



Microbial Exploitation of Marine Anti-infective Drugs

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Marine natural products have been found to offer an amazing chemical diversity associated with interesting biological activities, especially with respect to anti-infectives. Over the years, there has been an ever-increasing number of newly discovered antibiotic, antiviral, and anti-protist compounds. These properties relate to the ecological functions of the compounds, and many studies indicate a microbial origin of compounds formerly isolated from marine macrobes. Microbial sources are of special interest, as they are suitable for biotechnological production. A challenge for development is the often-observed silence of biosynthetic gene clusters in laboratory conditions.

In sum, the biodiscovery of new natural products with anti-infective properties is rarely transferred into pharmaceutical pipelines and drug development. The multiple reasons for this gap include the supply issue, scaling and transfer difficulties, and economic calculations, as anti-infectives offer less revenue compared to other therapeutic indications.

I look forward to your communications, reviews, and full research articles.

Prof. Dr. Antje Labes

Guest Editor





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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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