

## **Information relating to ANNEX II**

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## **A. Information relating to the recipient or parental organism from which the GMO is derived**

1) The parental (host) organism is a member of the *Pseudomonas fluorescens* species of bacteria. It was first characterised by Shanahan *et al.* (1992).

2) Its complete name is *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain F113. The GMO, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113lacZY is based on this wildtype. The strain to be used in the release trial is a spontaneous rifampicin resistant mutant derivative of this GMO. The GMO, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113rifpcb, is derived from the parental organism *P. fluorescens* strain F113rif. *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113rif is a spontaneous rifampicin resistant derivative of the wild type organism *P. fluorescens* F113 (Brazil *et al.*, 1995).

3) Geographical distribution of the organism.

a) The isolation of *P. fluorescens* F113 were reported by Shanahan *et al.* (1992) whereby the organism was isolated from the root hairs of a sugar beet plant and characterised as a fluorescent bacteria, Gram-negative, nonfastidious with a motile rod that is oxidase and catalase positive which indicates that it is a member of the *Pseudomonas* species as outlined in *Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology* (Bergey, 1982).

b) The bacterial species *P. fluorescens* is an ubiquitous organism in Europe, they are common members of the microflora of soil and water. *P. fluorescens* F113 was first isolated from the rhizosphere of a sugar beet plant taken from soils in Counties Cork and Tipperary, Ireland (Atlantic ecosystem).

The isolation of the strain F113 outside Ireland, including Denmark, has not been reported. However, *P. fluorescens* strains equivalent to F113 can certainly be isolated from plant rhizosphere everywhere, as *P. fluorescens* is a normal inhabitant of plant rhizosphere. In fact other *P. fluorescens* strains with biocontrol abilities have been isolated in various parts of the world.

c) Close relatives of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain F113 are regularly used in agriculture worldwide:

- *P. fluorescens* WCS374 has been applied commercially on radish seed as "BioCoat" (S&G Seeds) to suppress fusarium wilt. At present, this product is not available because of its relatively high costs of production, appearance of resistant radish cultivars and because production efficiency is less than 100%. (Cited from: Plant microbe Interactions and Biological Control, Eds. G.J.Boland & L. David Kuykendall, 1998, Marcel Dekker).
- *P. fluorescens*, commercial name: Dagger G (Ecogen Inc., Langhorne, PA) against *Pythium ultimum*, *Rhizoctonia solanii* for cotton seed treatment. (See: ACS Symposium Series 595, Biorational Pest Control Agents, Formulation and Delivery, Eds. F.R.Hall and J.W.Barry, 1995).
- *P. fluorescens* bv5, commercial name: VICTUS (Sylvan, Kattanning, PA) against other Pseudomonads (*P. tolaasii*) in mushrooms. (See: ACS Symposium Series 595,

Biorational Pest Control Agents, Formulation and Delivery, Eds. F.R.Hall and J.W.Barry, 1995).

- *P. fluorescens*, commercial name: Conqueror (Mauri Foods, Australia), as above against same Pseudomonad in mushrooms. (See: ACS Symposium Series 595, Biorational Pest Control Agents, Formulation and Delivery, Eds. F.R.Hall and J.W.Barry, 1995).
- The website of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Biocontrol of Plant Diseases Laboratory, <http://www.barc.usda.gov/psi/bpdl/bpdlprod/bioprod.html> lists and describes products based on live microorganisms on the market. Among them we find 3 products based on *P. fluorescens*: BlightBan A506, Conquer and Victus, and two based on *Burkholderia cepacia*: Intercept and Deny.
- Other *Pseudomonas*-products are presently on the market. Well known is *P. chlororaphis* (commercial name: CEDOMON), which is developed by Gerhardson (Uppsala) and used in Sweden, Norway and Finland, marketed by "BioAgri" and used on wheat (large areas treated with CEDOMON) (US patent 5,900,236 "Composition and method for controlling plant diseases using *Pseudomonas chlororaphis* strain NCIMB 40616).

d) Recently, *P. fluorescens* F113 has been regularly used and kept in laboratory experiments in The National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Røskilde, Denmark.

