

## ALGAL TOXINS – BOON OR BANE TO MANKIND

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*Algal blooms have become a serious water-quality problem around the world, as their excessive proliferation leads to an undesirable disturbance to the balance of organisms growing in water bodies. From a human perspective, it is necessary to prevent or minimize such processes for both aesthetic and health reasons, as they produce odorous and toxic compounds; which cause health problems for wildlife, livestock, pets and humans in contact with contaminated water.*

*Such toxic water blooms (comprising genera such as *Microcystis*, *Anabaena*, *Nostoc*) produce a diverse array of bioactive compounds exhibiting antibiotic, algicidal, antifungal, cytotoxic, immunosuppressive and enzyme inhibiting activities. Therefore, there is a serious need for monitoring, evaluating and regulating these algal blooms not only as nuisance factors, but also as valuable bioresources for isolating novel bioactive compounds.*

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