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The Effects of Sunscreen on *Artemia salina*

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Abstract

Oxybenzone is an organic compound that is used in numerous sunscreens in the United States. While its main purpose is to absorb UVA rays and protect humans from skin cancers, it is beginning to become present in water systems and even municipally treated water. Aquatic organisms are drastically effected by this chemical either through consumption or absorption through their bodies. The purpose of this study was to observe the effects of Oxybenzone on *Artemia salina* or Brine Shrimp. The Oxybenzone is predicted to be lethal to the Brine Shrimp in higher concentrations. At the end of the experiment, this hypothesis was proven to be correct. The Brine Shrimp that were put into higher concentrations of sunscreen with the chemical Oxybenzone had higher mortality rates.