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Volume 56, Numbers 2 and 3  
**AME SPECIAL 2, 2009**

Published in print September 2009

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**Progress and perspectives in  
aquatic primary productivity:  
highlights of the GAP VIII  
Workshop, Eilat, Israel, 2008**

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Collage: Hagar Art, based on images by  
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*SPECIALS of Aquatic Microbial Ecology (AME) present multi-author syntheses initiated and coordinated by acknowledged experts. They highlight cutting-edge research areas or problems and/or bring together cogent bodies of literature on all aspects of microbiology in aquatic environments.*

*AME SPECIAL 2 is based on presentations and experiments from the 8th International Workshop of the Group for Aquatic Primary Productivity (GAP). The papers cover a diverse range of topics within the field, encompassing syntheses of topics such as the relative magnitudes of photosynthesis and respiration, and the global contributions of oxygenic vs. anoxygenic producers; investigations of analytical methods; studies on the effects of nutrient delivery to photosynthesis; investigations of producers in extreme (ultrasaline) conditions and in mass culture.*

*The discussions and findings in AME SPECIAL 2 are relevant to interpretation of experimental data, laboratory- to global-scale estimates of productivity, and the nascent field of commercial-scale culture of microalgae for biofuels or feedstocks.*

*This AME SPECIAL is being published in parallel to a THEME SECTION on primary production in seagrasses and macroalgae in [Aquatic Biology, Volume 7](#).*

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