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Peer Review

Review of: "Microbial Mediation in Gypsum Dissolution and Its Role in Evaporitic System Transformation in Northern Chilean Salt Flats"

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Congratulations to the authors for conducting such invaluable research. I would like to ask about the probable presence of the anhydrite mineral throughout the study. Basically, I want to make sure if anhydrite was found in that area or in the experiment. Sometimes anhydrite and gypsum are treated as one mineral. Did the authors consider this mineral, which is normally found in playa and arid environments? If yes, and if found, please pay attention to the different morphology, stability, and formation conditions of anhydrite compared to gypsum. Besides, I would like to ask about the palygorskite clay mineral. I know that it was out of the scope of the authors, but palygorskite is normally formed after gypsum crystallization from the original brine due to the decrease of the Ca/Mg ratio after gypsum crystallization and could have been potentially present in the area (the two areas with higher pHs). Besides, if stability diagrams stated by Lindsy are taken into account in future studies, it could be great.

Thank you again for conducting such nice research and presenting valuable results.

Good luck

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

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