



Microbialites: Preservation of Extant and Extinct Systems

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Microbialites are organosedimentary deposits formed through the mineralization of benthic microbial mats and/or trapping and binding of sedimentary particles. These structures are abundant in modern—sometimes/often extreme—shallow to deep, freshwater to marine environments, and are common in the fossil record. Consequently, microbialites constitute an invaluable archive of Earth's past surface and subsurface conditions. [...]

This Special Issue combines research on fossil and modern microbialites with a broad focus including sedimentology, (bio)geochemistry, microbiology, molecular biology, geomicrobiology, ecology and mineralogy. The main objectives are to review recent and ongoing developments in this field in order to: (i) refine the understanding of microbialite formation in modern sedimentary environments to (ii) increase the understanding of (the modalities of their) preservation mechanisms to (iii) ultimately improve the interpretation of the fossil record.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Minerals welcomes submissions that report basic and applied research in mineralogy. Research areas of traditional interest are mineral deposits, mining, mineral processing and environmental mineralogy. The journal footprint also includes novel uses of elemental and isotopic analyses of minerals for petrology, geochronology and thermochronology, thermobarometry, ore genesis and sedimentary provenance. Contributions are encouraged in emerging research areas such as applications of quantitative mineralogy to the oil and gas, manufacturing, forensic science, climate change, geohazard and health sectors.

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