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Preferred orientation of freshwater shells of the species Sinanodonta woodiana and Anodonta anatina studied by neutron and X-ray diffraction

Using neutron and X-ray diffraction, the texture of the prismatic and nacreous layer of several shells of the species Sinanodonta woodiana was studied and compared with the preferred orientation of the shells of the species Anodonta anatina. The shells of both molluscs were collected in freshwater streams in the Czech Republic. The neutronographic texture measurements were performed on the KSN-2 neutron diffractometer located at the research reactor LVR-15 in the Nuclear Research Institute, plc. Rez, Czech Republic. X-ray texture measurements were performed on a SmartLab Rigaku X-ray diffractometer (with Cu K α rotating anode) located at the Institute of Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. It was found that during the growth of the shell the a and b axes of aragonite are reoriented and the direction of the c-axis does not change alignment. The texture strength is increasing with the shell growth.

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