.  
152 It is possible that side chains from at least one amino acid are preserved in 2,5-diketopiperazine  
153 homologs. Although beyond the scope of this study, such information could provide insight into  
154 the original protein amino acid composition (e.g., keratins are highly conserved with high Cys,  
155 Gly, Pro, and Ser and low His, Lys, Trp, and Glu). Similar insight might be gathered from  
156 detailed examination of other characteristic protein pyrolysates such as amides and succinimide.  
157 Thus, if a fossil were to contain these protein pyrolysis markers, there is potential to further  
158 investigate their structure and elucidate the composition of the proteins they derived from.



159 However, such markers were not found in the fossil samples analysed here, making this line of  
160 investigation unnecessary, and the proposed method should first be verified to determine just  
161 how much variation in pyrolysates would be expected from different proteins and whether such  
162 variation could be diagnostically useful. Similarly, methodological advances allowing for  
163 analysis of Py-GC-MS data in a statistical framework would further improve comparisons of  
164 chemical composition.

165 No unambiguous protein markers were found in the geologic samples, either in the  
166 sediment or the fossil material. Unambiguous protein pyrolysis markers are identified here as  
167 those categories of compounds that are present in fresh or degraded experimental keratin and  
168 absent from melanins. The similarities in pyrolysates between the sediment and the fossil from  
169 both localities, including a suite of aromatic compounds, could suggest protein or amino acid  
170 presence. However, these pyrolysates have been found in melanins and could also be products of  
171 other aromatic compounds, such as humic acids and porphyrins (Meuzelaar 1977). Aromatic  
172 compounds are also formed during pyrolysis of biomacromolecules. Regardless, the lack of  
173 amides, succinimide, and piperazines in the fossils demonstrate that proteinaceous material is  
174 lacking. Therefore, the compounds in the fossils appear overall consistent with melanin than with  
175 keratin protein. TOF SIMS analysis of the same fossil mammal hair and other feathers from the  
176 Fur Formation confirm melanin preservation in these structures (Colleary *et al.* 2015, Gren *et al.*  
177 2016). Furthermore, both melanin and the fossils contained thiophenes, absent from the  
178 experimental keratin – although thiophenes were found in what was likely melanized keratin by  
179 Brebu and Spiridon (2011), in addition to thiazoles, which are known phaeomelanin markers  
180 (Dzierżęga-Lęcznar *et al.* 2012). Thiophenes in fossils also occur through diagenetic  
181 incorporation of sulfur in iron-poor depositional environments (Glass *et al.* 2012). Manning *et al.*

182 (2009) and Edwards *et al.* (2011) presented Py-GC-MS data on fossil reptile and hadrosaur skin,  
183 claiming it supported the presence of keratin. Although some of the compounds reported  
184 included nitriles, thiophenes, and benzene derivatives which are known from proteins, these are  
185 also known from fossil melanin. Similar to the fur and feather fossils examined here, the  
186 compounds are not a good match to those expected from keratin, which should present itself as a  
187 broader suite of pyrolysates. Their reports of aliphatic compounds also strongly resemble those  
188 reported through lipid *in situ* geopolymerization (Briggs 1999; Gupta *et al.* 2007). Fourier  
189 transform infrared spectroscopy has also been used to identify amides in the fossil reptile and  
190 hadrosaur skin (Manning *et al.* 2009; Edwards *et al.* 2011). However, the diverse amides present  
191 in the highly matured feather fluid prove, not surprisingly, that the presence of amides does not  
192 necessitate the presence of intact proteins, as amides can be present in simpler biomolecules.  
193 Amides were not found in pyrolysis studies of the fossil material, which raises questions as to the  
194 validity of the FTIR results and suggests the need to confirm the presence of amides detected  
195 with FTIR using other methods such as Py-GC-MS. In general, Manning *et al.* (2009) and  
196 Edwards *et al.* (2011) fail to prove the presence of intact keratin or distinguish between potential  
197 protein breakdown products from melanin or other contaminants.

