

European Geosciences Union, General Assembly 2009,

Vienna, Austria, 19 – 24 April 2009

<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2009/sessionprogramme/BG>

Aims & Scope

The EGU General Assembly 2009 will bring together geoscientists from all over Europe and the rest of the world into one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences. Especially for young scientists the EGU appeals to provide a forum to present their work and discuss their ideas with experts in all fields of geosciences.

Division BIOGEOSCIENCES

Session BG 7.1

Traces of life from cells to planets Sponsored by ESF ArchEnviron

Conveners:

Prof E Javaux, university of Liège, Belgium ej.javaux@ulg.ac.be

Prof A. Bekker, university of Manitoba, Canada (bekker@cc.umanitoba.ca)

Dr Kevin Lepot, University of Liège, Belgium (k.lepot@ulg.ac.be)

Session description

The search for life in early Earth rocks and beyond Earth requires the characterization of biosignatures. Under what conditions do cells with varying biochemical properties preserve? How do processes of decay and preservation retain, obliterate or alter original biological properties? How can we tell biological from non-biological? At a global scale, what are the consequences of early life diversification on planet Earth? How would Earth be like without life? To address these questions about traces of life from the cellular to the planetary scale, we welcome contributions about morphological, chemical, isotopic signatures of life in various past and modern environmental conditions, as well as potential abiotic signatures that mimic biological processes.