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CELEBRATING SHARED HISTORIES AND FUTURE COLLABORATION: SEM JOINS THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SPAIN

The Spanish Mineralogical Society (Sociedad Española de Mineralogía, SEM), which recently celebrated its own 50th anniversary, was pleased to take part in another important milestone for the geoscience community in Spain: the 40th anniversary of the Geological Society of Spain (Sociedad Geológica de España, SGE).

In September 2025, the SGE held a commemorative event at the Complutense University of Madrid to mark four decades of activity. The celebration, academic in nature yet joyful and festive in spirit, offered an opportunity to look back on the Society's most significant milestones and to honor those individuals who have played a particularly important role in its history. The event also provided space for reflection on the challenges and opportunities ahead, emphasizing the importance of moving forward in close collaboration with professional associations and academic institutions.



Representatives from Spanish scientific societies related to geology gathered during the 40th anniversary celebration of the Geological Society of Spain (SGE) at the Complutense University of Madrid. They received a diploma and a commemorative book published by SGE in recognition of the long-standing collaboration among these societies throughout its history.

Within this forward-looking framework, the SGE highlighted the value of the strong relationships and fruitful collaborations it has established with other scientific societies in the field of geology. Among these, special recognition was given to the Spanish Mineralogical Society, the oldest of these societies, which was represented at the event by Angeles Fernandez-González, current President of SEM.

The close ties between SEM and SGE are reflected not only in their shared history, but also in their membership and activities. A significant number of SEM members also belong to SGE, and reciprocity agreements between the two societies facilitate the joint organization and dissemination of scientific activities. These collaborations are founded on shared goals, including the promotion of geoscience research, education, and outreach.

On behalf of the Spanish Mineralogical Society, we warmly congratulate the Geological Society of Spain on its 40 years of dedicated service to the geoscience community and look forward to a future of continued collaboration and shared success.

4th AWARD CEREMONY FOR THE BEST BACHELOR'S THESES (TFG)

The 4th Award Ceremony for the Best Bachelor's Theses (TFG) organized by the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) was held online on December 11th, 2025, with the participation of undergraduate students

from a wide range of Spanish universities. The event showcased high-quality research in crystallography, mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, ore deposits, environmental geology, and related disciplines.

The ceremony was officially opened by Dr. Dídac Navarro Ciurana, Secretary of the SEM (Autonomous University of Barcelona), who welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of encouraging early-stage scientific research and academic excellence in Earth sciences.

A total of 14 bachelor's theses were presented during the session. The participants defended their theses in five-minute presentations before the evaluating committee, consisting of delegates from the SEM executive council (David Benavente, Concepción Lázaro, and Francisco Macías).

The event concluded with a special talk by Dr. Pablo Forjanés (Complutense University of Madrid), entitled "Mineral formation and transformation processes: from the laboratory to the Arctic," offering an integrative perspective on mineralogical research across experimental and natural environments.

- **Yaiza Bermúdez Fernández** (University of the Basque Country, EHU/UPV): *Chemical and textural characterization of tourmaline associated with the Mount Mica Pegmatite (Maine, USA) and its petrogenetic implications.*
- **Juan Quiñonero Moya** (University of Granada): *Sulfide associations and platinum group minerals from the lower chromitite of the Koitelainen Complex in the Rookkiaapa area (Northern Finland).*
- **Paula Esteban Ruiz** (Complutense University of Madrid): *Thermobarometric evolution inferred from the chemistry of the El Vellón paragneisses.*
- **María Matilla González** (University of Huelva): *Petrology and mineral chemistry of the volcanism in the lava delta of the Tajogaite volcano (La Palma, Canary Islands).*
- **Carles Dols Mayol** (University of Barcelona): *LAPADABA: Creation of a multidisciplinary database for the study of the 2021 La Palma eruption.*
- **Isabel Osorio Flores** (University of Jaén): *Application of geophysical and petrological techniques to the study of contact metamorphic aureoles in the Linares–La Carolina mining district (Jaén, Spain).*
- **Miquel Giner Cortés** (University of Barcelona): *Characterization of Triassic alluvial–fluvial units as reservoir analogues for CO₂ storage.*
- **Salvador Romero Díaz** (University of Seville): *Improvement of DAS-type passive treatments for the retention of contaminant elements from acid mine drainage using industrial waste.*
- **Jherson Antonio Morales Laurente** (University of Castilla–La Mancha): *Soil characterization at the inactive San Pablo smelter: physicochemical, geochemical and enzymatic activity assessment.*
- **Alejandro Mariano Iglesias Corchero** (University of Huelva): *Geochemical characterization of soils and fungi from the "El Carmen" campus.*
- **Lydia Núñez Conde** (University of Huelva): *Stability of sediments in the Odiel River basin under a future restoration plan: mineralogical and environmental implications.*
- **Celia Hernández Montero** (University of Huelva): *Use of biomass combustion ash as soil amendments in mining areas.*
- **Lucía Mora Morente** (University of Murcia): *Didactic proposal for the Sierra de Atapuerca and the Museum of Human Evolution (MEH)*

Awards

After evaluation by the organizing committee, the following contributions were selected as the most outstanding based on their scientific quality, methodological rigor, originality, and communication skills:

FIRST PRIZE

- **Yaiza Bermúdez Fernández** (University of the Basque Country, EHU/UPV)



Yaiza Bermúdez Fernández

SPECIAL MENTIONS

- **Juan Quiñonero Moya** (University of Granada)
- **Isabel Osorio Flores** (University of Jaén)

The Spanish Mineralogical Society warmly congratulates the awardees and sincerely thanks all participants for their excellent contributions. The high scientific level of the presentations reflects the strong training of young graduates and their promising future careers in mineralogy and Earth sciences.

SEM 2026 ANUAL MEETING IN MADRID

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) will be held in Madrid on June 11, 2026. It will be organized and coordinated by Javier Martínez-Martínez and Susana Timón Sánchez (Spanish Geological Survey – CSIC).

The program for the SEM 2026 meeting includes:

- **A plenary lecture:** “Mineralogy of the enrichment of REY, Sc and Ga in karst bauxites: what do we know and what do we still need to know?” by Joaquín Proenza (Barcelona University)
- **A poster session.** Presentations in the fields of clays, mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry may be submitted. The main objective is to hold a high-quality scientific session that can become a platform for debate, the exchange of ideas, and the establishment of new scientific collaborations.
- **General assembly of the Spanish Mineralogical Society**
- **Closing dinner**



For updated information, visit <https://sem2026madrid.igme.es/>.



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