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in siliceous thermal springs: trends in preservation along thermal gradients; Lipid biomarkers for bacterial ecosystems: studies of cultured organisms, hydrothermal environments and ancient sediments; General discussion II; The limits of palaeontological knowledge: finding the gold among the dross
The role of remote sensing in finding hydrothermal mineral deposits on earth
Exploration strategies for hydrothermal deposits; Water on early Mars; General discussion III; Hydrothermal systems on Mars: an assessment of present evidence; General discussion IV; The transfer of viable microorganisms between planets; Summing-up; Index of contributors; Subject index

Sommario/riassunto

This book explores the possibility that life exists on Mars. It provides an interdisciplinary overview of the early evolution of life in hydrothermal ecosystems on Earth, focusing on the problem of remote sensing and incorporating geological work relevant to the search for evidence of early life on Earth and Mars. It discusses the belief that studying thermal spring deposits as part of this search may be the best opportunity to test whether life on earth is a "unique experiment," or whether there is life elsewhere in the solar system.