#### 4) Natural habitat of the organism.

a) The microorganism *P. fluorescens* strain F113 is found in the soil in association with plant roots. F113 was first isolated from the rhizosphere of sugarbeet plants (Shanahan *et al.*, 1992)

#### 5) Detection and identification.

a) *P. fluorescens* F113rif is commonly detected by plating soil/root suspensions on plates of the minimal sucrose asparagine agar (SA) (sucrose, 20 g L<sup>-1</sup>; asparagine, 2 g L<sup>-1</sup>; K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 1 g L<sup>-1</sup>; purified agar, 15 g L<sup>-1</sup>; with the addition of 2 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub> after autoclaving) amended with 50 mg ml<sup>-1</sup> rifampicin, growing as fluorescent yellow-green colonies after 24 h when grown at 28 °C and as brown pigmented colonies after 4 days at 28 °C.

b) A PCR based fingerprinting detection system has been designed specifically for the control strain F113lacZYrif. A non-antibiotic marker cassette, mini-Tn5, was inserted into the chromosome of *P. fluorescens* F113 (Fedi *et al.*, 1996) creating a stably integrated *lacZY* cassette, with an unaltered effect in ecological fitness. The insertion of the *lacZY* genes created a unique junction region on the chromosome of the novel strain and this region has been exploited to develop a PCR based fingerprinting detection system. Two primers were designed which will specifically amplify the unique junction region of the mini Tn5 insertion on the chromosome of the control strain F113lacZYrif. This detection system will only generate a PCR product when the DNA of F113lacZYrif is present in the test samples.

In addition, the presence of the *lacZY* genes confers the lactose utilisation phenotype to the strain and therefore the control strain can be detected as blue colonies by culturing

on minimal medium M9 ( $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 12.8 g L<sup>-1</sup>;  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , 3 g L<sup>-1</sup>; NaCl, 0.5 g L<sup>-1</sup>; agar, 15 g L<sup>-1</sup>;  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , 2 mM,  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , 10 mM) with 0.5 % lactose as a sole carbon source supplemented with 40 mg/L of 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl b-D-galactopyranoside (X-Gal) and 50 mg ml<sup>-1</sup> rifampicin.

#### 6) Safety classification.

Under the existing Community rules relating to the protection of human health, the recipient organism is not classified in Denmark or at the EU level.

However, in Germany *Pseudomonas fluorescens* is classified in risk group 1. This classification is given with the following remark: "In individual cases shown or suspected to be a pathogen, mostly with strongly immune-compromised human; species identification often not reliable." (Berufsgenossenschaft der chemischen Industrie. 1997. Sichere Biotechnologie, Eingruppierung biologischer Agenzien: Bakterien. Merkblatt B 006, 2/97, ZH 1/346. Jedermann-Verlag, Heidelberg).

This means, in Germany *Pseudomonas fluorescens* is positively classified as Group 1 for enclosed (indoor) use, i.e., considered safe with regards to workers' protection at their workplace, even in the face of reports on secondary infections of seriously ill patients.

In other parts of the world, *P. fluorescens* has not been considered for inclusion in the list of classified organisms. According to the information service of the Office of Biosafety Canada (<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/lcdc/biosafety/index.html>), which offers a list of known risk group classifications worldwide, *P. fluorescens* is not classified in Canada, by the NIH, by the EU, by the state of Belgium, or in Australia, nor anywhere else.

#### 7) Pathogenicity.

In addressing the issue of pathogenicity, the topics to be considered are

- infection of healthy and of immuno-compromised individuals
- toxic effects
- carcinogenic effects
- allergenic effects

Disease-related bacterial properties to be considered include

- adherence to cells
- invasion of cells
- cell damage
- sensitivity to antibiotics

As *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113 is a documented biocontrol strain, enhancing plant health (Carroll *et al.* 1995; Naseby & Lynch 1999), it is sufficient to consider pathogenicity to humans and animals.

In the available literature, the species *Pseudomonas fluorescens* is not considered pathogenic, or harmful in any other way (including its extracellular products), either

living or dead. In particular, root colonising *Pseudomonas fluorescens* is considered non-pathogenic, non-toxic, non-virulent micro-organism (they are part of the normal flora of many crop plants). There is also no evidence for carcinogenic or allergenic effects.

