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Environmental Chemistry
environmental problems • chemical approaches

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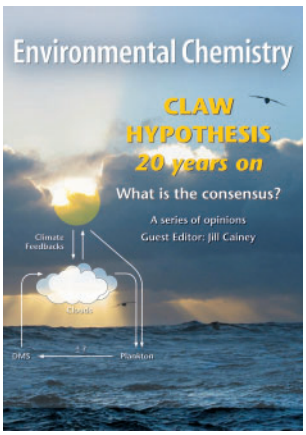
CONTENTS



Cover

The CLAW hypothesis has stimulated a great deal of discussion and research since it was published over 20 years ago. The CLAW hypothesis provides a mechanism through which the atmospheric sulfur cycle can modify climate. This is of importance to climate change researchers as the role clouds play in the warming and the cooling of the planet, and how that role alters, is one of the biggest uncertainties climate change presents.

In lake waters, the bioavailability of trace metals strongly depends on what chemical form they are in. Zinc, for example, is an essential micronutrient, whereas cadmium is extremely toxic. When they occur in the same environment there is potential for the two metals to compete for the same biological binding sites and, although the total concentration of cadmium might be much lower, it is this metal that bares the highest risk of toxicity for organisms.

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