

23.6.2026

Dear Editor,

thank you for pointing out the data repository requirement, we stored the original SEM imagery at PANGAEA and provide the citation with the link as follows under Data availability (Citation in the references list):

**Data availability**

The SEM micrographs are openly available from the PANGAEA data repository (Westphal et al., 2026).

Westphal, H., Garuglieri, E., Webb, G.E., Nothdurft, L., Merkel, A., Khanna, P., Karki, P., Nohl, T., Gischler, E., Webster, J.M. Scanning Electron Micrographs of biosignatures of microbial mats (IODP Expedition 389) [dataset]. PANGAEA, <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.995587>, 2026.

Also, we corrected some overlooked issues (left-overs from earlier versions) in Figures 6 and 8.

With best regards, thank you for handling our manuscript; on behalf of the authors' team,  
Hildegard Westphal