

The Thursday Thing

Jeremy Pencer
Department of Physics
University of Guelph

Biom mineralization: Controlled Formation of Mineral Nanoparticles at Soft Interfaces

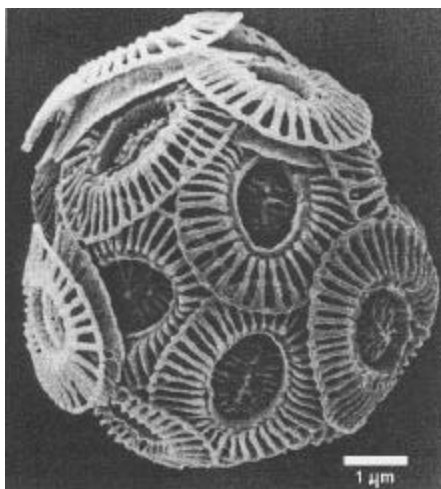
A large variety of organisms have the ability to collect, concentrate and precipitate inorganic minerals, typically calcium carbonates, silica and iron oxides. Such materials are often coupled to soft (organic) matter. Some of these materials are familiar and have well understood properties, such as bone and teeth, and others are more exotic, such as magnetosomes found in magnetotactic bacteria. Typically, the crystal structures of biominerals are very different from those of the equivalent inorganic materials. These differences in structure are often accompanied by remarkable material properties. In this talk, the formation and properties of two examples of unusual, nanoscopic biominerals will be discussed: magnetosomes in magnetotactic bacteria and calcite crystals in marine algae.

Date: Thursday, June 28, 2001

Place: MacNaughton 222

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Cookies will be served. Don't forget your lunch.



Scanning electron micrograph of *Emiliana* coccosphere. M. E. Marsh (2000)