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**Rassoulzadegan at Villefranche-sur-Mer:  
3 decades of aquatic microbial ecology**

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*Fereidoun Rassoulzadegan over the years*

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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 or problems and/or bring together cogent bodies of literature on all aspects of microbiology in aquatic environments.*

*AME SPECIAL 3 celebrates 3 decades of microbial ecology in the career thus far of Fereidoun Rassoulzadegan. He began his career working on ciliate microzooplankton in the 1970s and was one of the pioneers bringing microbial food webs into the limelight. His contributions over the past 30 years have spanned from the nutrition of tintinnid ciliates to, in recent*

*years, the relationships between limiting nutrients and dissolved organic carbon dynamics. This year he will be assuming a new role, that of 'Emeritus'. To mark the occasion we are publishing this Special Issue of AME, composed of contributions solicited from leading researchers in the field of aquatic microbial ecology.*

*In honour of Fereidoun Rassoulzadegan, we are pleased to make the online version of this Special Issue available with Open Access and to distribute print copies to numerous colleagues in the field.*

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