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Presence of benzoate-type toxins in *Gymnodinium catenatum* Graham isolated from the Mexican Pacific

Jose Bustillos Guzman, Paulo Vale & Christine Johanna Band Schmidt

Benzoate type toxins have been described as an important component of *Gymnodinium catenatum* cells. In this paper we study these toxins in a *G. catenatum* strain isolated from the Mexican coast. A partition of the toxins was done by solid-phase extraction on a COOH cartridge and detected by HPLC coupled to fluorescence after pre-column periodate oxidation. Two groups of the hydrophobic analogues of saxitoxin were identified: those containing a sulphate group in the benzoate moiety instead of a hydroxyl group like GC1/2 or GC3 and the hydroxy-benzoate analogues, with a sulphate group at the eleventh position of the STX core present or absent (GCs-GTX and GCs-STX analogues, respectively). These toxins are more abundant, in a relative basis, when comparing with a *G. catenatum* toxin content isolated from Portugal. This is the first report of the presence of these toxins in a Mexican strain.

Palabras clave: *Gymnodinium catenatum*, toxinas benzoato

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