

MACROINVERTEBRATE TAXONOMY PROFICIENCY TEST LTEST INVERTAXON 2017

Introduction

Participation in proficiency tests (PT) is a requirement for the implementation of quality management systems based on ISO/IEC standard 17025, in laboratories and organisations working on the determination of macroinvertebrates quality indexes.

In order to help your organization fulfilling these requirements, LABORATORIOS TECNOLÓGICOS DE LEVANTE organizes this proficiency test on a regular basis since 2009. The PT supports the implementation of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD), which aims at achieving a long-term high level protection of the aquatic environment. WFD requires biological indexes for the assessment of the status of water bodies, along with the chemical status indexes. The scope of this PT is to assess the performance of laboratories worldwide in the field of macroinvertebrate taxonomic determination.

The company

LABORATORIOS TECNOLÓGICOS DE LEVANTE (LTL) was set up in 2010 as an affiliate of Red Control, established in 1993. LTL comprises the environmental activities of the parent company. Our modern facilities are located in the Valencia Parc Tecnologic (Paterna-Spain).

With over 20 years' experience in analytical tests on water, sludge, waste, soil and food as well as everything related to water treatment, LTL works with all accreditations and certifications required in each field. This ensures the accuracy and reliability of the results obtained and the highest standard of work is performed for our customers.

LTL has always kept a special interest in incorporating the best technical specialists in each field and providing them with the most advanced means in the development of their function.

Our company is a pioneer in Spain; it was the first Spanish organization in achieving the accreditation of a biological quality index determination under ISO/IEC 17025. We are currently leading the accreditation status in Spain (diatom, fish, phytoplankton, and benthonic macroinvertebrates). Since 1999, we have performed the biological status assessment of different water masses in Spain.



References

- ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
- ISO/IEC 17043:2010. Conformity assessment -- General requirements for proficiency testing.
- ISO 8689-1:2000. Water quality -- Biological classification of rivers -- Part 1: Guidance on the interpretation of biological quality data from surveys of benthic macroinvertebrates.
- ISO 8689-2:2000. Water quality -- Biological classification of rivers -- Part 2: Guidance on the presentation of biological quality data from surveys of benthic macroinvertebrates.
- ISO 10870:2012. Water quality -- Guidelines for the selection of sampling methods and devices for benthic macroinvertebrates in fresh waters.
- EN 16150:2012. Water quality. Guidance on pro-rata Multi-Habitat sampling of benthic macro-invertebrates from wadeable rivers

THE PROFICIENCY TEST

Presentation: The proficiency test is organized in two independent phases, to assess the main stages of the determination:

1. In the **first phase**, a homogeneous prepared sample is sent to every participant, along with some images of individuals. The test material consists of representative macroinvertebrate taxa individuals that typically occur in freshwaters from the Mediterranean/Central Europe regions. Participants must perform the taxonomic classification of the individuals and forward the results in the form that will be delivered along with the sample. Additionally, images of different taxa individuals will be provided with the sample for identification of some less abundant taxa.
2. In the **second phase** (*participation is optional for this phase*), an on-site sampling and determination activity will be organized. During the on-site activity, participants will be proposed to sample macroinvertebrates in a homogeneous section of a river. Each participant will be assigned a sampling area, distributed so as not to interfere with adjacent areas. Participants must perform the taxonomic classification of the captured individuals and forward the results in the form that will be delivered to the participants.

Statistical and reporting treatment: once received the results of the participants, the organization will conduct a statistical study of the results and an individual assessment, according to criteria which will be described in the final report. Reports and certificates of participation will be available for every participant in their own private area in www.ltlevante.com. The identity of the participants will be coded to keep the confidentiality in the report. All documents will be produced in English. As a part of the proficiency tests' quality control, some samples of the prepared material will be re-tested by our staff and subsequently be DNA sequenced.

Schedule: In both phases, once the sample is delivered to the participants, results must be returned to the organization within 21 days. Reports will be prepared within one month from the result reporting deadline. Please, be advised that results received after the deadline may not be included in the final report. After receiving your participation form, a confirmation for your participation will be sent. The organization reserves the right to cancel the proficiency test if a sufficient number of participants is not achieved; due to the limited availability of prepared samples, the number of participants is limited. This confirmation implies the acceptance by the participant in all its terms. Invoices will be sent out to every participant after the registration period.

Please note that the samples will be sent out after receipt of the total participation fee. Any applicable bank charges are not included in the participation fee and therefore need to be paid by the participant.

Please apply online on <http://www.ltlevante.com/servicio.php?id=8&servicio=Proficiency%20Test&idioma=en> or send this form to:

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EXERCISE phase 1

Identification of macroinvertebrate taxa on a prepared sample

Scheduled date: February 2017
(samples will be sent on February, 13th, 2017)

*Shipping costs are not included for participants outside Spain. More info on the webpage.

EXERCISE phase 2

Sampling and identification of macroinvertebrate taxa in a river

Scheduled date: May 2017

* The IBMWP and 20 kicks protocols will be carried out on the same day

* The location of the sampling point will be communicated in advance to the participants (scheduled area: River Mijares near Montanejos - Castellón, Spain-).

REGISTRATION FORM

Organisation:			
Address:			
Postcode:		City:	
Region/State:			
Country:			
Phone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			
VAT Nr:			
Contact person:			
Invoicing data (only if different):			
Organización:			
Dirección:			
Potcode:		City:	
Region/State:			
Country:			
Phone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			
VAT Nr:			
Contact person:			

Please mark the phases of the exercise you wish to participate:

Phase 1 Exercise	Identification of macroinvertebrate taxa on a prepared sample. February 2017	659 €* (excluded shipping costs and applicable taxes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phase 2 Exercise	Sampling and macroinvertebrate identification of taxa in a river. May 2017		<input type="checkbox"/>

Registration deadline: 16th, January, 2017