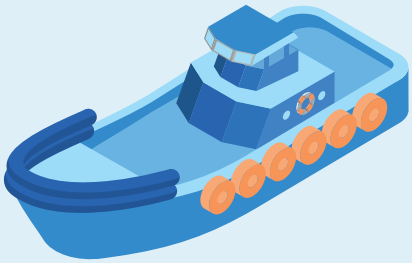
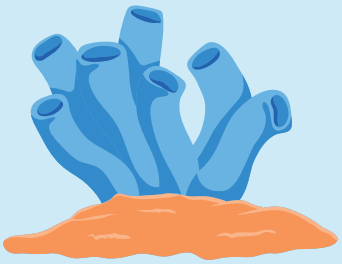
Bluetools

Compounds From Microorganisms Living in Corals and Other Marine Animals

Sampling

Across the globe, the Bluetools project looks for microorganisms associated with other animals. Among the sample areas is the Port of Alicante. A port is the ideal place to discover new compounds because it has a lot of biodiversity brought by ships that travel around the world.





Collecting tunicates

Tunicates, also known as ascidians, grow easily in ports, and the microorganisms living on them produce antibiotics and anti-cancer compounds. That's why we collect them: to learn more about these compounds.

In the lab

We need to identify the different species of ascidians and microbes. We also process our samples to study the microorganisms and their genomes.

Separating

It is important to distinguish DNA from microorganisms from DNA from tunicates and corals since they are not our focus. That's why we process and separate them.

DNA analysis

Finally, we analyse the DNA from the microorganisms to find regions that can be of interest in producing useful compounds for multiple applications. These results can then be used by our industrial partners, improving the European Blue Economy.

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