198         Artificial maturation is known to mimic the chemical changes that occur during  
199 diagenesis. Temperatures and pressures are kept high (e.g., 200–250 °C, which corresponds to  
200 the last stages of the oil window) for short durations (e.g., days–weeks) in order to speed up  
201 chemical reactions that would occur at relatively more moderate conditions but over longer  
202 durations (e.g., millions of years). With regards to organic preservation it is important to regard  
203 both the age of the fossil and its burial history. The Messel Oil Shale, for example, is considered  
204 “thermally immature” (Ocampo *et al.* 1985) so our failure to find key protein pyrolysates in a

205 Messel fossil bodes poorly for keratin preservation potential in fossils of equal or greater age  
206 than the Lower Eocene and possibly even younger fossils.

207 Our inability to reproduce the results of McNamara *et al.* (2013, p.2) is explained by a  
208 *lapsus calami* in their methods which should state “each [maturation] experiment lasted for 1 h”  
209 not “24 h” (McNamara personal communication 2016). However, the absence of keratin proteins  
210 in the fossil record suggests the timeframe of our maturation experiments, in which original  
211 keratin protein was absent, may be a better approximation of the conditions that occur during  
212 diagenesis. Maturation experiments must be of a duration long enough to ensure accurate  
213 modeling of diagenetic chemical reactions, and the one hour experiments of McNamara *et al.*  
214 (2013) are not sufficient to draw conclusions as to the preservation potential of keratin in the  
215 fossil record.

216 Although the highly matured feather fluid was not water soluble at room temperature,  
217 which is expected given the relatively high abundance of hydrophobic and neutral amino acids  
218 compared to hydrophilic amino acids (at pH 7) in  $\beta$ -keratin (Dalla Valle *et al.* 2009), it was  
219 easily dissolved in our experiments at elevated temperatures that might be expected during  
220 diagenesis. This provides a model for how hydrolyzed and degraded proteins might aqueously  
221 dissolve and leach away from fossils.

222 Feathers and textiles produced from keratin are rare from archaeological sites. Toxic  
223 metals can slow keratin degradation and allow the peptides to persist in some sites, but the  
224 presence of iron only allows for the preservation of a corrosion cast. Although keratin appears  
225 robust compared to many other proteins, it is not resistant to millennia of diagenetic forces  
226 (Hargrave 1960; Messinger 1965; Brom 1986; Reinhard & Bryant 1992; Rogers *et al.* 2002;  
227 Dove *et al.* 2005). Studies of well-preserved fossil feathers have found that organic residues

228 consist of melanosomes, usually in alignment along barb and barbule axes (Vinther *et al.* 2008;  
229 Vinther 2015). Furthermore, colour patterns are frequently observed (Vinther *et al.* 2008; Field *et*  
230 *al.* 2013; Vinther *et al.* 2016), which are observed through the macroscopic presence or absence  
231 of organic material composed of melanosomes. Areas lacking melanosomes preserve nothing but  
232 feather impressions in the rock matrix (Vinther *et al.* 2008). No substance conclusively  
233 attributable to keratin has been found in any well-preserved fossil feathers, even though  
234 amorphous organic residues in more weathered specimens from localities such as the Jehol or  
235 Yanliao biota and the Green River Formation have been suggested to be keratin by some  
236 (Schweitzer *et al.* 1999a; McNamara *et al.* 2013). The nature of this amorphous organic residue  
237 remains to be fully described. However, Lindgren *et al.* (2015) found signatures consistent with  
238 melanin using TOF SIMS and FTIR on feathers preserved in a Late Jurassic specimen of  
239 *Anchiornis huxleyi* preserved as solid organic material along with traces of melanosomes as  
240 impressions and merged blocks of melanosomes. The only other constituent preserved in the  
241 feathers were calcium phosphate, either derived from the hardened keratin as observed elsewhere  
242 (Mayr *et al.* 2016; Vinther *et al.* 2016) or through secondary mineralisation.

