



toxins



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Bioactivity and Chemical Ecological Interactions of Marine Toxins

Guest Editor:

Prof. Dr. Allan Cembella

Alfred-Wegner-Institut
Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar-
und Meeresforschung (AWI), Am
Handelshafen 12, 27570
Bremerhaven, Germany

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Message from the Guest Editor

A vast array of marine organisms, including microeukaryotes and prokaryotes, metazoa, marine plants and macroalgae, are capable of biosynthesizing natural bioactive substances. Many of these compounds are designated as toxins if they exhibit inimical effects on growth, behavior, or survival of specified target living systems. Toxicity is often defined with respect to bioassays (cultured cell and tissue lines, or whole animals, including humans), and thus may lead to erroneous inferences about the functional role of these compounds in situ in marine environments. The high global incidences of human poisoning due to the consumption of seafood contaminated with marine toxins, or exposure to poisonous or venomous creatures, underscore the critical need for studies to protect human health. Such research, however, provides little insight into the function and evolution of these toxins and their biosynthetic pathways.



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Prof. Dr. Jay Fox

Department of Microbiology,
University of Virginia,
Charlottesville, VA, USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Toxins Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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