

Unravelling the algae

the past, present, and future of algal systematics

Reveals the revolutionary impact of molecular tools on algal taxonomy

Acting as titans in global control of the biosphere and colonizing virtually all corners of the earth, algae are extremely diverse and numerous oxygenic, photosynthetic organisms and can be major players in and drivers of environmental change. For hundreds of years, since their evolutionary origins by endosymbiosis, when a protozoan enslaved a cyanobacterium, fascinated scientists strove to uncover the mysteries of their diversity, interactions, taxonomy, and classification. Today, new molecular tools and technologies such as chromatography and genetic fingerprinting reveal the innermost secrets of algal ancestry and phylogeny and open new possibilities to answering age-old questions.

Providing unparalleled access to the encyclopedic information revealed by the latest in molecular tools, **Unravelling the Algae: The Past, Present, and Future of Algal Systematics** discusses the extent to which these tools broaden our understanding of the immense diversity of algae and revolutionize ideas of taxonomy and classification.

Bringing together the most respected scientists in the field, this book

- Captures the most up-to-date thinking on the taxonomy and classification of algae
- Assesses the impact of molecular tools and other modern techniques on the ancestry, phylogeny, and taxonomy of algal groups
- Introduces contemporary perspectives and contrasting views on the evolution of algae and the concept of classification
- Addresses systematics for virtually all algal groups ranging from microalgae through macroalgae to ultraplankton
- Explores the impact of genomics on algal systematics and discusses future directions for research
- Includes six pages of colour illustrations



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