

# IRON STROMATOLITES

**NAME:** *Collenia undosa*

**AGE:** Paleoproterozoic Era –  
2.2 billion years

**UNIT:** Biwabik Iron Fm.

**SITE:** Biwabik, MN



This rare and beautiful fossil is a type of *stromatolite* found in an old, abandoned iron mine on the Mesabi Iron Range of Minnesota. We have been collecting, preparing and researching these fossils since the 1970s.

Stromatolites are colonial living structures of *cyanobacteria* – a unique type of photosynthesizing bacteria. They formed the first biologic reefs and are largely responsible for Earth's original oxygen atmosphere. In select places around the world, they concentrated iron into large primary ore deposits called Banded Iron Formations about 2 billion years ago during the *Great Oxygenation Event*. That event was the source of Earth's original oxygen atmosphere.

**VISIT HERE** to purchase  
a unique specimen of  
this material, found and  
conserved only by us.



Although they ruled the Earth for nearly 3 billion years, stromatolites today are nearly extinct. They are, however, still found in certain isolated places around the world, including Minnesota.



[pacificgeolab.com](http://pacificgeolab.com)

