Special Issue

Chemical Defense in Marine Organisms

Message from the Guest Editors

Marine organisms have evolved several mechanisms to survive in extremely different and hostile environments in terms of light, temperature, salinity, pressure, and predation. The harsh chemical and physical conditions of the marine environment have favored the production of a great variety of molecules in marine organisms that are unique in terms of diversity, structural, and functional features. Chemical defenses include not only the production of toxins (e.g., during harmful algal blooms) but also a plethora of defensive metabolites, mainly secondary metabolites, produced after specific external stimuli. These compounds represent a huge reservoir of new bioactive compounds with great pharmaceutical potential. This Special Issue aims to highlight recent discoveries on chemical defensive strategies adopted by marine organisms in order to survive.

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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.

Editor-in-Chief

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