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**Profiling of carotenoids and antioxidant capacity of microalgae from subtropical coastal and brackish waters**

Running title: Carotenoids and antioxidant capacity of subtropical microalgae

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**Abstract**

Carotenoids are associated with various health benefits, such as prevention of age-related macular degeneration, cataract, certain cancers, rheumatoid arthritis, muscular dystrophy and cardiovascular problems. As microalgae contain considerable amounts of carotenoids, there is a need to find species with high carotenoid content. Out of hundreds of Australian isolates, twelve microalgal species were screened for carotenoid profiles, carotenoid productivity, and

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