

General Features of Cyanotoxins

Toxin group	Primary target organ in mammals	Cyanobacterial genera
Cyclic peptides		
Microcystins	Liver	<i>Microcystis, Anabaena, Planktothrix (Oscillatoria), Nostoc, Hapalosiphon, Anabaenopsis</i>
Nodularin	Liver	<i>Nodularia</i>
Alkaloids		
Anatoxin-a	Nerve synapse	<i>Anabaena, Planktothrix (Oscillatoria), Aphanizomenon</i>
Anatoxin-a(s)	Nerve synapse	<i>Anabaena</i>
Aplysiatoxins	Skin	<i>Lyngbya, Schizothrix, Planktothrix (Oscillatoria)</i>
Cylindrospermopsins	Liver	<i>Cylindrospermopsis, Aphanizomemon, Umezakia</i>
Lyngbyatoxin-a	Skin, gastrointestinal tract	<i>Lyngbya</i>
Saxitoxins	Nerve axons	<i>Anabaena, Aphanizomenon, Lyngbya, Cylindrospermopsis</i>
Lipopolysaccharides (LGS)	Potential irritant; affects any exposed tissue	All

From: WHO. 1999. Toxic Cyanobacteria in Water: A guide to their public health consequences, monitoring and management. Edited by Ingrid Chorus and Jamie Bartram. E & FN Spon. London and New York.