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Biosurfactants: Applications in pharmacy and medicines

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Biosurfactants or bioemulsifiers are the surface active compounds released by microorganisms and have both hydrophilic and hydrophobic moieties. Biosurfactant production depends upon physicochemical factors and it is directly proportional to growth of the organism. They are non toxic, biodegradable and environment friendly. They reduce surface tension and interfacial tension by the same mechanisms like chemical surfactants. These biosurfactants has tremendous applications in various fields such as in oil recovery, cosmetics, agriculture, food, pharmacy and medicine. Biosurfactants has antimicrobial as well as anticancer activity. They are also used as anti adhesive agents as they have ability to disrupt the biofilm. It also showed antiviral activity.