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Sulfur isotopic study of microbial activity in deep granitic rocks

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Sulfur isotopic investigation has been carried out to evaluate the microbial activities in deep granitic rocks at the Tono area. Sulfur isotope ratios of sulfate ion and pyrite range from +5 - +30 permil, -4 - +68 permil-CDT, respectively. The reverse correlation between sulfur isotope ratio and concentration of sulfate ion possibly suggests the microbial reduction process. Sulfur isotopic fractionation factor was estimated as an approximate value R34-sulfide / R34-sulfate=0.983+-0.034. There is the possibility that pyrite precipitations enriched in 34S are result in intense reduction of sulfate ion.