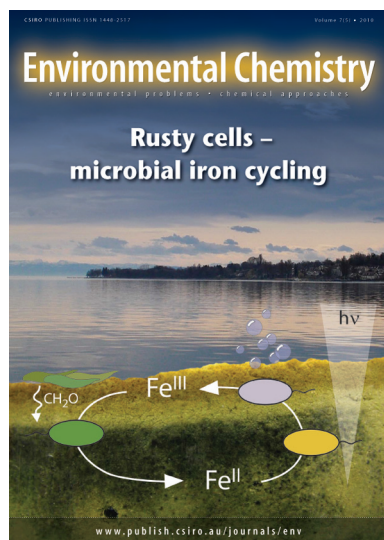


Environmental Chemistry

environmental problems • chemical approaches



Cover

Microbial ecosystems are characterised by the interplay of various microorganisms with their biotic and abiotic environment. Biogeochemical niches host adapted microbial communities that are in constant competition for substrates and nutrients. Their natural distribution, interactions and responses to fluctuating environmental conditions are often impossible to simulate in laboratory studies. Using biogeochemical iron redox cycling as an example, Kappler and co-workers (pp. 399–405) suggest the application of a conceptual framework to improve our understanding of the principal functioning of (geo)microbial ecosystems.



Iodine in the atmosphere plays an important role in troposphere ozone destruction and climate change. However, cycling of atmospheric iodine is still poorly understood because of uncertainties in iodine speciation in aerosols. Xu et al. (see pp. 406–412) report iodine levels and speciation in marine aerosols collected along a cruise path from Shanghai to the Arctic Ocean.

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