*Pseudomonas fluorescens* does not possess any external cell structures facilitating adherence to cells, nor any properties related to the invasion of cells or cell damage. In this context, it is important to note the difference between *P. fluorescens* and fluorescent pseudomonads. The taxonomic group of fluorescent pseudomonads includes *P. aeruginosa*, a Group 2 organism and a known opportunistic pathogen.

The host strain *P. fluorescens* F113 does not harbour any relevant antibiotic resistances, while the two GMOs, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strains F113rifpcb and F113lacZYrif, are resistant to rifampicin, but sensitive to other antibiotics. These resistances were obtained by spontaneous mutation, with the intention of improving the GMOs' detection in soil.

A search of the available literature addressed the question, whether there was any recent evidence showing pathogenicity of *P. fluorescens* either in humans or animals? In the databases we found two reports:

- One was a report on the isolation (among other pseudomonads) from sick chickens of two haemolytic *P. fluorescens* strains. One of them was totally non-pathogenic to chicks while the other caused illness to 30% of them compared to the 100% rate of several *P. aeruginosa* strains (Avian Dis 1993. Jan-Mar;37(1):6-9. Classification, pathogenicity, and drug susceptibility of haemolytic gram-negative bacteria isolated from sick or dead chickens. Lin MY, Cheng MC, Huang KJ, Tsai WC).
- In the other study (George SE, Nelson GM, Kohan MJ, Brooks LR, Boyd C. 1999. Colonization and clearance of environmental microbial agents upon intranasal exposure of strain C3H/HeJ mice. J Toxicol. Environ. Health-Part A 56(6):419-431), mice were exposed to laboratory strains of *P. fluorescens* and *Burkholderia cepacia*. After intranasal exposure at  $10^7$  cfu per mouse, the lungs were cleared of *P. fluorescens* after 1 d, and from the intestines after 3 h, while *Burkholderia cepacia* persisted in the lungs for over 14 d. In contrast, pulmonary exposure (i.e., an intranasal overdose) was fatal at  $6.15 \times 10^8$  cfu/mouse for *P. fluorescens*, and  $1.34 \times 10^8$  cfu/mouse for *Burkholderia cepacia*. The lethal effect was not attributed to an infection by *Pseudomonas*, but to a reaction of the mice's tissues to cell surface factors of the bacterial cells. In other words, the findings do not indicate the initiation of a disease by the bacteria, but a toxic effect of the extreme dosis applied. The lethal dosis of *P. fluorescens* calculates at ca.  $2.8 \times 10^{10}$  cfu/kg, corresponding to  $2 \times 10^{12}$  cfu/adult human (75 kg), employing a simple conversion by bodyweight only. The total number of GMO *P. fluorescens* to be released in the field trial is  $6.3 \times 10^{11}$  cfu, the bacteria being mixed in a carrier and covered by soil. Intranasal exposure of any living organism to *P. fluorescens* is not planned at any stage of the release experiment.

Fluorescent pseudomonads have been reported to colonise mucous membranes of immuno-compromised patients (Niels Højby, oral communication). In fact, the isolation of *Pseudomonas* species such as *fluorescens* and *putida* from the lungs of cystic fibrosis (CF) patients is not uncommon. However, such colonisations have not been described as contributing to ill health. In the case of *P. aeruginosa*, an opportunistic pathogen of the CF lung, the accumulation of mucus in the respiratory

tract is a direct result of the synthesis of alginates by the bacterium, which significantly contributes to reduced lung function. Similar correlations with *P. fluorescens* have not been established. Furthermore, all human populations including cystic fibrosis patients are exposed to bacteria such as *P. fluorescens* in their lives (e.g., when eating uncooked vegetables). So, the practise of inoculation with *P. fluorescens* would not be expected to create a new biohazard.

As demonstrated by temperature-dependent growth curves of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain F113 (D. Dowling, unpublished information, data upon request from the notifier), the growth optimum of the host organism is 30C, and the growth rate at 37C is about ½ of the maximum. This supports that the host organism is not adapted to growth in the human body. In the future, we may have to subdivide the species *P. fluorescens* into two, those that are isolated from plant roots, and those that were isolated from human and animal tissues. *P. fluorescens* F113 has been isolated from a sugarbeet root.

In summary, using present knowledge, the host strain *P. fluorescens* F113

- is not expected to infect healthy individuals
- may potentially be found in the lung of immuno-compromised individuals, however without any known adverse effects
- is not expected to have any toxic effects
- is not expected to have any carcinogenic effects
- is not expected to have any allergenic effects

We conclude that *P. fluorescens* F113 is not pathogenic to humans, animals or plants.

