

Occurrence and geochemical significance of branched acyclic hydrocarbons in modern environments.

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Aliphatic hydrocarbons extracted from algal mats inhabiting several hot springs in Japan, were proved to contain versatile methyl branched C16-C21 congeners. Those methyl alkanes are thought to originate from certain bacteria. The composition differed significantly from samaple to sample, suggesting that they might be new biomarkers indicative of the environmental conditions of the hydrothermal habitats.