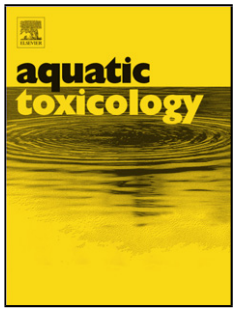

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Toxicological impact of cadmium-based quantum dots towards aquatic biota: Effect of natural sunlight exposure

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Highlights

- Under sunlight exposure, all QDs form particle aggregates in the different media
- CdSeS/ZnS QDs showed lower toxic effects to *V. fischeri* before sunlight exposure
- Sunlight exposure decreased the toxicity of CdS 480 in all organisms
- Sunlight exposure increased the toxicity of CdS 380 QDs for *D. magna*
- Shell of QDs seemed to make them less harmful to aquatic organisms