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Microbial ecology of Keane Wonder Spring, Death Valley National Park

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This research is focused on developing a better understanding of the physiological and phylogenetic diversity as well as environmental abundance of bacteria of the genus: *Shewanella* in selected desert ecosystems. Prior research from this laboratory has revealed that these bacteria are very abundant in sulfur- and organic-rich aquatic habitats. We have selected a number of habitats for detailed investigation (cultivation, molecular ecology and relevant environmental chemistry) including the Tropicana Wash, spring in Death Valley, the lower Virgin River and possibly Big Soda Lake, Nevada.

