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Early Life On Earth



Synopsis

This study is organized around three themes: the origin and early diversification of life during the Archean Eon; the maturation of life and the Earth during the long Proterozoic Eon; and the explosive diversification of multicellular life that marks the dawn of the Phanerozoic Eon. The contributors discuss the coherence of history, the combinatorial generation of taxonomic diversity, early Metazoan evolution, and the Cambrian explosion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Leading worldwide evolutionary chemists, geologists, paleontologists and biologists were invited to Alfred Nobel's manor in Karlskoga, Sweden on May 16-21, 1992 for the 84th Nobel Symposium entitled 'Early Life on Earth'. Herrick and Margareta Baltscheffsky of Stockholm University, point out quite reasonably that prebiological energy-conversion reactions were a necessary prerequisite to the origin of life. It is proposed that pyrophosphate PPi (two phosphate groups) was a common energy molecule used by the chemical reactions of life prior to ATP (adenosine plus three phosphate groups). Membrane-bound PPase in bacteria is much simpler than ATPase. As well, PPiAcetylphosphateAcetyl-S-R, ie, a link with thioester energy reactions. It is proposed that the PPi/thioester world was a necessary prerequisite for the emergence of the RNA and ATP world.

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