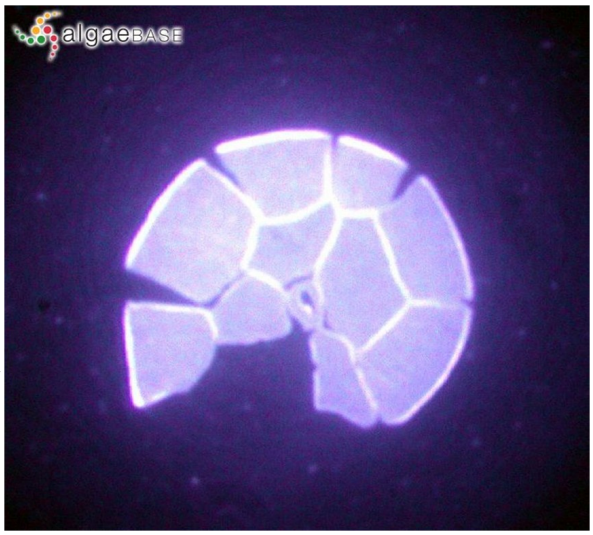
Alexandrium tamarense

Dinoflagellate



Threat Scores

1. Ecological Impact
    - Planktonic dinoflagellate species associated with toxic paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) events around the world
    - Produces very potent PSP neurotoxins which can affect humans, other mammals, fish and birds
    - Responsible for numerous human illnesses and several deaths after consumption of infected shellfish
    - Resting cysts of A. tamarense can also harbor PSP toxins, more than ten times as toxic as their motile stage counterparts
    - During a red tide event reported in the Faroe Islands, Norway
2. Invasive Potential
    - Disperses through water column, tides, and in ships ballast
3. Geographic Extent
    - Regionally pervasive
4. Management Difficulty
    - No known eradications or controls for this invasive species

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Australia, Gulf of Thailand, Japan
2. Introduced: upper Atlantic Coast
3. Habitats
    - Cold water estuarine species

Invasion Pathways

1. Aquaculture and mariculture activities
2. Natural spread

Non-Native Locations

1. 40- Gulf of Maine, Bay of Fundy

Sources

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