Organic carbon contents of sediments and source rocks

Modern marine sediments

- Coastal
- Open marine
- Carbonate muds
- Deltaic
  - (Rapid deposition?)
  - (Multiple sources)
- (anoxic) Cariaco Trench

Sedimentary rocks:

- Carbonates
- Shales
- Silts
- Carbonates
- Shales
- Calcareous shales

Known source rocks:

- Shales and silts
- Carbonates

Nine source-rock formations

Ranges of means of data sets, with the ranges of each set of data unstated

All of the data presented on this page are from Tables II.3.1 and II.2.3 of Tissot & Welte (1984) Petroleum Formation and Occurence. The most evident pattern is that no source rock is likely to have more than 4 to 5 wt% organic carbon. Secondly, carbonate rocks typically have less organic carbon than shales.