

# Abstract

Petrographic description of thin sections  
of calcrete nodules from Mala area, northwest  
of Thar Jath oil field, Block 5A,  
Central South Sudan

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Very little attention has been focused on the engineering geology and occurrence of potential source of construction materials in south central Sudan and in particular in areas under exploration and/development. With the increase of operation activities in the region, the search and evaluation of such material has become of a vital importance. The all whether road connecting Rubkona with Thar Jath oil field required more than 60 thousand tons of gravel trucked from Kailak gravel pit which lies north of Heiglig base camp. Cost of trucking from Bentiu (350km round trip) was US\$ 20/ton. In March 2001 the author mapped and located geologically suitable areas of gravel and selected two sides; option one lies north of block 5A; option two south of it. For security restrictions both options rejected. Calcrete has been found in Mala area in the central north of block 5A. The plan was to visit the side to map and evaluate the deposit but, for security reasons this was not possible and alternatively the author decided to study the petrography of a number of nodules to throw light on their origin. This paper presents detailed petrographic study conducted on a number of carbonaceous conglomeratic nodules from Mala area.