



Compounds from Cyanobacteria II

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Message from the Guest Editor

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) are an ancient and successful group of organisms that are found in a wide range of marine and freshwater habitats and in conditions as extreme as the heat of volcanic regions to the colds of Antarctica. They have proven to be an excellent source of secondary metabolites, many of which possess biological activity. The most common class of compounds found in cyanobacteria are oligopeptides (predominantly cyclic peptides). These are synthesised by nonribosomal peptide synthetases and many contain unique or unusual amino acids. Some of the other compound classes that have been isolated from cyanobacteria include terpenes and alkaloids.

Many of the natural products produced by cyanobacteria may be ecologically significant and some of the toxic metabolites are a human health concern, especially when present in recreational water bodies or fisheries. Cyanobacteria often have the means to produce many more metabolites than are actually expressed, so an understanding of biosynthesis and genetics in these organisms is vitally important.





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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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