

Special Issue

Clays and the Origin of Life

Message from the Guest Editor

Clays are the most abundant mineral on the surface of the earth as they are formed as a result of a coupling between the rock cycle and the water cycle. The formation of clays therefore goes back in time to when the earth itself was formed and then differentiated into crust mantel and core and it was the interaction of the crust with the hydrosphere that allowed the iron rich clays to form as there was no oxygen in the atmosphere. The redox chemistry of the iron rich clays driven by the photons from the sun reduced CO₂ and N₂ in the atmosphere to form amino acids etc.

Guest Editor

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