

# DARK BIOSPHERE

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**Historical development of the Dark Biosphere predicted by Darwin. Methodological problems in the characterization of the Dark Biosphere. Case study: the geomicrobiological characterization of the Iberian Pyrite Belt subsurface, the origin of the Río Tinto.**

**Ricardo Amils Pibernat** is Emeritus professor of the Department of Molecular Biology of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and co-founder and senior researcher of the Astrobiology Center, Madrid, Spain. Molecular ecologist interested in extreme environments of astrobiological interest. He has been working in the characterization of Río Tinto, a mineralogical and geochemical terrestrial Mars analogue, for more than thirty years.