



Evolution of Li-rich Brines

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The demand for lithium, worldwide, has increased dramatically over the last decade due to its application in energy-rich batteries used in electric and hybrid cars. Lithium is extracted with the lowest costs from continental brine. In 2017, almost 50% of the Li mined worldwide was from brine confined in two hydrologically-closed basins within the climatologically dry Central Andes of Northern Chile and Northwest Argentina. Lithium-enriched brine has been recognized in other geological settings, such as geothermal systems, deep basins and oilfields, while basins which have been closed for geologically long periods of time may contain lithium-poor brine.

We invite the submission of papers to this Special Issue that focus on our current understanding of how brine with economically-viable lithium concentrations form. We encourage papers that include, but are not limited to, evaluation of the primary source of Li; geochemical processes that occur as surface and groundwater evolve into Li-rich brine; and the characteristics of the geologic environments in which these brines are found.

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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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