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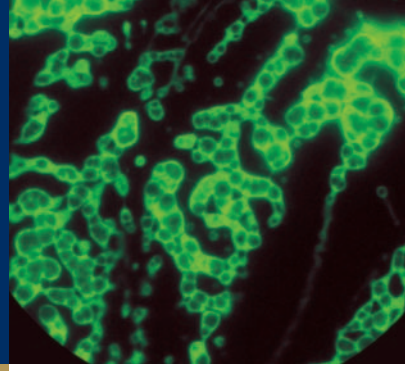

About the cover: A key step in life's origin must have been the self-assembly of membrane-forming molecules into cell-shaped hollow spheres, called vesicles. These green-fluorescing vesicles, which range from 10 to 50 microns in diameter, form spontaneously in water. Recent studies show that fine-grained clay particles enhance the formation of these structures. Photo courtesy: David Deamer and Robert Hazen

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Elements will be published two more times in 2005. Individuals are encouraged to join any one of the participating societies to receive *Elements*. Institutional subscribers to any of the following journals—*American Mineralogist*, *The Canadian Mineralogist*, *Clays and Clay Minerals*—will also receive *Elements* as part of their subscription. Institutional subscriptions are available for US$100 a year. Contact the managing editor for information.

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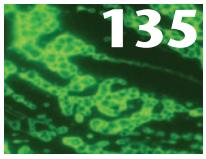
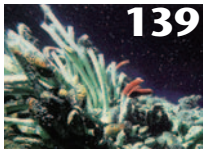


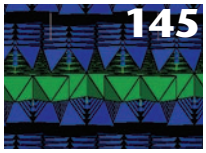
Genesis: Rocks, Minerals, and the Geochemical Origin of Life

Robert M. Hazen Guest Editor



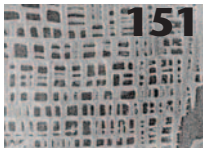
Geochemical Connections to Primitive Metabolism

George D. Cody



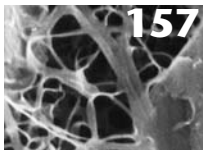
Mineral Catalysis and Prebiotic Synthesis: Montmorillonite-Catalyzed Formation of RNA

James P. Ferris



Geochemical Influences on Life's Origins and Evolution

Joseph V. Smith



Sketches for a Mineral Genetic Material

A. Graham Cairns-Smith

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