



Almeria researchers searching for new, more resistant antibiotics made from micro-algae

LOCATION: Almeria

LENGTH: 1'30"

SUMMARY: Researchers from the Chemistry department at the University of Almeria are taking part in a project made up of 14 research teams from 9 different countries, which aims to discover natural antibiotics made from micro-algae which may be useful in the treatment of bacteria resistant to antibiotics.

VTR:

Micro-algae could be the main ingredient of new antibiotics. This is the premise of the research Project 'NoMorfilm' that the University of Almeria is participating in, together with 8 other countries.

Fernando López
Researcher at the University of Almeria

"The aim of this project is to find new antibiotics extracted from marine micro-algae, as well as micro-algae from rivers, to fight resistant bacteria."

The study also considers the possibility that these antibiotics could fight the film formed by bacteria on devices and implants such as pacemakers or valves.

Fernando López
Researcher at the University of Almeria

"The misuse and abuse of antibiotics, and the lack of research towards developing new products, means that we are finding ourselves with a very serious problem, in that we don't have anything with which to fight those bacteria which have already become resistant."

Some researchers cultivate micro-algae, others take extracts, and in Almeria they use MRI scans to determine which compounds show antibacterial activity.

Raquel González
Researcher at the University of Almeria

"Once we have determined which is the active compound, this compound can be used to develop new drugs, new antibiotics."

For this, it would have to be produced in large quantities and first be tested on animals. Bacteria's resistance to antibiotics has become a serious problem.

Fernando López
Researcher at the University of Almeria

"Both in the USA and in Europe, it is estimated that 25,000 deaths a year are caused by resistant antibiotics."

This investigation hopes to use natural ingredients to put an end to infections that are currently impossible to fight.

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