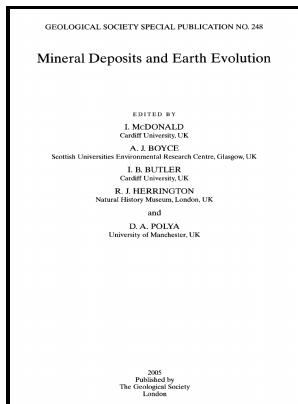


# Mineral deposits and earth evolution

**Geological Society - Mineral Deposits & Earth Evolution (Geological Society Special Publication)**



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## Mineral Evolution

Your opinions are important to us. However, the long-term development of these resources will be principally based on economic criteria and their ability to compete with land-based mines. In some occurrences, minerals can be extracted at a profit by mining.

## Rare earth element mineral deposits in the United States

The number of known species is roughly a dozen, although several more materials have been identified but not classified as minerals.

## Evolution stuck in slime for a billion years

Some rare minerals, produced in oxygen-poor environments no longer found on Earth, can be found in enstatite chondrites.

## Deep

Continued advancements and refinements in mineral processing techniques may allow REE deposits with complex mineralogy to be economically developed in the future.

## Mineral evolution

Test mining of Fe—Mn nodules and seafloor massive sulfides has already been undertaken. By contrast, oxidization of uraninite resulted in over 200 new species of minerals such as and , as well as mineral complexes such as . However, with many of these obstacles receding, there is renewed interest in the exploitation of deep-ocean mineral deposits from the private sector, governments, policy makers, regulators, researchers, and non-governmental organizations.

## Mineral Deposit Types, Mineralogy, Alteration, Host Rock, Wall Rock

The composition of Fe—Mn nodules varies at regional to intra-nodule scales Hein and Koschinsky 2014 , but estimates suggest that they may represent one of the most abundant mineral resources on Earth. Elements 14: 313-318 Mero JL 1965 The Mineral Resources of the Sea.

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