



## Microorganisms in Rare Earth Elements Bioleaching

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The use of microorganisms in the release of metals from low-grade sulfide ores is a well-established technology; recently, however, the application of bioleaching to the release of Rare Earth Elements (REEs) has received increased attention. REEs have become increasingly essential in modern-day technologies with their extensive use in green and smart technologies, such as solar panels and smartphones. However, the recovery of REEs using traditional methods is expensive and energy-intensive, leading to the requirement to develop processes that are more economically feasible and environmentally friendly. The use of REEs-solubilizing microorganisms for the biohydrometallurgical processing of REEs provides a potential biotechnical approach for the recovery of REEs from primary and secondary sources.

This Special Issue will focus on the bioleaching of REEs-bearing minerals and wastes and its underlying mechanisms.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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