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RED TIDE USED IN ANIMAL FEED

Experiments show that red tide, *Gonyaulax polyedra*, a single celled plant pest, is a safe food for laboratory animals. According to a team of California and Pennsylvania researchers, rats thrive as well on red tide as on a diet rich in casein, a high quality milk protein. Powdered red tide has up to 26 percent protein including all the amino acids necessary for nutrition. It could also be used as a protein feed for cows but humans cannot digest it.

Red tide, a type of phytoplankton at the beginning of the aquatic food chain, grows abundantly in the ocean off California and Florida. Some scientists believe that temperature and the oxygen content of ocean water control the rate of its growth. So far they have been able to harvest only small quantities of the abundant tide using fine nets and seines to collect it. (Reprinted with permission from "Science News," weekly summary of current science, copyrighted 1966 by Science Service, Inc.)