

Framboidal pyrite found in a rib of the recent Balaenopteridae (Cetacea) drifted at the coast of Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan

Taiga Kasuya[1]; Yoshiji Ando[2]

[1] Coll. of Agrobiol. Res., Univ. of Tsukuba; [2] Natl. Inst. of Animal Health

Framboidal pyrite in marine sediments provide useful information for the determining oxic or euxinic bottom environments. Particularly, framboid size has used to be a good proxy of oxic/anoxic conditions. Pyrite crystals mainly form inside of cavities of protistan shells in marine sediments. So far, few references can be found describing pyrite in the recent animal bones tissue and, to our knowledge, none as framboidal pyrite. In this presentation, we describe a good example of framboidal pyrite which is clearly hosted in the bone tissue of a rib of the recent large whale, belongs to Balaenopteridae. This bone drifted at the coast of Hitachinaka City, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan. Framboidal pyrite was observed by the scanning electron microscopy (SEM).