

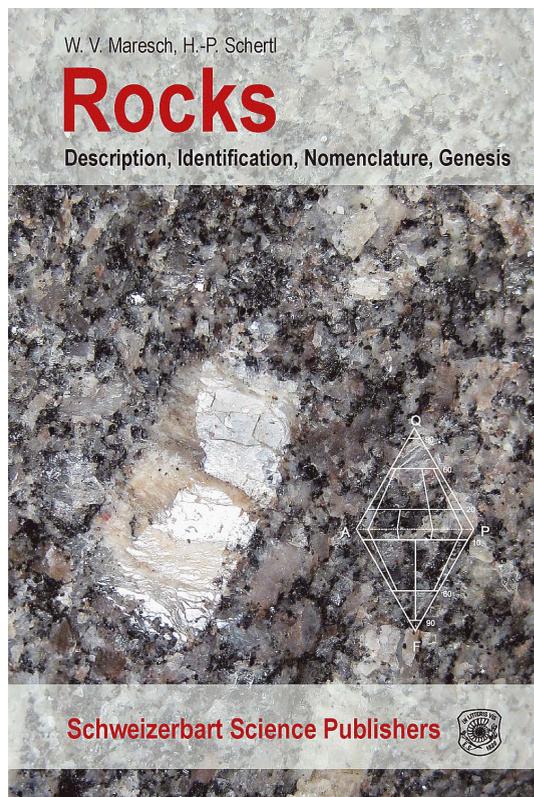
BOOK REVIEW

Book Review: *Rocks: Description, Identification, Nomenclature, Genesis*. (2024) By Walter Maresch and Hans-Peter Schertl. Schweizerbart Science Publishers. ISBN 978-3-510-65554-0. 408 pages.

Rocks: Description, Identification, Nomenclature, Genesis by Walter Maresch and Hans-Peter Schertl stands out as an exceptional reference guide for anyone interested in the field of petrology. The first edition (in German) has served geoscience students, professionals, and curious enthusiasts since its original publication in 1987. To expand its international readership and impact, this fourth edition, printed in English, incorporates the recommendations of the International Union of Geosciences (IUGS) and aims to address significant inconsistencies in nomenclature that exist between different languages and disciplines. Consisting of 408 pages, 596 color figures, and a range of complementary tables and flowcharts, the book is impressively thorough, accessible, and well-organized, making it an invaluable companion for both experts and novices.

The book's organization is clear and logical. Designed as both an identification guide and a reference text, it is divided into two main parts, with the first focusing on a brief introduction to the three principal rock groups and their genesis. This section also includes a brief but well-written overview of Earth's structure, plate tectonics, common rock-forming minerals, meso- and microstructures, and a summary of rock classification systems. The second, and largest part, contains a systematic description of magmatic, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, spanning an impressive ~450 different rock entries. Rock groups are easily identified using color-coded tabs, allowing for quick navigation and enhancing the book's functionality. The magmatic rocks are presented first and are subdivided into plutonic, pegmatites, aplites, volcanic, ultramafic, lamproite, lamprophyres, and carbonatites. The sedimentary rocks are next and are divided into siliciclastic, pyroclastic, and chemical/biochemical/biogenic. The metamorphic rocks are subdivided by type of metamorphism and include regional, contact, metasomatic alteration, and dislocation metamorphism. The authors also provide a short summary of meteorites at the end. Supplemental materials such as mineral property tables, rock description flowcharts, and identification aids further enhance the book's value and practicality.

Rock descriptions are thorough, containing well-cited authoritative content that includes classifications, mineral content, common characteristics, geochemical classifications, occurrence, genesis, macro- and microstructures, common protoliths, practical significance/uses, and details about commonly observed variations. Some descriptions also include etymological context regarding rock names (e.g., basanite and dunite). Each detailed description is also complemented by high-quality, color photographs and relevant diagrams and tables (e.g., mafic mineral content, IUGS QAPF classification diagrams, pressure/tempera-



ture diagrams, metamorphic facies, and schematic sketches). Although it is impossible to capture all the variability observed in nature in just one book, the authors should be commended for attempting to include some of the common textural and mineralogical variations that one might observe for many of the rock entries. The rich diversity of samples from around the globe, along with the depth and breadth of information presented for each sample, make this an impressive reference that sparks a deeper sense of curiosity and vividly brings the diversity of rocks to life.

Without a doubt, Maresch and Schertl have produced an affordable, compact, and highly informative reference guide that strikes a balance between scientific depth and accessibility. The presentation of information, up-to-date visual content, and comprehensive coverage ensures its relevance for academic study and practical use by seasoned petrologists and rock enthusiasts. I will certainly be recommending this book to my students and colleagues.

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