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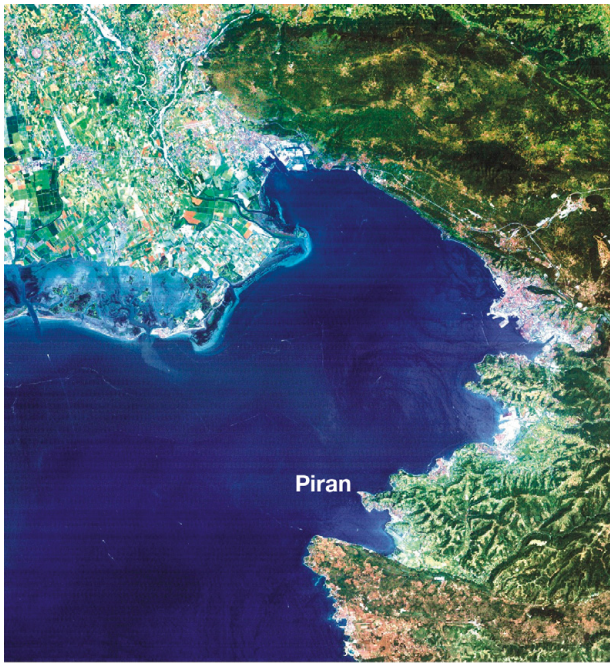
Progress and perspectives in aquatic microbial ecology: Highlights of the SAME 11, Piran, Slovenia, 2009



Landsat 5-TM image of the Gulf of Trieste in the northern Adriatic Sea

Photo: B. Peterlin

Editor: Paul A. del Giorgio

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 4 is composed of papers contributed by the invited plenary speakers of the 11th Symposium on Aquatic Microbial Ecology (SAME 11) hosted by the Marine Biology Station in Piran, Slovenia, from August 30 to September 4, 2009. It offers readers a synthesis and critical analysis of key contemporary issues in aquatic microbial ecology, highlighting new discoveries, paradigm shifts and technical developments, and providing specific examples of current ecological problems. Topics covered include microbial effects of ocean acidification, the molecular basis of microbial nitrogen cycling, the challenges of interpreting massive amounts of sequencing data, the role of phosphorus in the functioning of microbial systems, and bacterial–zooplankton interactions.

The findings and discussions in AME SPECIAL 4 are of interest to a wide spectrum of AME readers, from graduate students starting their careers to senior scientists seeking to keep updated on developments in the field.

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