

Anthozoan Toxins: Using New Approaches to Understand Their Composition, Distribution, and Function

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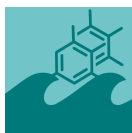
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Message from the Guest Editors

Anthozoans (i.e., sea anemones, corals, and their relatives) are members of one of the largest groups of venomous marine animals, while simultaneously remaining one of the most poorly studied. Anthozoans are found in a variety of habitats, using toxins to capture prey, defend against predators, and compete during intra-/inter-specific encounters. Anthozoans also lack a centralized venom gland or duct, instead using a combination of cell- and tissue-specific venoms that have been subjected to evolutionary processes for hundreds of millions of years. Ultimately, the unique ecological, cellular, and evolutionary processes shaping protein function in this group remain largely unexplored and have significant potential for human health applications.

This Special Issue focuses on: (1) new species and new toxins, (2) new approaches using bioinformatic and high-throughput techniques to identify and characterize toxins, and (3) new ways to think about toxin function as it relates to ecology and evolution and their potential application to human health.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

During the past few decades there has been an ever increasing number of novel compounds discovered in the marine environment. This is exemplified by the robust preclinical and clinical pipeline that currently exists for marine natural products. *Marine Drugs* is inviting contributions on new advances in marine biotechnology, pharmacology, chemical ecology, synthetic biology, and genomics approaches related to the discovery of therapeutically relevant marine natural products. Our goal is to share your contribution in a timely fashion and in a manner that will be valued by the scientific community.

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