8)

a) The generation time of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* in a natural ecosystem is in the order of hours to days.

b) The generation time of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* in the ecosystem where the release is to take place is expected to be in the order of hours to days.

c) *Pseudomonas fluorescens* has an asexual life cycle

d) The factors which affect the reproduction of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* include nutrient limitation in the soil, physical-chemical factors (pH, water and temperature)

9) Survivability

a) No structures enhancing survival or dormancy are acknowledged

b) Factors which determine the survivability of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* include low pH, predators (protozoa etc.), parasites (virus etc.) and adverse climatic conditions. *Pseudomonas fluorescens* can persist at low levels ( $10^3$  cfu/g) in soils for many years.

10) Dissemination

a) Transport of plant roots and soil by humans, animals or natural forces.

b) Known factors which affect micro-organisms spreading also affect the dissemination of *Pseudomonas fluorescens*

11) Neither the parental or recipient organisms has been notified for release in Denmark.

## B1. Information relating to the modification

### GMO 1 *P. fluorescens* F113::lacZYrif

The aim of this genetic modification was the construction of a rhizosphere colonising bacterium with a non-antibiotic resistance genetic marker.

A transposable (based on Tn5) vector was used to insert the lacZY genetic marker genes into the host bacterium. The construction of this vector and its insert (pUTlacZY) and its use to construct the GMO is described by Fedi *et al.* (1996) The pUT vectors were developed by Herrero *et al.* 1990; De Lorenzo *et al.* 1990.

These vectors can be used to transfer inserts to the chromosomes of most Gram negative eubacteria by a simple conjugation procedure. The vector component of pUTlacZY does not contribute to any phenotype in the final construct, indeed the only Remaining portions present in GMO are the 19bp inverted repeats from Tn5.

There are no known pathogenicity determinants encoded by any of the vectors used. No vector sequences are present in this GMO.

The plasmid replicon / delivery system and the Tn5 transposase are lost during construction and are not present in the GMO (Herrero *et al.* 1990) see fig 2

The genetic marker or insert is derived as a 6 Kbp DNA fragment from plasmid pGD926 (Ditta *et al.* 1985) containing the lacZY genes from *Escherichia coli* K12. ( see Fedi *et al.* 1996) and DNA accession no.PID:g146576.

These genes allow the GMO to utilise lactose as a sole carbon and energy source ( see Fig 1&2 and HTML documents below) by virtue of encoding a  $\beta$ -galactosidase and a lactose permease absent in the host strain. The insert is located on the chromosome of the GMO and is expressed constitutively from a native promoter.

