

Advancements in Environmental Biotechnology



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

S.No.	Chapter Title and Authors Name	Page No.
Chapter 1	Salicylic Acid Combating Mancozeb Toxicity in Plants ShadmaAndleeb Khan, Nida Sultan, Laxmi And Aisha Kamal*	1-21
Chapter 2	Current Trends and Future Prospects of Bioplastics RabiyaAkram, Shareen Fatima Rizvi and Roohi*	22-37
Chapter 3	Biochemical Response of Nitrogen Fixing Cyanobacterium <i>Nostocmuscorum</i> to Metallic Nanoparticles Towards Environmental Sustainability Sadaf Jahan and Alvina Farooqui*	38-67
Chapter 4	Effect of Brassinolide and Salicylic Acid on Growth, Quality and Quantity of Essential Oil Components in Palmarosa (<i>Cymbopogonmartinii</i>) Imran Ansari, AhamadFaiz Khan*, Farina Mujeeb, Bushra AhmadSuhail Ahmad, Gyanendra Tripathi	68-92
Chapter 5	Selection of Natural Bioactive Compounds for The Management of Type 2 diabetes using <i>In-silico</i> Approach Suhail Ahmad and AlvinaFarooqui*	93-122
Chapter 6	Effect of Plant Growth Regulator GA₃ (Gibberellic acid) on Essential Oil Yield in Lemongrass	123-157

	<i>(Cymbopogonflexuosus)</i> Mehtab Khan, AhamadFaiz Khan*, Farina Mujeeb, Bushra AhmadSuhail Ahmad, GyanendraTripathi	
Chapter 7	A Potent Source of Bioactive Compound c- phycoyanin from Cyanobacterial Strain <i>Plectonema Boryanumas</i> BhoomikaVarshney, Gauresh Sharma, PriyaKumari And ArchanaVimal*	158-173
Chapter 8	Microbial Biodegradation of Polymers Ramsha Ahrar, Reena Vishvakarma*	174-193
Chapter 9	Combating Bulk and Nano Metal Toxicity Using Cyanobacteria Zairish Imran, Reena Vishva karma*	194-216
Chapter 10	Production of C-Phycocyanin from Cyanobacteria for Nitrogen Source of Plants Safia Baig, Gauresh Sharama, Eram Shakeel and Archana Vimal*	217-235

CHAPTER 3
BIOCHEMICAL RESPONSE OF THE NITROGEN FIXING
CYANOBACTERIUM *NOSTOCMUSCORUM* TO METALLIC
NANOPARTICLES: AN APPROACH TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY

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Abstract

Indiscriminate use of nanomaterials and excessive heavy metal discharge into the environment calls for the better understanding of their toxicological effects on the ecosystem. Though these particles have various vital applications in multiple sectors, there is an increasing concern related to the potential hazards of these nanoparticles to the human health and environment. In recent years, many studies are focusing on the toxicity of different nanoparticles including silver nanoparticles. However, the exact mechanisms, as well as the toxicity contribution from its ionic and nano-form, is still very much unknown. For analyzing their toxic effects cyanobacteria is emerging as our model system. Cyanobacteria is known to accumulate heavy metals and act as a sink for many aquatic contaminants. Effect of metallic nanoparticles stress on enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidants is also studied as a biomarker for stress. This chapter aims to present and discuss the various applications and (eco) toxicity of silver nanoparticles to understand the use of these nanoparticles in a safe way. A significant conclusion includes the need for a risk-benefit analysis for all applications and eventually restrictions of the uses where a clear benefit cannot be demonstrated. Thus, the understanding of the responses incurred in cyanobacteria during heavy metal and metal nanoparticle stress can be very well used to evaluate their toxic responses in the environment.

Keywords: *Nanoparticle; Cyanobacteria; Biomarker; Sustainability.*