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24th July 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached a manuscript entitled: “Aluminium induced DNA-damage and oxidative stress in cultures of the marine sponge *H perlevis*” which we would like to be considered for publication in the journal of Marine Science. The data presented herein reports the application of a culture model using cryo-preserved marine sponge cells (*H Perlevis*) that we have developed previously to investigate the genotoxic potential of aluminium chloride utilising the alkaline comet assay to detect single-stranded DNA breaks. We show a significant concentration-dependent response that is correlated with levels of intracellular ROS. Aluminum is a toxic metal of environmental concern and to the best of our knowledge this is the first time that the alkaline comet assay has been used in this species to detect its genotoxic effects.

Yours sincerely,



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