Fig 1. Genetic map of lac operon

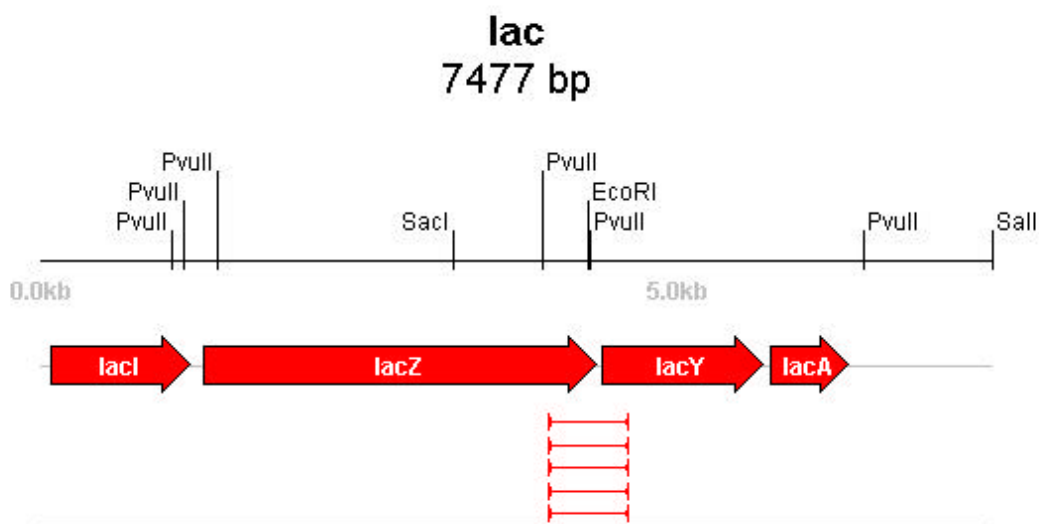
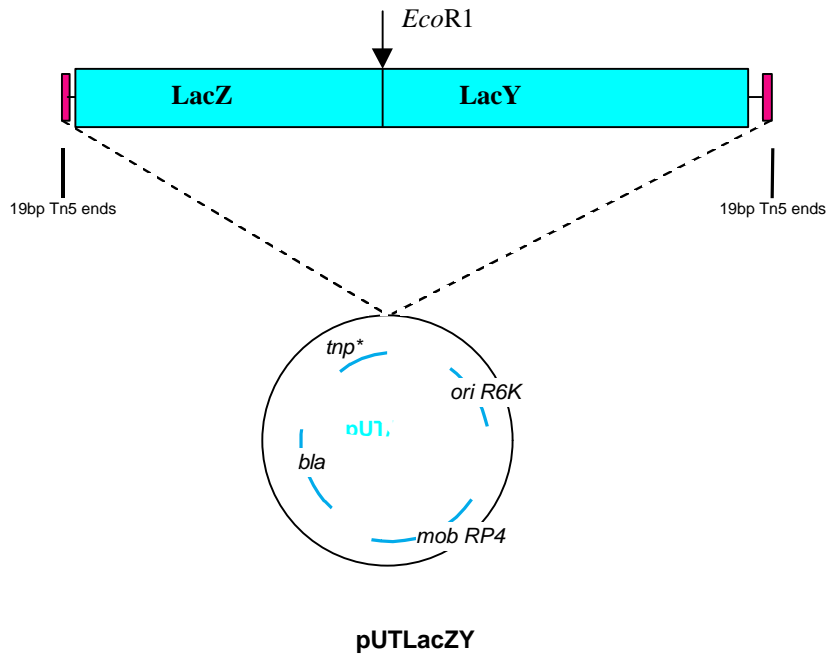




Fig 2 Genetic organisation of *lacZY* insert and delivery vector (from Fedi *et al.* (1996)).



It is important to note that only the insert (i.e. *LacZY*) is present in the GMO.

The genetic insert does not code for factors related to human, animal or plant disease, such as

- adherence to cells
- invasion of cells
- cell damage
- sensitivity to antibiotics
- allergens

For further technical details, please refer to Annex B1.

## **B2. Information relating to the modification**

### **GMO 2 *P. fluorescens* F113rifpcb**

The aim of this genetic modification was the construction of a rhizosphere colonising bacterium with the ability to metabolise biphenyl and PCBs

A transposable (based on Tn5) vector was used to insert the *bph* operon from LB400 into the host bacterium. The construction of this vector pUTPtt<sup>r</sup> (Herrero *et al.* 1990) and its insert (pDDPCB) and its use to construct the GMO is described by Dowling *et al.* 1993 and Brazil *et al.* 1985. The pUT vectors were developed by Herrero *et al.* 1990; De Lorenzo *et al.* 1990.

These vectors can be used to transfer inserts to the chromosomes of most Gram negative eubacteria by a simple conjugation procedure. The vector component of pDDPCB does contribute a Bialaphos (herbicide) resistant phenotype in the final construct. Under natural conditions, most bacteria, including the wildtype strain, can become resistant to Bialaphos spontaneously at a high frequency ( $10^{-3}$ - $10^{-4}$ ). Bialaphos herbicide resistance in this construct was derived from *Streptomyces hygroscopicus*. (DNA Sequence accession no. XO5822) (Thompson *et al.* 1987).

There are no known pathogenicity determinants encoded by any of the vectors used. Apart from the herbicide resistance gene, no vector sequences are present in this GMO.

The plasmid replicon / delivery system and the Tn5 transposase are lost during construction and are not present in the GMO (Herrero *et al.* 1990) (see Fig. 2).

