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Genetic Diversity and Taxonomy of Algae

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Myung Sook Kim

Research Institute for Basic Sciences and Department of Biology, Jeju National University, Jeju 63243, Korea

Dr. Christophe Vieira

Research Institute for Basic Sciences, Jeju National University, Jeju 63243, Republic of Korea

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Message from the Guest Editors

As primary producers and ecological engineers, algae are well-adapted fundamental components of most aquatic ecosystems. Although much less well-documented, climate change and other stressors are taking their toll on algal diversity as much as it is on terrestrial primary producers. Consequently, the need to document algal diversity, describing and naming species, in groups and geographic areas where our knowledge is still falling short, is an urgent matter. The characterization of algal taxa is needed not only for our basic understanding of the structure, function, and services of ecosystems, but also for biodiversity conservation by providing baseline data. As illustrated in the past couple of decades, the use of molecular techniques has become a necessary tool in recognizing the phylogenetic relationships of algal taxa, notably to uncover cryptic species diversity. This Special Issue of *Plants* aims to compile studies related to the genetic diversity and taxonomy of algae by focusing on poorly studied algal groups and regions by combining molecular and morphological analyses.



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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Dilantha Fernando
Department of Plant Science,
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg,
MB R3T 2N2, Canada

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Plants Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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