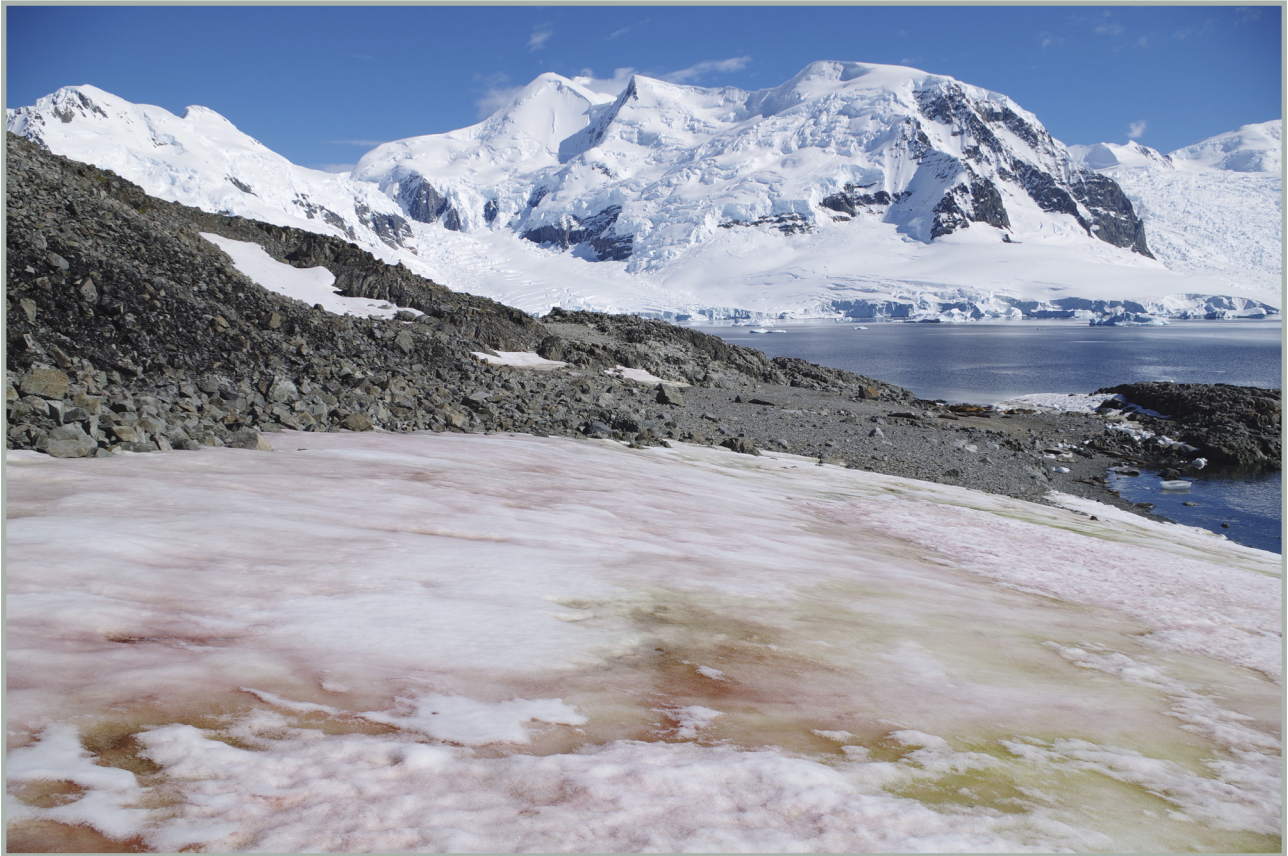


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COVER

Where melt occurs in surface snow in summer and nutrients are available, vibrant multi-coloured snow algae communities can develop, such as this example from Léonie Island, close to Adelaide Island off the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. Integrating their presence across the western Antarctic Peninsula region, these communities occupy a considerable area, comprise significant biomass and are an important contributor to carbon fixation and the flow of nutrients and organic matter into surrounding terrestrial and marine environments. Photo Peter Convey

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