Special Issue

Aquatic Microbial Interactions: Ecology, Diversity and Impact of Phytoplankton Parasites

Message from the Guest Editors

Phytoplankton and their seasonal blooms play an essential role in aquatic food webs. In recent decades, studies on aquatic microbial ecology have highlighted that eukaryotic parasitic interactions are an important driving factor for the dynamics of primary producers, which may control host population and bloom dynamics, amending phytoplankton communities and leading to species succession. In this Special Issue, we aim to highlight studies on aquatic microbial interactions with a focus on eukaryotic parasites of phytoplankton, including freshwater and marine habitats. We are interested in the identification and quantification of host–parasite associations; parasite diversity and distribution, host-parasite seasonal dynamics, and the impact of eukaryotic parasitism on the phytoplankton population, harmful algal blooms and community structure. Environmental studies and culture-based approaches on the effects of abiotic (e.g., salinity and temperature) and biotic factors (e.g., competition and grazing) on infection dynamics are also welcome.

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"Microorganism" merges the idea of the very small with the idea of the evolving reproducing organism is a unifying principle for the discipline of microbiology. Our journal recognizes the broadly diverse yet connected nature of microorganisms and provides an advanced publishing forum for original articles from scientists involved in high-quality basic and applied research on any prokaryotic or eukaryotic microorganism, and for research on the ecology, genomics and evolution of microbial communities as well as that exploring cultured microorganisms in the laboratory.

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