

Joint Special Issue

Biosurfactants

Message from the Guest Editors

Biosurfactants are surface-active substances synthesized by living cells. Biosurfactants constitute a variety of microbial extracellular lipids that are produced in large amounts from inexpensive natural sources. Biosurfactants have been receiving increasing attention due to their unique properties: low toxicity, biodegradability, and biological activities, compared to chemically synthesized counterparts from an earth environmental point of view. Biosurfactants enhance the solubilization and emulsification of hydrophobic substances and increase their availability for microbial degradation. These compounds can also be used in enhanced oil recovery and may be considered for other potential applications in environmental protection. Other applications include herbicides formulations, detergents, health care and cosmetics.

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