

Synthetic chemicals produced by algae

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New research has shown, surprisingly, that these chemicals are also made naturally by marine organisms called algae. The algae live in a balanced microbial community, and the toxic compounds they make do not create an environmental threat. If there is a compound that has been around for ages, there must also be another removing it, otherwise it would build up. Scientists are now searching for the bacteria that degrade these unusual natural products.



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1. What is a synthetic chemical?
2. Describe how different chemicals are extracted from crude oil.
3. Discuss why further research into the aniline-producing algae could be useful.

