

## Preservation of skeletal microstructure in fossil Scleractinia

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This paper presents the results of investigations on the microstructure and chemical composition of the skeletons of fossil hermatypic scleractinian corals (Lower Aptian). In the specimens examined, two modes of preservation of skeletal microstructure have been observed: one - in which aragonite is preserved, and the other in which it is replaced by silica.

**Key words:** Scleractinia, Lower Cretaceous, aragonitic skeleton, silification.

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