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**Progress and Perspectives  
in Aquatic Microbial Ecology:  
Highlights of the SAME 10,  
Faro, Portugal, September  
2007**

Editor: Paul A. del Giorgio



Phytoplankton bloom off the coast of Portugal.

Photo: NASA

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*The 10th meeting of the Symposium on Aquatic Microbial Ecology (SAME 10) was held on 2–7 September 2007 at the Universidade do Algarve, Faro, Portugal, and brought together more than 200 scientists from over 30 countries.*

*This first Aquatic Microbial Ecology (AME) SPECIAL, based on the SAME 10, brings together a set of interesting and diverse papers contributed by the 7 invited plenary speakers of the Symposium plus 4 additional papers that are the result of targeted thematic workshops that were carried out during the meeting.*

*These papers cover a wide range of ecosystems — including open and coastal oceans, estuaries and freshwaters — as well as most microbial compo-*

*nents, from planktonic prokaryotes, bacteria and protists to benthic and biofilm communities.*

*The papers in AME SPECIAL 1 aim to provide a wide spectrum of readers with a synthesis and critical analysis of a range of key contemporary issues in our discipline, including new discoveries and paradigm shifts, cutting-edge technical developments and specific examples of current ecological problems.*

*We are pleased to make the online version of this SPECIAL available with Open Access.*

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