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Marine Phytoplankton Diversity

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Message from the Guest Editor

Marine phytoplankton are the base of the food web due to the highly efficient process of primary production, which is critical for the biodiversity of organisms from higher trophic levels in the oceans. In one liter of seawater, we may expect millions of phytoplankton cells represented by 100–150 different species. The differentiation between species because of the challenges in microbial taxonomy and diverse species concepts has never been more challenging and under revision than it is today. In recent decades, due to the methodology development, phytoplankton diversity has received a great deal of attention. However, our general knowledge is still fragmented because of the phytoplankton distribution patchiness, size of the sunlit oceans, various sampling methods and analysis techniques, and lack of standardization of methods, traditional taxonomists, and curated collections [...]

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Special issue



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