

English

A NEW ANTIBIOTIC OF MARINE ORIGIN SYNTHESISED IN THE LABORATORY

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As bacteria are becoming increasingly resistant to known antibiotics, researchers are on the lookout for new compounds with antibiotic properties. Over the last 30 years, the ocean has proved to be a major source of these compounds, which are of interest to the pharmaceutical industry. A molecule known as baringolin has been isolated in a micro-organism off the coast of Alicante, Spain, by BioMar. The molecule has just been reproduced in the laboratory by a team from the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB) in Barcelona, which has also revealed its structure. This advance should help us to understand how the molecule works and to create derivatives that should lead to the design of a drug within the next ten years.

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