243

## 244 **CONCLUSION**

245

246 The production of a viscous fluid from highly matured feathers with a characteristic Py-GC-MS  
247 signature compared to less degraded keratin suggests that keratin degrades during diagenesis and  
248 catagenesis. Py-GC-MS of fossil keratinous structures supports our experimental data, showing  
249 that non-lipid, nitrogen and sulfur containing compounds more closely match recalcitrant fossil  
250 and fresh melanin than keratin protein. Keratin can decay through microbial action and

251 diagenetic hydrolysis of peptide bonds. An analogous process to collagen gelatinization  
252 (Pfretzschner 2006) might occur in keratin to produce a viscous fluid. Unlike proteins  
253 encapsulated within a mineralized matrix, such as bone or shell, epidermal keratin is not  
254 stabilised nor shielded from the environment, making it more prone to microbial decay, aqueous  
255 hydrolysis, and ultimately dissolution, leaching from the fossil at higher temperatures during  
256 later diagenesis. Keratin degradation means that calcium phosphate and melanin are likely the  
257 only remaining components of keratinous structures detectable in fossils. Reports of keratin  
258 proteins in fossils, especially of Mesozoic age (Schweitzer *et al.* 1999a, 1999b; Moyer *et al.*  
259 2016; Pan *et al.* 2016), should be reexamined. Furthermore, thermal experiments that report  
260 preserved morphological structures of feathers with weak and diffuse antibody signal persisting  
261 after a decade-long exposure at 350 °C (Moyer *et al.* 2016) not only contradict the results here,  
262 they are likely impossible given reported thermal decomposition points of amino acids (Dunn &  
263 Brophy 1932; Lien & Nawar 1974). Immunohistological keratin detection in such experimental  
264 and fossil cases are likely false positives from humic acids formed through degradation of  
265 biomolecules (Collins *et al.* 1992). This is best exemplified by the claims for immunodetection  
266 of keratin in feathers which had been converted to ash (covered in foil and placed in a 350 °C dry  
267 oven for a decade) (Moyer *et al.* 2016). Py-GC-MS, in contrast, presents itself as a useful tool for  
268 identifying protein-derived organics (i.e., those containing amino acids) in fossil samples.

269

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278 in memory of Robert S. Kearney.

279

## 280 DATA ARCHIVING STATEMENT

281

282 Data for this study are available in the Dryad Digital Repository:

283 <http://datadryad.org/review?doi=doi:10.5061/dryad.h02q0>

284

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431

432 **FIGURES**

433

434 **Fig. 1.** Total ion pyrograms of feathers. Subpanel shows highly matured viscous fluid from white  
435 feathers (scale bar represents 500  $\mu\text{m}$ ). ?, tentative compound identification. Letters, compounds  
436 present in less degraded samples. a, acetic acid. b, propanenitrile. c, 2-methyl propanenitrile. d,  
437 2-methyl butanenitrile. e, pyridine. f, pyrrole. g, toluene. h, methyl pyridine. i, methyl pyrrole. j,  
438 ethyl benzene. k, styrene. l, ethyl pyrrole. m, phenol. n, 4-methyl phenol. o, ethyl cyanobenzene.  
439 p, propyl cyanobenzene. q, indole. r, methyl indole. s, 2,5-diketopiperazine. t, trimethyl  
440 methoxyphenol. u, octadecanamide. Numbers, compounds exclusive to highly matured samples.  
441 1, benzene. 2, acetamide. 3, methyl pentanenitrile. 4, propanamide. 5, C1-styrene. 6, methyl  
442 butanamide. 7, C1-phenol. 8, hexanamide. 9, methyl pentanamide. 10, piperidinone. 11,  
443 hexadecyl nitrile. 12, hexadecanamide. 13, docosenenyl nitrile. 14, eicosanamide. 15,  
444 docosenamide. 16, docosanamide. 17, pyrrolidine, 1-acetyl-. 18, N-[2-hydroxyethyl]succinimide.  
445 Slight retention time misalignment for the same peak between samples is a result of running  
446 Py/GC/MS at different times.

447

## 448 TABLES

449

450 **Table 1.** List of maturation runs.

451

452 **Table 2.** Comparison of pyrolysates.

