



Petrology of sedimentary rocks (2nd ed.), by Sam Boggs Jr., 2009. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England. Hardback, 600 pages. Price USD 90.00. ISBN 978-0-521-89716-7 (also as eBook: price USD 80.00; ISBN 978-0-511-51242-1).

Whereas general books on sedimentology are numerous, books on sedimentary petrology are rare. This text book on sedimentary petrology is therefore welcome, even though it is the second edition of an earlier version.

Like the first edition, this new one provides a well balanced text in every sense. Thirteen chapters are grouped into four parts. Part I consists of only one chapter, which emphasizes that it is essential to understand the origin, composition and tectonic setting of sediment accumulations in order to understand the genesis of sedimentary rocks. Part II deals with textures, structures, diagenesis and provenance interpretation of siliciclastic sedimentary rocks (sandstones, conglomerates, mudstones, and shales). These topics are discussed in seven chapters (Chapters 2-8). Part III discusses carbonate sedimentary rocks in three chapters (9-11). The remaining chemical/biochemical sedimentary rocks and carbonaceous sedimentary rocks are dealt with in Part IV, which is composed of Chapters 12 and 13.

Most text books neglect rocks that constitute only a relatively small part of the total sedimentary volume (e.g. cherts, phosphorites, oil shales and iron-rich sedimentary rocks). Boggs, however, pays due attention to them, realizing that these volumetrically minor rock types are important because they provide not only insight into the Earth's history but also into economically valuable resources. In spite of sophistications introduced in modern sediment-petrological literature, much can still be learned by mastering a few basic principles. Sam Boggs is successful in highlighting these fundamentals/basics of sedimentary petrology. Petrological studies nowadays depend heavily on laboratory analyses in addition to field observations. Both aspects receive adequate attention from Boggs.

Both the photos and the line drawings are, as a rule, of good quality and the links between the various chapters are well focused. Readers will hopefully appreciate the interesting attempt by Boggs to classify the most common primary sedimentary structures (Table 3.1, p. 65).

Some shortcomings should also be mentioned here. The references, for instance, could have been somewhat more up-to-date. Moreover, Chapter 2 does not adequately discuss log-normality in grain-size distribution and its deviation, and the highly relevant 'classical' works by Sengupta and his colleagues are not even cited. I hope that the author will correct this if ever a third edition will be published. Such minor shortcomings are, however, easily overcome. Therefore I am convinced that this is the best book on sedimentary petrology that is currently available. The book will, beyond doubt, be of great help to students, researchers and professionals alike.

Although the price is certainly not exceptionally high, it seems that a potential huge market (students) will hardly be served by the publisher; he might conquer this market with a cheaper paperback version; the eBook price is, in my opinion, not sufficiently low to reach large numbers of students.

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