

A RESEARCH VISIT TO THE
INSTITUTE FOR MARINE BIOSCIENCES,
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA
IN HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA
31.8. - 30.11.2006

www.nrc.gc.ca

The National Research Council (NRC) of Canada is well respected and one of the major research agencies in North America. The branch in Halifax, Institute for Marine Biosciences, IMB, is famous for its knowledge in the detection of marine toxins such as the Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxins, and for the production of Certified Reference Materials (CRM). The CRM program has already produced standards of tens of algal shellfish toxins and some environmental toxins, such as cylindrospermopsin and yessotoxins. The NRC-IMB in Halifax also has excellent resources of mass spectrometry.

The main purpose for my visit was to learn to utilise the MS instrumentation and to analyse cyanobacterial samples from the Baltic Sea. During my stay I learned a lot about the different MS-MS functions and the approach used at the NRC as how to identify unknown compounds in a sample by their structural components. I also participated in the CRM program, which produces valuable standards for research for the international research community. Our group is involved in this program by producing and purifying cyanobacterial toxins microcystins and nodularin for the CRM program.

The research visit was very useful in creating new contacts. The NRC has very frequently visitors from all around the world, and during my stay I got to know people from New Zealand, Australia, China, Peru, Ireland and obviously from Canada. I also participated in a tour to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, which is a close collaborator with the NRC.

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