ISOLATION OF PLANCTOMYCETES FROM THE ATACAMA DESERT - finding novel strains of a notoriously difficult bacteria phylum in an extreme environment

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Planctomycetes are a key part of the microbial mats of the salt lakes in Atacama desert, Chile, though they have **never been isolated in pure cultures**. They can produce bioactive molecules that can be used as antibiotics or have anticancer properties, which is a reason they should be extensively studied. The salt lakes in Atacama are threatened by mining of mineral resources. Therefore, studies highlighting the importance of organisms living there, are extremely important.





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