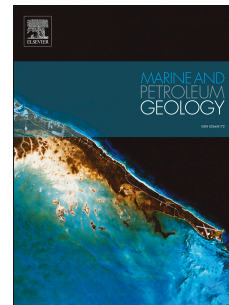


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# Petrographic and geochemical characterization of the early formative stages of Northern Adriatic shelf rocky buildups

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## ABSTRACT

A peculiar type of marine rocky outcrops is generated under temperate conditions through the cementation of carbonate and siliciclastic sediments on the northwestern Adriatic shelf. The lithification process results into the genesis of punctiform outcrops (*tegnùe*) that serve as substrate to substantial coralligenous epibenthic growth. These buildups have been often described as beachrock. More recently, an alternative genetic mechanism, implying precipitation of carbonate cements in the marine phreatic zone, has been hypothesized for the rocky outcrops off the coast of Chioggia (south of Venice). These rocky outcrops are settled along the levee of meandering channels inherited from Pleistocene fluvial systems.

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