Special Issue

Obtainment, Characterization, and Applications of Organophilic Clays

Message from the Guest Editors

Clays have accompanied humanity from its beginnings to the present, helping to satisfy its various types of needs such as food, shelter, communication, energy, health, and aesthetics. Currently, in practically all industrial sectors, clays can be used to provide products such as pottery, bricks, tiles, tableware, sanitary ware, additives for drilling fluids, binders for metal casting molds, fillers for rubber and plastics, and as components of cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. This enormous variety of uses is mainly due to clay minerals having small dimensions, cation exchange capacities, and surfaces with hydrophilic characteristics. The study of the interaction between clays and organic substances, as well as the applications of the products obtained, has been increasingly carried out since the beginning of the 20th century. Organophilic clays, obtained mainly from bentonites and quaternary ammonium salts, stand out among the products obtained. They possess properties such as swelling in various organic liquids and providing thixotropic organic dispersions with high viscosities at low clay concentrations.

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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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