

Cosmetic Applications of Red Algae – A Review.

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From National Conference on Natural Products as therapeutics, Medical Microbiology, Nanobiology and System biology: Current Scenario & Emerging Trends, 'NATCON-2014'.

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18-19 September 2014.

American J of Bio-pharm Biochem and Life Sci 2014 September, Vol. 4 (Suppl 1): P 82

ABSTRACT

The marine environment is enriched with a variety of organisms that provides a wide range of biologically important compounds that are useful for the cosmetic benefit of humans. This review provides a complete overview of applications of red algae in cosmetics industry. The red algae or Rhodophyta are one of the oldest groups of eukaryotic algae with many therapeutic applications. The red marine algae are useful in General health benefits such as weight-loss programs and for lowering cholesterol and fat in the blood. Algae extracts integrated into cosmetics is recommended to increase cell dynamism and cell regeneration ability. Gigartina is a type of Red Marine Algae (RMA) that has been found effective for Skin, Hair, Nails, and Immunity. Marine red algae of genus Laurencia are becoming the most important resources to produce unique natural metabolites with wide bioactivities. The cosmetic industry uses red algae as a thickening and water-binding agent as well as an antioxidant. It is rich in vitamins and minerals. Red Algae conditions and hydrates the skin while it nourishes, rejuvenates, detoxifies and replenishes minerals and acts as a emollients or antioxidants. Algae can stop or eliminate wrinkling, heal skin, or provide other elaborate benefits. Extracts of red algae are often found as ingredients in face, hand, body creams or lotions, but the use of algae themselves, rather than extracts, is still limited.