Biomineralization, Silica, Silicon-Accumulating Plants

A series of silicon-accumulating plants [different *Equisetum* (horse tail) species, *Echium vulgare*, and *Symphytum officinale*] were studied by solid-state $^{29}$Si NMR experiments. For this purpose, selected parts of these plants were freeze-dried and then investigated by solid-state $^{29}$Si VACP/MAS NMR spectroscopy. The $^{29}$Si NMR spectra of these plants are quite similar and exhibit the typical pattern characteristic of polycrystalline silica (amorphous silica).