

Sample das Saarland



Thank you for joining this scientific campaign run by Helmholtz-Institute for Pharmaceutical Research Saarland (HIPS)!

Use your researcher ID and access code to register new soil samples right on the spot when you take them.

Moreover, you may also personally register on our website to take part in a prize draw. As a registered contributor, we will also send you a report if HIPS scientists discover something exciting from the soil samples you sent.

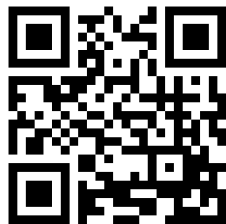
www.hips.saarland/sample

Researcher ID:

SBxxx

Access code:

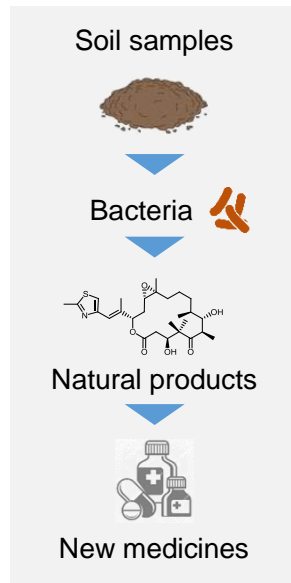
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Why should I help with this?

Searching for new natural products to develop them into future drugs is an undertaking that indeed concerns everyone

- The danger from emerging multi-resistant pathogens which cannot be treated with known drugs is steadily increasing
- Natural products made by bacteria and optimized in the course of evolution represent an important starting point for developing new antiinfectives
- Scientists at HIPS analyze soil samples in order to discover novel bacterial species, which are then investigated for their potential to produce new bioactive molecules



Soil samples – step by step

The aim of this campaign is to analyze as many samples as possible all across Saarland

- Take a look at the sample map on our website to find a spot not yet sampled – how about a little trip and taking a sample from there?
- Mostly natural and remote places are usually better for sample-taking than highly frequented places where humans and animals are around, such as e.g. in a public park
- Areas featuring lush vegetation and high biodiversity are preferred – such places may be found deep in the woods as well as in a garden.



How to collect the best samples

Collecting good soil samples is not too difficult if you consider a few basic hints

- Samples should be from „lively“ soil, e.g. loose ground material including rotten wood or plant pieces, ideally from a hidden spot like under a shrubbery or beneath dense trees
- Interesting soil samples could also come from your garden (ideally the organic type) or even from the compost pile
- If you are lucky you might even recognize fruiting bodies of soil bacteria under the magnifying glass
- Interesting samples could also be collected near to water, like sediments from the shore of a lake or the bed of a little stream



Less suitable sample materials:

Some sample materials are less (or not at all) suitable to find new soil bacteria

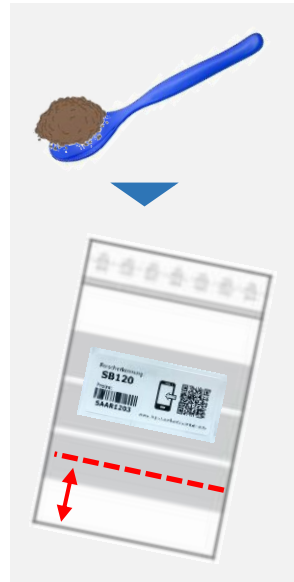
- Sample containing mostly water or which are very wet; although sediments e.g. from rivers are interesting, excessive water should be removed before filling them in the sample bag
- Non-natural or industrially contaminated soil, such as cement or mud from a water treatment plant is not promising
- Animal droppings are unsuitable because they contain a high load of contaminating bacteria (notable exception: rabbit dung, which is a very good substrate for certain types of soil bacteria)



Sample-taking and packaging

Use the plastic spoon to fill soil material into the provided sample bags and seal them

- 2-3 spoonful (a few Gramms) are enough – please do not overfill the sample bags
- The sample may contain organic material such as small pieces of wood or rotten leaves
- The sample material should not be too wet (like soil taken directly after a rain shower)
- Each sample kit contains three sample bags which might be used for samples from the same area or from completely distant places
- Each sample bag is already marked with a unique barcode label and your researcher ID.



Register samples online in Sample App

Use the Sample App to register your samples in our database including the exact location

- Scan the code or browse to the Sample App webpage: www.hips.saarland/sample-app
- Allow your device to automatically determine the geo location, in case the questions comes up
- Enter your researcher ID, access code and the sample number (from the barcode label)
- Now enter a short description for the type of sample material and the originating location
- No mobile internet? Don't worry, just remember the location and register your sample when you are back home or send your information to us by email: saarland-sample@helmholtz-hzi.de



Nearly done! Now send samples to HIPS

Place the three sample-containing bags in the supplied protective plastic bag, insert into the envelope, seal and post the letter

- Postage is paid by HIPS – no need to buy a stamp for your sample package
- When we receive your sample we will send you a confirmation email (that will be possible only if you have registered your researcher ID with your email address)
- We will also notify the winners of the prizdraw by email
- From time to time we will report about interesting findings on the website and by sending an email newsletter.

