MYSTERY OF ALGAL RESISTANCE TO HEAVY METALS

Summary

It is known that heavy metal pollution in aquatic environments causes significant changes in algal diversity and community structure. Some species or only some populations are able, however, to survive in the presence of elevated metal concentrations. The observed algal resistance to toxic metals seems to be dependent on a range of factors limiting toxic metal bioavailability, but mainly on intrinsic features of the organisms. Many different mechanisms of metal resistance were reported, however, the phenomenon is still not fully understood, because it seems to be both species/ecotype- and metal-dependent. The author of the article tries to make some progress in explaining of the mechanisms of algal survival and adaptation to environments of high metal concentrations, by studying production with thiol peptides in different ecotypes.