

National Bank of Algae - BNA

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The National Bank of Algae - BNA was founded in 1998 and formerly located at the Centre of Applied Algology (CAA), University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The culture collection was a result of the CAA research on cultivation of hypersaline, marine, brackish and wastewater selected strains of macroalgae, microalgae and cyanobacteria.

The Spanish Parliament has recognised the National Bank of Algae (161/000706, April 30th 2001) and urged the Spanish Government to establish the BNA and its accreditation as International Deposit Authority of Microorganisms according to the Budapest Treaty of April 28th of 1997.

BNA is member of the European Culture Collection Organization (ECCO) since 2001 and of the World Federation of Culture Collection (WFCC; registration number 837) since 2003. BNA has the support of the Spanish Phycological Society (SEF) and the Spanish Scientific Research Center (CSIC).

BNA aims are to preserve the Macaronesic biodiversity, to be an important service for basic and applied research and a tool to impulse the development of specific industrial sectors (mariculture, aquaculture, biotechnology, pharmaceutical and nutritional industry). Their activities are to:

- Isolate, purificate and preservate local, African and Macaronesic strains of macroalgae, microalgae and cyanobacteria (seawater, brackish, hypersaline and fresh water, soil and symbiotic strains)
- Preserve protected and threaten species
- Supply cultures for using in research, teaching and industry
- Serve as deposit of strains
- Offer culture information, consulting and training of technicians.

Actually the collection comprises type strains and local strains of macroalgae, microalgae and cyanobacteria maintained under controlled laboratory conditions