

Special Issue

Arsenic and Arsenic Compounds in Marine Environments

Message from the Guest Editor

Arsenic compounds are ubiquitous marine natural products of currently unknown origin and function. The scientific community continues to search for clues about the possible biological roles of these environmental compounds. The biological chemistry of arsenic remains highly topical, with reported human health issues ranging from the detrimental effects of chronic arsenic exposure to arsenic's beneficial use as a therapeutic. The large variety of over 200 currently identified individual arsenic compounds, mostly of marine origin, again stimulates speculation about a biological role for arsenic, particularly in early life. While there are currently no data clearly demonstrating a biological role of arsenic, it is increasingly being reported in molecules that play important roles in biology (for example, bound into phosphatidylcholines as constituents of membrane lipids). This Special Issue focuses on highlighting the significance of newly discovered arsenicals in biosynthesis, as well as arsenic biogeochemical cycling and its potential effects on humans.

Guest Editor

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