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In situ* Uptake of Mercury by the Intertidal Mussel, *Mytilus Californianus

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ABSTRACT

The *in situ* uptake of mercury in tissues of *Mytilus californianus* was studied by exposing control specimens to waters at four depths near a submarine wastewater discharge for a period of 24 weeks. The response patterns observed for digestive gland, adductor muscle and gonadal tissues were strikingly different. Digestive gland concentrations increased rapidly to the heightened levels found for indigenous specimens. On the other hand, changes in the mercury content of adductor muscle were not statistically significant, and gonadal tissues generally exhibited a low rate of increase.

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