

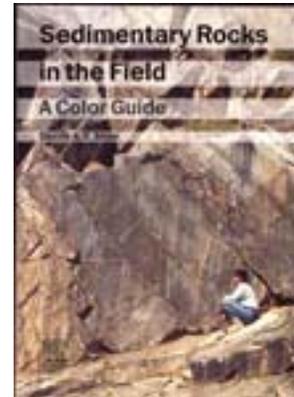
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Sedimentary Rocks in the Field - A Colour Guide by Dorrick Stow, 2005. Manson Publ. Ltd., 73 Corringham Road, London NW11 7DL, United Kingdom. 320 pp. Price hardback GBP 39.95, ISBN 1-874545-68-5; price softcover GBP 19.95, ISBN 1-874545-69-3.

This new book by Dorrick Stow starts with the statement that ideas and concepts of sedimentology are changing quickly, but that field work and data collection remain the basis of the discipline. Therefore the extensively illustrated book is intended as a guide to the recognition and description of sedimentary rocks in the field.

The book is subdivided into 15 chapters. After an overview on classification and economic significance of sedimentary rocks, chapter 2 covers the main field techniques, from safety aspects to logging and paleocurrent analysis. Chapter 3 describes the principal characteristics of sedimentary rocks, including an extensive account on physical, biogenic and chemogenic sedimentary structures. Chapters 4-14 deal with the major types of sedimentary rocks (conglomerates, sandstones, mudrocks, carbonates, siliceous sediments, phosphorites, coal and oil, evaporites, ironstones, soils and paleosoils, as well as volcanoclastics). In chapter 15, the reader is introduced to facies models, sequences and cycles in addition to the major depositional environments. Their diagnostic features are provided in a series of tables. The appendices include, among other things, a stratigraphic timescale, mapping symbols, and a grain-size comparison chart. Each of the chapters is abundantly illustrated with in total about 450 colour photos and drawings.

The great majority of the photographs are really excellent and very instructive. Only very few lack contrast and could probably be replaced by better examples. The photos of sediment cores are particularly useful - I would have liked to even have more of them, as subsurface sedimentology becomes increasingly important.

In my opinion, this is an excellent and a really beautiful book illustrating our fascinating discipline. It is more than a field guide, as it offers an introduction to basics in sedimentology as well. I would like to suggest one improvement for a next edition, however: I found the distinction between 'Figures' and 'Plates (each with a separate numbering system) a little confusing and certainly not necessary. All in all, I can highly recommend this book!

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