

Special Issue

Environmental Microorganisms in Sediments

Message from the Guest Editor

Aquatic sediments (marine, freshwater and subglacial) cover about 74% of the Earth's surface and are one of the largest microbial reservoirs on Earth. While at first sight sediments often seem to be just mud, they vary strongly with respect to their biogeochemical conditions, including, for example, shallow photosynthetically active microbial mats or methanogenic deep subsurface layers. While some sediments are atmospheric pressure, others experience over 100 MPa. Sediment temperatures range from below freezing to more than 100°C, and sediment pH values can be extremely acidic or alkaline, for example, when impacted by mining waste. Over the last few decades our knowledge about sediment microbial community composition has increased significantly. Using metagenomics and biogeochemical approaches helped to detect active microbial communities, even hundreds of metres beneath the seafloor or in subglacial sediments, habitats previously thought to be devoid of life. Nevertheless, despite the progress made and due to the large variety of sediment habitats, our knowledge of their microbial communities and their role in the sediment biogeochemical cycles remains sparse.

Guest Editor

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

"Microorganism" merges the idea of the very small with the idea of the evolving reproducing organism is a unifying principle for the discipline of microbiology. Our journal recognizes the broadly diverse yet connected nature of microorganisms and provides an advanced publishing forum for original articles from scientists involved in high-quality basic and applied research on any prokaryotic or eukaryotic microorganism, and for research on the ecology, genomics and evolution of microbial communities as well as that exploring cultured microorganisms in the laboratory.

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