

The fact that extensive, repeating sequences of stromatolites are found in some limestone formations is one of the many evidences that such limestone was formed by natural growth and sedimentation processes, over a long period of time. One of the best-known formations which contain such a vertically repeating series of layers of stromatolites is the Altyn Limestone, of the Belt Supergroup, in Montana and Idaho. In this limestone several stromatolitic beds are often seen superimposed upon one another to form a composite stromatolitic unit several meters thick. These are described by Rezak (1957), Walter (1976, p. 585-597), and by many other authors. A significant percentage of the stromatolites in this limestone closely resemble the columnar form of the well-known stromatolites on the coast at Shark Bay in western Australia.

The literature describing the stromatolites of the world is exceedingly abundant. Important sources other than those already cited include Flügel (1977), Armstrong (1975), and Davis (1975). Flügel (1977), and Walter (1976) are the most complete and extensive recent sources.

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