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**MARINE BIOFILM COMMUNITIES COLONIZING ANTIFOULING PAINTS IN
THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

Mercedes Camps¹, Gérald Gregori², Agnès Bouchez³, Aude Barani⁴, Brigitte Le Berre³,
Christine Bressy¹, Yves Blache¹ & Jean-François Briand¹

¹ MAPIEM-EA 4223-Biofouling & Substances Naturelles Marines, Université du Sud
Toulon-Var, La Valette-du-Var, France

² UMR 7294 MIO- Aix-Marseille University, Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography,
13288 Marseille cedex 09, Marseille, France

³ INRA-UMR CARTEL-RITOXE, Thonon-Les-Bains, France

⁴ PRECYM UMR 7294 MIO- Aix-Marseille University, Mediterranean Institute of
Oceanography, 13288 Marseille cedex 09, Marseille, France

*E-mail: briand@univ-tln.fr

When immersed in sea water, any substrate would be rapidly colonized by micro and then macroorganisms (Wahl, 1989). This complex and sequential natural process called biofouling induces economical and ecological prejudices, especially talking about ship hull or aquaculture nets (e.g. Schultz et al. 2011).

In situ biofilm communities of antifouling coatings immersed in Toulon harbour (France, North-Western Mediterranean Sea) were studied. Immersion was performed in July during one month in order to get mature biofilms beyond pioneer stages (Briand et al. 2012). Complex biofilm communities were described, in term of both abundance and diversity, using flow cytometry, inverted microscopy and PCR-DGGE on six different coatings in triplicates, including coatings with biocides (...) and without bioicides (...). Coatings without biocides (including the reference) showed higher densities than biocidal paints, whatever the group of microorganisms (bacteria, cyanobacteria, pico- and nanoeukaryotes, diatoms). Significant variations for both abundance and diversity were observed between the coatings depending on the microorganism groups. Despite each antifouling coating included a cocktail of biocides, some of them seemed to display specific toxicity.