

# **Diseases in seaweeds: an introduction**

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## **Abstract**

Andrews (1976) provided the first comprehensive review of the state of the knowledge on algal diseases. He drew attention to the importance of marine algal pathology, '... as it relates directly to algal and indirectly to fish production...'. However, it was clear to Andrews at that time that algal pathology, as a discipline, had a very low profile within phycology. Reports were inconclusive, sometimes anecdotal and usually centered on the description of the infecting organisms. Andrews, himself a plant pathologist, became aware of the lack of interaction between phytopathologists and traditional phycologists who occasionally reported on algal diseases. By introducing rigorous observational and experimental protocols, similar to those used in phytopathological studies, Andrews set the standards for studying algal infectious diseases (Andrews, 1976; 1977; see also Andrews & Goff, 1985).