

Petroleum Potential of the Northwestern Margin of the Arabian Peninsula (West Syria and Lebanon)

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Syria and Lebanon lie on the northern margin of the Arabian Peninsula and became the site of carbonate platform deposits in the Cretaceous and Paleogene.

In Syria, Cretaceous carbonate series outcropping in the Coastal Mountains (Jabal Ansaryeh, West of Syria) are lateral equivalents of the hydrocarbon reservoirs of the East Syria oilfields (Judea & Massive Formations) and other countries of the Middle East (Mishrif Formation). These carbonate series have good reservoir characteristics and they are productive in the west of the country near Kferieh (NE of Lattaquieh). The hydrocarbons produced by these limestones have probably a Triassic origin.

In Lebanon, large amounts of hydrocarbon (bitumen) are found in Senonian rocks in the southern Beqaa Valley; in particular, at Kaoukaba near Hasbaïya (SE of Saïda). Lebanon, too, has viscous bitumen in the Eocene limestone near Yohmor in the Beqaa Valley. Bitumen was observed also in the Cenomanian rocks in the north-western corner of the country, near Ouadi Mar Challita (East of Batroun). The Lebanese hydrocarbons produced by these limestones have probably a Senonian origin.

The outcropping sequences of Lebanon and Syrian coastal mountains and their lithofacies components have several important implications for ongoing subsurface rock characterization and modelling of the Cretaceous and Paleogene carbonate reservoirs of the Syrian oil fields and in general Arabian Peninsula.
