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IUGS SUBCOMMISSION ON THE SYSTEMATICS OF METAMORPHIC  
ROCKS (SCMR) - CURRENT STAGE OF ACTIVITY

**Abstract:** Excerpts from SCMR Homepage <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/SCMR/> and a few other comments are given herewith for the information of the members of Petrology Group of the Polish Mineralogical Society.

**Keywords:** IUGS, SCMR

AIM OF SCMR

Many terms in metamorphic petrology are ambiguous or are used inconsistently. In order to address this problem the SCMR aims to produce a unified nomenclature scheme and to recommend definitions which are widely acceptable and of international use. The Subcommittee's work was conducted in English and all its recommendations and definitions are designed only for English language usage. Transposition into other languages is the task of the language users. An attempt at this for Polish was done in the early stage of the SCMR work (Smulikowski 1992).

STRUCTURE AND METHODOLOGY OF THE SCMR

The SCMR, a branch of the IUGS Commission on the Systematics in Petrology (CSP), was initiated in 1985. The Subcommittee comprises 26 members (3 from Germany, 3 from the UK, 2 from Italy, 2 from Russia and 1 from Argentine, Brazil, the Czech Republic, China, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, India, Japan, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the USA), 11 Study Groups and a Working Group of around 100 earth scientists spread worldwide. The main work of the Subcommittee was done through annual meetings and correspondence. Each Study Group was led by a member of the Subcommittee and had up to 50 corresponding members specialising in specific branches of metamorphic petrology. The Subcommittee sent questionnaires to the Working Group members in order to improve and to test the international acceptance of the proposed definitions and classifications prepared by the Subcommittee and the Study Groups. The Subcommittee has largely prepared its proposals and the main task is now concentrated on preparing the results for publication. The nomenclature scheme will be presented as a series of approximately twelve papers (7 of them have already reached the status of final recommendations) with an associated and

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extensive glossary. The papers were initially posted on the website as provisional recommendations or drafts for a period of several months. Subsequently, the results will be published as a composite book.

#### RESULTS TO DATE

Before developing a unified nomenclature scheme for metamorphic rocks, the SCMR had to agree the basic principles of how metamorphic rocks, processes and conditions of formation should be named and classified. It then had to outline rules and guidelines for users.

The proposed nomenclature scheme recognises that a specific metamorphic rock may be classified in one or more of three possible ways, namely: with reference to its protolith, by a specific name (marble, amphibolite, etc); by reference to three structural root terms ( schist, gneiss, granulite) prefixed by the major constituent minerals.

The results will be published in the following series of papers:

1. How to name a metamorphic rock (recommendation)
2. Types, grade and facies of metamorphism (recommendation)
3. Structural terms, including fault rocks (recommendation)
4. High P/T metamorphic rocks (recommendation)
5. Very low and low grade metamorphic rocks (recommendation)
6. Migmatites and related rocks (provisional recommendation)
7. Metacarbonate and related rocks (provisional recommendation)
8. Amphibolite and granulite (recommendation)
9. Metasomatic rocks (in preparation)
10. Contact metamorphic rocks (in preparation)
11. Impactites (recommendation)
12. Abbreviations of mineral names (in preparation)

A separate glossary of metamorphic terms will also be published.

#### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The SCMR has established a glossary of c1500 terms dealing with metamorphic rocks. In the glossary terms are defined under the following categories.

*Recommended terms* are those recommended for use in international papers and books. When used without a further qualification, it is assumed that they refer to the definition given in the SCMR glossary.

*Restricted terms* are those not recommended for international use, or if used, such terms have to be explicitly defined, either by referring to the corresponding definition given in the SCMR glossary, or by citing the author's own definition. The SCMR recommends the replacement of restricted terms by recommended terms whenever practical.

*Unnecessary terms* are those not recommended for further use and which should be replaced by recommended rock names.

The style of the glossary will follow that used by the Subcommittee on the Systematics of Igneous Rocks ( Le Maitre ed. 1989). The list of terms is currently under construction.

#### REFERENCES

- LE MAITRE R. W. (ed.), 1989: A classification of igneous rocks and glossary of terms. Blackwell Scientific Publications, 193p.
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