The *bph* operon or insert consists of a 13.5 Kbp DNA fragment from plasmid pDD530 containing the *bph* operon from *B.cepacia* LB400. ( Dowling *et al.* 1993) this insert DNA is derived from 2 sources;

1) 12.5 Kbp fragment from *B.cepacia* LB400  
(DNA accession no. X76500, X66122, M86348) Refs. (Erickson and Mondelo, 1992; Dowling *et al.* 1993; Hofer *et al.* 1993; Hofer *et al.* 1994 )

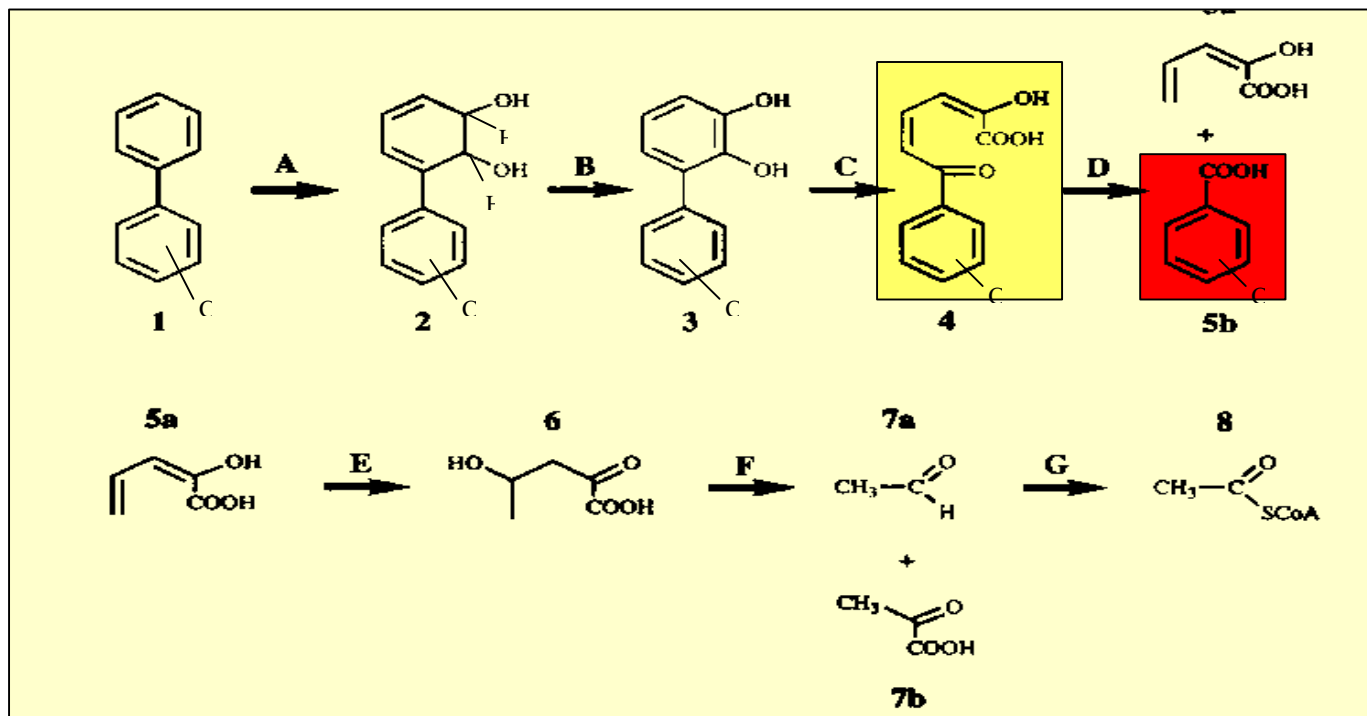
2) 1 Kbp fragment from intermediate vector RK2 (Pansegrau *et al.* 1994) (DNA accession no L27758) an artefact of the cloning/recombination process. (No detectable phenotype)

The function of the insert in the GMO allows the host to utilise biphenyl as a sole carbon and energy source and co-metabolise PCBs (see Fig. 1 and Table 1).

The insert is stably located in the chromosome of the host organism and contains 2 regions of unknown function;

- 1) OrfO - function is unknown but thought to be involved in *bph* operon regulation
- 2) 1kbp fragment from broad host range plasmid RK2 (an artefact of the intermediate cloning process) has unknown phenotype.

