

physical association of the two suggests that Fe for the siderite is contributed from these iron-rich clastic minerals. The microbes sheltered inside the cocoon are suggested to play a role in reducing Fe^{3+} to Fe^{2+} . It is, therefore, inferred that iron-reducing microbes control the growth of these concretions. A similar process of bacterial reduction of Fe(III) has been reported from deep aquifer in the Atlantic Coastal Plain of the USA (Chapelle and Lovely, 1992). Since the concretions from the study area are consistently found to contain arsenic in significant quantity, it is likely that the same microbes, in some way, are also responsible for fixing arsenic in the siderite constituting the concretions. Work is

being continued for identification of the microbes and to understand the way arsenic is being fixed in siderite.

It is suggested that arsenic being fixed in a carbonate mineral, easily enters groundwater because the carbonate readily dissolves even with marginal lowering of pH in locally developed acidic condition. It is anticipated that by promoting the environmental condition in which the microbes thrive, producing the arsenic-bearing concretions, and by simultaneously preventing any lowering of pH in the environment, arsenic contamination of groundwater in this region may be totally eradicated, once the microbes are identified.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

POPULAR BOOK ON GEOLOGY: Request for Illustrations and Photographs

As a measure of popularisation of geology amongst school students and also other interested persons who might not have the background knowledge on the subject, I have taken the task of writing a book on the 'making of the Earth and the stages through which it has passed through'. To increase the popularity of the proposed book, the President of the Society has stressed the need of providing attractive and expressive illustrations. The Fellowship of the Society therefore, is requested to send colour photographs and other illustrations concerning crystals and minerals, rocks, fossils, and all other features pertaining to different geological processes. The only decisive factor for selecting materials for illustrations in the book will be that these should be very spectacular and expressive. Needless to mention that all the selected materials will be duly acknowledged. Suggestion from the Fellowship in this regard are also welcome. For further information please contact: A.B. Roy, 9 Mayurvan, Paneriyonki Madri, Udaipur 313 002. Email: abroy_g@yahoo.com