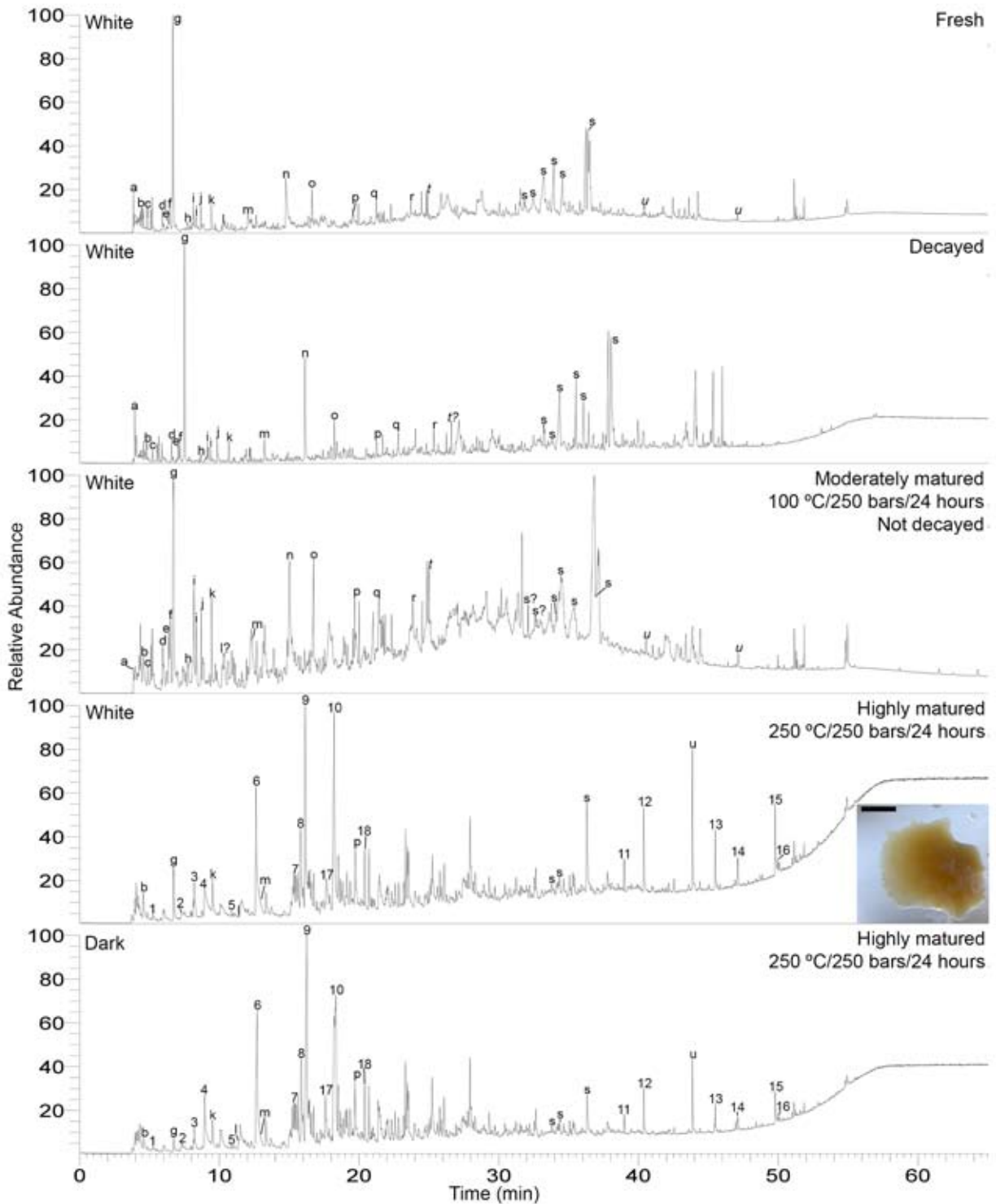


TABLE 1. LIST OF MATURATION RUNS

Sample	Notes
<u>Highly matured - 250°C, 250 bars, 24 hours</u>	
White feathers*	Chicken ( <i>Gallus gallus</i> ); Leg region
Dark feathers*	Turkey ( <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i> ); Leg region; Colour gradient (from proximal to distal) of white, grey, black, and iridescent
<u>Moderately matured - 100°C, 250 bars, 24 hours</u>	
Feathers – iridescent*	Turkey; Wing covert
Feathers – white*	Chicken; Wing covert
Feathers – black*	Chicken; Back/neck region; White fringe on vane
Avian scutate scales <sup>†</sup>	Turkey
Avian reticulate scales <sup>§</sup>	Turkey; Multiple scales with associated epidermis
Turkey beard – adult* <sup>†</sup>	Dried samples; Small portion of epidermis still attached
Turkey beard – juvenile* <sup>†</sup>	Portion of epidermis still attached
Crocodylian scale – black <sup>§</sup>	Nile crocodile ( <i>Crocodylus niloticus</i> ); Flank region; Predominantly black colouration
Crocodylian scale – white <sup>§</sup>	Nile crocodile; Flank region; Predominantly white/light colouration
Mammalian hair <sup>#</sup>	Horse ( <i>Equus ferus</i> ) mane; Black colour; ‘Outgroup’

Decayed feathers - iridescent\* Turkey; Back region

Decayed feathers - white\* Chicken; Back/neck region

Decayed feathers - black\* Chicken; Back/neck (white fringe on vane) and tail regions

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*Note:* Samples that are not listed as decayed are fresh samples.

