

Development of more efficient and durable sunscreen using seaweed

LOCATION: Malaga

LENGTH: 1'32"

SUMMARY: Researchers from the Department of Medicine and Dermatology at the University of Malaga and the Department of Photochemistry at the University of La Rioja, have developed compounds that make sunscreens stronger and more durable – protection that can last up to 24 hours.

VTR:

Imagine not having to repeat this again and again throughout the day. Researchers from the University of Malaga and the University of La Rioja have developed more efficient and durable sunscreens, using fungi and seaweed.

José Aguilera
Researcher at the University of
Malaga

"And the great benefit of these molecules, the strength that they provide."

Enrique Herrera
Professor at the University of
Malaga

"Right now, the products that we have last only three or four hours – with a stabiliser we could say six, seven hours – however we have confirmed that pure mycosporine, synthesised but with nothing else added, can last 24-36 hours."

In these laboratories at the University of Malaga they have proven the strength of these sunscreens made from natural molecules found in seaweed which, in La Rioja, they have managed to artificially synthesise in the lab.

José Aguilera
Researcher at the University of
Malaga

"This plant, which is the same as the one we all eat in sushi - 'nori seaweed wrap – synthesises certain amino acids, known as mycosporine-like amino acids. And the good thing about this amino acid is that it absorbs a lot of ultraviolet radiation."

The industry has already taken an interest in this research for commercial development, however in the laboratory they are still planning to go further.

Enrique Herrera
Professor at the University of
Malaga

"We are seeing the possibility of giving it to patients, in capsules, to see whether we could manage to create a good, strong sunscreen that could be taken orally, which, logically, would be much more convenient and does not exist at the moment."

They are also thinking about the possibility of applying these protective molecules to fabrics.