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SEM 2015: 35th MEETING OF THE SPANISH MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM 2015) was held 30 June–03 July 2015, in Huelva (Spain). The meeting was organized by the University of Huelva and was coordinated by José Miguel Nieto. The program and abstracts, which can be downloaded from the conference website (www.uhu.es/fexp/sem2015/), included a one-day workshop, posters and oral presentations, and a one-day field trip to the Rio Tinto mining district.

Workshop Seminar

The *Rare Earth Elements: Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Ore Deposits and Metallurgy* seminar took place 30 June 2015. The aim of the seminar was to present and discuss new perspectives and ideas about the rare earth elements, particularly for young scientists. The speakers were scientists and professionals of international prestige in this field. The program consisted of 5 lectures:

- “Geochemistry of the lanthanide elements” by F. Bea Barredo (University of Granada, Spain)
- “Elementos de las tierras raras: depósitos convencionales y no convencionales” by J.C. Melgarejo Draper (University of Barcelona, Spain)
- “Rare earth elements in acid mine drainage” by C. Ayora Ibañez (Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research at the CSIC, Barcelona, Spain)
- “Innovative recovery strategies of rare earth and other critical metals from electric and electronic waste” by J. Hobohm (University of Hamburg, Germany)
- “Progress in hydrometallurgy for selective extraction and recycling of strategic metals” by S. Pellet-Rostaing (Marcoule Institute for Separative Chemistry, Lyon, France).

The lectures will be published in volume 12 (2015) of the journal *Seminarios de la Sociedad Española de Mineralogía* (www.ehu.es/sem/revista/seminarios.htm).

Posters and Oral Presentations

The scientific sessions took place 1–2 July. In all, nearly 200 scientists were involved in the 67 presentations, 37 of which were oral and 30 were posters. Contributions included topics on mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, mineral deposits, conservation of historical heritage, synthesis and crystal growth, and clay minerals. The main objective was to hold high-quality scientific sessions that would become a platform for debate, a means to exchange ideas, and a way to establish new scientific collaborations. A program of grants and awards encouraged the participation of young researchers.

The SEM 2015 program included two plenary lectures: “Estudio de los mecanismos de disolución y precipitación a escala de poro mediante el uso de experimentos de percolación y microtomografía de Rayos-X” (Linda Luquot) and “Mineralogía y geoquímica de Ni, Co, EGP, Sc, REE en yacimientos lateríticos” (Joaquín A. Proenza). All these scientific contributions have been published in volume 20 of *Macla*, the journal of the SEM.

Awards for Young Researchers

Two awards were given to the best oral presentations at the conference. The winners were: Didac Navarro-Ciurana (University Autònoma of Barcelona) for “C and O isotopes of the Riópar non-sulfide Zn ores (Albacete, SE Spain)”; and Cristina Ruiz-Agudo (University of Münster) for “Mecanismos de precipitación de BaSO₄ y el efecto de aditivos”.



Winners of the young researchers award were Cristina Ruiz-Agudo and Didac Navarro-Ciurana, with Juan Jiménez-Millán (SEM President, left) and José Miguel Nieto (SEM meeting coordinator, right).

ENCIENDE-SEM Award



Mª José Mayayo

The 2015 ENCIENDE-SEM Award is sponsored by the SEM and recognizes the best educational initiative or innovative action that promotes scientific careers among children and young students at the primary and high school levels in the field of the Earth sciences, especially in mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry. The 2015 award has gone to the project “3D-SYM, descubriendo la simetría de los cristales” carried out by Mª José Mayayo, Ester Mateo and Felipe Barbed. As the leader of this project, Mª José Mayayo (University of Zaragoza) received the award.

Field Trip to the Rio Tinto Mining District

A geological excursion to the Rio Tinto mining district was held on 03 July. Participants visited the source area of the Tinto River and learned about the geology of the Rio Tinto ore deposits, environmental mining impact, new mining projects, and the acid mine drainage generation and transport processes.



Participants of the trip enjoyed a geological overview of the Cerro Colorado open pit.

Other Scientific Activities



Poster of the exhibition “Cristales: A World to Discover”.

During the SEM meeting, the exhibition “Cristales: A World to Discover” by Manuel García-Ruiz and Fermín Otorola was on display in the hall of the Faculty of Experimental Sciences (University of Huelva). The exhibition comprised 14 posters and was designed to reach school or college students. The goals of this exhibition were to increase awareness of the importance of crystallography and its role in everyday life in modern society, motivate young people, and promote education and research in crystallography (https://cristales.fundaciondescubre.es/?page_id=1769).