

CYANONEWS

Volume 12 Number 1 January 1996

CYANONEWS - a newsletter intended to provide cyanobacteriologists with a forum for rapid informal communication, unavailable through journals. Everything you read in this newsletter is contributed by readers like yourself. Published occasionally, about three times per year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - \$10/year. (See address label for expiration date). No charge for electronic version. See last page for details.

CONTRIBUTIONS - Expected every couple of years: a new result, an upcoming meeting or a summary of a past meeting, a post-doctoral opening, a new publication, a request for strains, a change of life... something. See last page for addresses you can send news to.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SOMETHING YOU READ Each news item contains, prominently displayed, the name of a contact person. A Directory of Cyanobacteriologists is distributed every two years or on request.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS - Send news.

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BULLETIN BOARD

* Cyanos meet the World Wide Web

NEWS

* Mystery of the swimming *Synechococcus*

* Oxidase alternatives united

* Codon usage by *Synechocystis* PCC 6803

* Cyanobacteria quantitated by competitive PCR

* Peptide synthetase genes of *Microcystis*

* Blue-greens bring death to millions?

MEETING REPORTS:

* Cyanobacterial Mol Bio Workshop

* Cyanobacteriology Seminar for Students

LATEST REFERENCES

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The Web

For those of you who have experienced the World Wide Web, no explanation is necessary. For those of you who have not, no explanation is possible... nonetheless, here's an attempt. Imagine an encyclopedia that is continuously and instantaneously being updated by its readers strewn throughout the world. Each entry, or homepage, is a collection of pertinent text, graphic images, and sounds deemed appropriate by its creator, plus instant connections to other entries. You can visit a homepage and consume or even download items of interest or you can surf from connection to connection, often finding yourself far afield from where you started.

There are already several homepages of interest to cyanobacteriologists. Ben Long (La Trobe U.) is perhaps furthest along in a homepage devoted to cyanobacteriology. The focus of his homepage is TOXIC CYANOBACTERIA and currently includes:

1. A short introduction to microcystins, including diagrams
2. A description of *Microcystis aeruginosa*, including a scanning EM picture
3. Preliminary information on protein phosphatases
4. Information on Cyano-Tox, a discussion group on toxic cyanobacteria and their toxins
5. Access to *Cyanonews*, including back issues and the *Directory of Cyanobacteriologists*
6. Links to some other relevant homepages

The site is still under construction (and probably always will be), and Ben is anxious to receive feedback, submissions, and suggestions for additions. In particular, he would like contributions that update or correct any errors on the existing page and information from those who work on other cyanobacterial toxins (or secondary metabolites). Even

contributions that are only tangentially related to toxic cyanobacteria are welcome, as the more information available on any topic will make the page much more useful. Some people have indicated eagerness to see pictures of their favorite cyanos. Any pictures (in GIF format) are welcome! Ben is also interested to make contact with someone well versed in HTML, the language of making web pages. The page may also be used as a bulletin board for up and coming events. Please send them in!

CONTACT: Ben Long, TEL: 61 3 9479 2771, FAX: 61 3 9479 1188

WEB: <http://Luff.Latrobe.Edu.Au/~BotBML/Cyanotox.Html>

E-MAIL: BotBML@Luff.Latrobe.Edu.Au

Mark Schneegurt (Purdue U.) is initiating a GENERAL CYANOBACTERIOLOGY web site, which should be up and running the middle of January, 1996. It will eventually contain a searchable bibliography of cyanobacteria-related articles. Anyone with items that would be of interest -- e.g., lists of gene names, sequenced genes, etc. Mark is especially interested in protocols and teaching materials. Items can be sent to him by E-mail or FTP.

CONTACT: Mark Schneegurt E-MAIL: MSchnee@Bilbo.Bio.Purdue.Edu

WEB: (to be announced)

The University of Arizona, Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry has put together a site devoted to matters of PHOTOSYNTHESIS.

WEB: <http://aspin.asu.edu/provider/photosyn/>

The University of Antwerp runs a site that collects rRNA SEQUENCES.

WEB: <http://www-rrna.uia.ac.be/>