Fig 1. Biochemical pathway for biphenyl/PCB metabolism



The genes and their products involved in each pathway step are described below in Table 1. Substrates and intermediates are as follows;

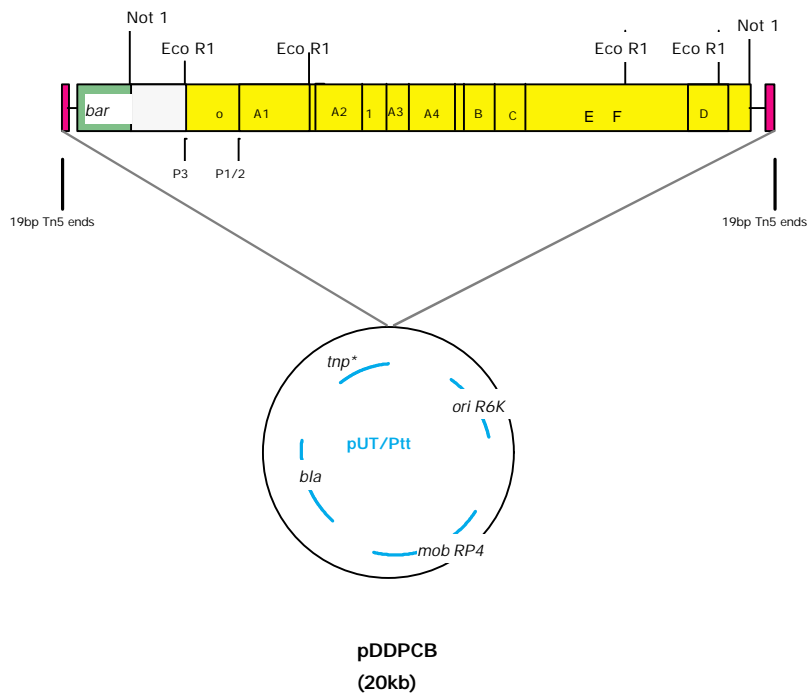
1) biphenyl; 2) biphenyl-2,3-dihydro-2,3-diol; 3) biphenyl-2,3-diol; 4) 2-hydroxy-6-oxo-6-phenylhexa-2,4-dienoic acid; 5a) 2-hydroxypenta-2,4-dienoic acid; 5b) benzoic acid; 6) 4-hydroxy-2-oxovaleric acid; 7a) acetaldehyde; 7b) pyruvic acid; 8) Acetyl Co-A.

**Table 1** Pathway genes, products and function (from Kimura *et al.* 1997)

Pathway step (Fig1)	Gene	Product	Length
	<i>orfO</i>	Putative transcriptional regulator	245aa
A	<i>bphA<sub>1</sub></i>	Terminal dioxygenase large subunit	459aa
A	<i>bphA<sub>2</sub></i>	Terminal dioxygenase small subunit	
A	<i>BphA<sub>3</sub></i>	ferredoxin	109aa
A	<i>BphA<sub>4</sub></i>	Ferredoxin dioxygenase	408aa
B	<i>bphB</i>	Dihydrodiol dehydrogenase	277aa

C	<i>bphC</i>	2,3-dihydroxybiphenyl dioxygenase	298aa
D	<i>bphD</i>	2-hydroxy-6-oxo-6-phenylhexa-2,4-dienoic acid hydrolase	286aa
	<i>bphK</i>	Gluthathione S-transferase	203aa
E	<i>bphH</i>	2-hydroxy-penta- 2,4-dienoate hydratase	260aa
F	<i>bphJ</i>	Aldehyde dehydrogenase	304aa
G	<i>bphI</i>	4-hydroxy-2-oxovalerate aldolase	346aa

**Fig 2 Genetic organisation of insert and delivery vector (from Dowling *et al.* 1993)**



The *bph* genes are thought to, in terms of bacterial evolution, be derived from other genes, whose gene product has a related environmental function. They are related to genes involved in the breakdown of other aromatics such as toluene, benzene and naphthalene. The function of one gene of the *bph* operon, *bphK* may have a "protection" role. Biphenyl is a natural compound found in plants and soil and it is thought that the *bph* genes have evolved to allow bacteria to utilise this substrate. The ability of some *bph* alleles to co-metabolise PCBs is fortunate and due to relaxed substrate specificity of some enzymes in the pathway.

The genetic insert does not code for factors related to human, animal or plant disease, such as

- adherence to cells
- invasion of cells
- cell damage
- sensitivity to antibiotics
- allergens

For further technical details, please refer to Annex B2.

