

Hydrogen isotope of hydrate-bound hydrocarbons at Lake Baikal

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Natural gas hydrates exist in sublacustrine sediments of Lake Baikal. Gas hydrates were first obtained from sub-bottom depths of 121 and 161 m in the Baikal Drilling Project well located at the southern Baikal basin. Recently, MHP (Multi-phase Gas Hydrate Project, 2009-2013) revealed distribution of gas hydrate in sub-bottom sediment at the southern and central Baikal basins. We obtained gas hydrate crystals from more than 25 places, and retrieved hydrate-bound gas onboard. We measured molecular and isotopic compositions of hydrate-bound gas.

According to the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ - δD diagram for methane (Whiticar, 1999), high and low methane $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values indicate thermogenic and microbial origins, respectively, and methane δD provides information on methyl-type fermentation or CO_2 reduction in the microbial field. Kida *et al.* (2006) and Hachikubo *et al.* (2010) reported that hydrate-bound methane of Lake Baikal was microbial origin via methyl-type fermentation, because methane δD was about -300 ‰. We found heavier methane ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ranged from -50 ‰ to -40 ‰) in the Kukuy Canyon area (central Baikal basin), indicating thermogenic origin. Methane δD was distributed from -330 ‰ to -270 ‰. Generally, δD of thermogenic methane of marine gas hydrates is much more heavier (more than -200 ‰). Methane δD of Lake Baikal gas hydrate seems to be about 100 ‰ smaller than that of marine gas hydrate. Matveeva *et al.* (2003) reported that δD of the lake bottom water was about -133 ‰. Possibly, methane δD of hydrate-bound methane derives from δD of water.

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