Raman spectroscopy meets extremophiles on Earth and Mars – studies for successful search of life

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This issue covers the application of Raman spectroscopy to subjects of relevance for Mars exobiology. The papers focus on biomarkers and their Raman spectroscopic detection in the frame of extremophile-rich ecosystems and relevant rock representatives, including both laboratory and theoretical studies. Reports on successful field application of miniaturized Raman spectrometers and Mars prototypes for biomarkers and mineral identification will complement laboratory based research. This topic is currently receiving a great deal of attention due to the forthcoming ESA/Roscomos 2018 ExoMars mission and the proposed NASA 2020 mission, both of which will use Raman spectroscopic instruments in the search of life.

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