

S E M I N A R

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Hosted by Dr Peter Todd

BIOEROSION ON THE ROCKS

implications for sea-level and landscape evolution



By Miklós Kázmér

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Rocky shores are subject to intense bioerosion. Grazing molluscs (chitons, limpets and whelks) feed on biofilm while removing layers of the underlying rock with their hard teeth. Boring bivalves, echinoids, worms, and sponges excavate holes to hide from predators. Collectively, they carve deep notches between low and high tide levels. Cliffs undercut by bioerosion tend to collapse, leaving landscape-scale scars behind.

Bioeroders are arranged in zones between low and high tide. Each organism leaves a characteristic mark in the bedrock. These can be fossilized; found either too high or too low relative to sea level, uplift or subsidence of the coast can be recognized.

In this talk, bioeroder animals, their traces, and the coastal changes caused—observed at sites in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific—will be shown and discussed.



About the speaker

Miklós Kázmér is professor of palaeontology at Eötvös University, Budapest, Hungary. He has conducted research on carbonate depositional environments (both fossil and recent), palaeogeography, and environmental history. He particularly enjoys combining evidence from geological, archaeological, and historical sources to understand extreme environmental events. Currently he is studying bioerosion of rocky coasts.

