

Xenobiotic Encyclopedia Article

Xenobiotic

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Xenobiotic

Designating a foreign and usually harmful substance or organism in a biological system. Xenobiotic, derived from the Greek root *xeno*, meaning "stranger" or "foreign," and *bio*, meaning "life," describes some toxic substances, **parasites**, and symbionts. Food, drugs, and poisons are examples of xenobiotic substances in individual organisms, and their toxicity is linked to the level of consumption. In communities or **species**, xenobiosis happens when two distinct species, such as different kinds of ants, share living space like nests. At the **ecosystem** level, toxic waste, when bioaccumulated in the **food chain/web**, is xenobiotic.

See Also

Bioaccumulation; Hazardous Waste; Symbiosis