

MACROINVERTEBRATE TAXONOMY PROFICIENCY TEST LTEST INVERTAXON 2019

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 organizations 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, covering lakes, ground water and coastal waters. 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 determination of Macroinvertebrate taxonomic determination.

The company

Laboratorios Tecnológicos de Levante, SL (LTL) was set up in 2010 as an affiliate of Red Control, SL, 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 food, water, sludge, waste and soil 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 equipping them with the most advanced means in the development of their function. Our company is a pioneer in Spain, being the first Spanish organization to achieve the accreditation of a biological quality index under ISO/IEC 17025. We are currently leading the accreditation status in Spain (diatom, fish, phytoplankton, and benthonic macroinvertebrates). Since 2003, we have performed the biological status assessment of different water masses in Spain.



References

ISO/IEC 17025:2017. 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 2: 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 macroinvertebrates from wadable 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. Optionally, identifications can be made at the genus level.

2. In the second 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 sent to every participant. The identity of the participants will be coded to keep the confidentiality in the report. All documents will be produced in English.

Schedule: In both phases, once received the sample by 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. This confirmation implies the acceptance by the participant in all its terms. Invoices will be sent out to every participant after the registration period.

- **Scheduled date Exercise phase 1: March-April 2019**
- **Scheduled date Exercise phase 2: May-June 2019**
- **Scheduled area: Mijares river near Montanejos (Castellón, Spain)**

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 www.ltlevante.com or send this form to:

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Fax: +34. 96.371.15.58

REGISTRATION FORM

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

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

Exercise phase 1	Identification of macroinvertebrate taxa on a prepared sample.	595 €* <input type="checkbox"/>				
Exercise phase 2	Sampling and macroinvertebrate identification of taxa in a river.	495 €* <input type="checkbox"/>				
Both exercises phase 1 & phase 2	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Identification of macroinvertebrate taxa on a prepared sample.</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sampling and macroinvertebrate identification of taxa in a river.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Identification of macroinvertebrate taxa on a prepared sample.		Sampling and macroinvertebrate identification of taxa in a river.		659 €* <input type="checkbox"/>
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Sampling and macroinvertebrate identification of taxa in a river.						

*excluded shipping costs and/or applicable taxes

Registration deadline: 28th, February, 2019