

Special Issue

Genetic Diversity and Taxonomy of Algae

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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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Plants is an open access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to plant function, its physiology, biology, taxonomy, stresses, and its interactions with other organisms. It publishes original research articles, reviews, reports, conference proceedings (peer reviewed full articles) and communications. In original research papers, it is important that full experimental details are provided. We also encourage timely reviews and commentaries on topics of interest to the plant research community.

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