\*Feather  $\phi$ -keratin.

†Avian scale-type  $\phi$ -keratin.

§Non-featherlike  $\beta$ -keratin.

# $\alpha$ -keratin.

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TABLE 2. COMPARISON OF PYROLYSATES

Compound	White feather		Messel Shale		Fur Formation		Squid ink*	
	Fresh	Highly matured	Bat fur fossil	Sediment	Feather fossil	Sediment	Fossil	Modern
Acetic acid	X							
Toluene	X	X	?	?	?	?	X	X
2,3-epoxycarane					?			
N-[2-hydroxyethyl]succinimide		X						
2,5-diketopiperazine	X	X						
3,4-dimethyl benzaldehyde			X	X		?		
Dimethyl cyclopentene			?		X	?		
Dimethyl naphthalene			X	X	X	X		
<u>Various ketones</u>								
4-methyl-1-penten-3-one			?		?	?		
2-methyl cyclooctanone					X			
2-methyl cycloheptanone					X			
Acetophenone			?	X	?	X		
Piperidinone		X						
1-(2-vinylphenyl) ethanone					?	X		
2H-Inden-2-one, 1,3-dihydro-1-(1-oxopropoxy)-			?	?		?		
Benzophenone			X	?	X	X		
<u>Nitriles</u>								
Propanenitrile	X	X						
Methyl pentanenitrile		X						
Hexadecyl nitrile		X						
Docosenenyl nitrile		X						
2-methyl propanenitrile	X							
2-methyl butanenitrile	X							
Dimethyl benzonitrile			X	X				
2-phenyl acetonitrile							X	X
3-phenyl propanenitrile							X	X
<u>Pyridines</u>								
Pyridine	X		?	?	?	?	X	X
Methyl pyridine	X						X	X
<u>Benzenes</u>								
Benzene		X	?	?		?		
Propyl cyanobenzene	X	X					X	
Ethyl benzene	X		X	X	?	X	X	
Ethyl cyanobenzene	X							
Propyl benzene			?	?	X	X		
<u>Amides</u>								
Acetamide		X						
Propanamide		X						
Methyl butanamide		X						
Hexanamide		X						
Methyl pentanamide		X						
Hexadecanamide		X						
Octadecanamide	X	X						
Eicosanamide		X						
Docosenamide		X						
Docosanamide		X						
<u>Pyrrole-related compounds</u>								
Ethyl pyrrole	X	X						
Pyrrolidine, 1-acetyl-		X						
Pyrrole	X						X	X
Methyl pyrrole	X		?	X		?	X	X
Dimethyl pyrrole			X	X				
Trimethyl pyrrole			?	?				
Ethyl-methyl-1H-pyrrole			X					
Ethyl-dimethyl-1H-pyrrole				?				
Ethylmethyl-1H-pyrrole-dione			X	?				

Thiophenes

Thiophene								X
Methyl thiophene								X
Ethyl thiophene								X
Propyl thiophene			?	?	?	?		X
Dimethyl thiophene			X	X				
Trimethyl thiophene			?			?		
Butyl thiophene			?	?	?	?		

Indoles

Indole	X		?	?		?	X	X
Methyl indole	X		?	?		?	X	X

Phenols

Phenol	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Methyl phenol		X						
4-methyl phenol	X		?	?		?	X	X
5-methyl phenol							X	X
Ethyl (or dimethyl) phenol			?	?		?	X	X
Trimethyl methoxyphenol	X							
2-methyl phenol			?	?	?	?		
Di-ter-butyl phenol			?					

Styrene

Styrene	X	X	?	?		?		
Methyl styrene		X						

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\*from Glass et al. (2012).

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