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MORPHOLOGY & ECOLOGY OF SELECTED BGA (*AULOSIRA, TOLYPOTHRIX, ANABAENA, NOSTOC)*

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ABSTRACT

The cyanobacteria are an ancient group of prokaryotic organisms that are found all over the world in environments as diverse as Antarctic soils and volcanic hot springs, and often where no other vegetation can exist. Being prokaryotes they share with others of their type the lack of a nucleus and a laminated extracellular wall. Unlike photosynthetic bacteria however, cyanobacteria possess chlorophyll-a in common with photosynthetic eukaryotes, and they liberate oxygen during photosynthesis. Cyanobacteria are ubiquitous in waters of a great range of salinity and temperature, and they occur in and on the soil as well as on rocks and in their fissures. As well, they form symbiotic and commensal relationships with a number of other organisms. In general, they are most abundant from waters with a neutral or slightly alkaline pH and can exhibit diurnal variation in abundance in waters with low buffering capacity. The name "blue-green algae" derives from the fact that the first species to be recognised and named were blue-green in colour, and although most species are in fact blue-green many are not.

KEYWORDS: Cyanobacteria, Prokaryotic, Antarctic Soils, Volcanic Hot Springs, Chlorophyll-A, Symbiotic etc