LGLTPE SEMINARS

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'Complexity in the oldest animal ecosystems'

Mon, 24th Jan 2022 @ 14h

online: *https://univ-lyon1.webex.com/univ-lyon1-en/j.php?MTID=me8ac7ca2370f61cd6501daf64a673937*

Ecosystems are built from biological interactions between organisms. Historically, Ediacaran ecosystems were considered "simple" due to their antiquity, and due to our difficulty in classifying Ediacaran organisms. The Ediacaran–Cambrian transition signals a drastic change in both diversity and ecosystem construction. The Ediacara biota disappears, and is replaced by more familiar Cambrian and Paleozoic metazoan groups. Although metazoans are present in the Ediacaran, their ecological contribution is dwarfed by Ediacaran-type clades of uncertain phylogenetic affinities, while Ediacaran-type morphologies are virtually non-existent in younger assemblages. Ultimately, the combination of studies on ecosystem construction, biostratigraphy, and biogeography showcases the magnitude of the transition at the Ediacaran–Cambrian boundary.

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