## **C1. Information on the Organism(s) from which the insert is derived (Donor)**

### **GMO 1 *P. fluorescens* F113::lacZYrif**

The insert is ultimately derived from the bacterium *Escherichia coli* K12, a model laboratory strain. This particular laboratory strain is not pathogenic and should be considered a Group 1 organism.

The donor strain species, *E. coli*, is classified under the existing Community rules relating to the protection of human health, in Denmark and at the EU level, as a Group 2 organism, “except for strains not causing disease”.

In Germany, the species *E. coli* is classified in risk group 2. (Berufsgenossenschaft der chemischen Industrie. 1997. Sichere Biotechnologie, Eingruppierung biologischer Agenzien: Bakterien. Merkblatt B 006, 2/97, ZH 1/346. Jedermann-Verlag, Heidelberg).

According to the information service of the Office of Biosafety Canada (<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/lcdc/biosafety/index.html>), the pathogenic strains of *E. coli* are also classified as Group 2 organisms in Canada, by the NIH, by the state of Belgium, and in Australia. However, the NIH classifies strain K12 as a Group 1 organism.

In a Danish review (Christiansen *et al.* 1991. Eksempler på risikoanalyse af værtsmikroorganismer. Miljøprojekt nr. 183, Miljøstyrelsen, København.) it is suggested to classify *Escherichia coli* strain K12 as a Group 1 organism.

Both donor and recipient organism can exchange genetic information under laboratory conditions.

The insert does not contain any factors related to pathogenicity.

The insert does not contain any factors that cause the GMO to have surface properties, including colonising ability of living or dead surfaces, that are different from the wildtype organism.

## **C2. Information on the Organism(s) from which the insert is derived (Donor)**

### **GMO 2 *P. fluorescens* F113rifpcb**

The insert is ultimately derived from the bacterium *Burkholderia* (formerly *Pseudomonas*) *cepacia* (formerly strain) LB400, a common soil microorganism. See (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/htbin-post/Taxonomy/wgetorg?id=36873>) and the extensive bibliography on strain LB400 in Part 2 of the References section, in particular Bopp (1986).

It is not known if this strain is pathogenic. The genus *Burkholderia* does contain members that are pathogenic to plants and susceptible humans. However the insert (bph operon) does not contain any genes involved in pathogenesis.

The donor strain species, *B. cepacia*, is not classified under the existing Community rules relating to the protection of human health, neither in Denmark nor at the EU level.

In Germany *B. cepacia* is classified in risk group 2. (Berufsgenossenschaft der chemischen Industrie. 1997. Sichere Biotechnologie, Eingruppierung biologischer Agenzien: Bakterien. Merkblatt B 006, 2/97, ZH 1/346. Jedermann-Verlag, Heidelberg).

In other parts of the world, *B. cepacia* has not been considered for inclusion in the list of classified organisms. According to the information service of the Office of Biosafety Canada (<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/lcdc/biosafety/index.html>), *B. cepacia* is not classified in Canada, by the NIH, by the EU, by the state of Belgium, or in Australia.

The insert does not contain any factors that cause the GMO to have surface properties, including colonising ability of living or dead surfaces, that are different from the wildtype organism.

Both donor and recipient organism can exchange genetic information under laboratory conditions.

**D1. Information relating to the genetically modified organism:  
GMO 1 *P. fluorescens* F113::lacZYrif**

1) Genetic traits and phenotypic characteristics of the GMO:

*a) Is the GMO different from the recipient as far as survivability is concerned?*

Conclusive results demonstrated by Fedi *et al.* (1996) have shown that the survivability of the GMO *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113lacZY is the same as the wild type.

*b) Is the GMO in any way different from the recipient as far as mode and/or rate of reproduction is concerned?*

Conclusive results demonstrated by Fedi *et al.* (1996) have shown that the mode and/or rate of reproduction of the GMO *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113lacZY is the same as the wild type.

*c) Is the GMO in any way different from the recipient as far as dissemination is concerned?*

Differences in the dissemination between the wild type and the GMO have not been observed (Sheehan & O’Gara, unpublished).

2) Genetic stability of the GMO:

In numerous lab-based experiments, including specific studies to address stability, the insert has not shown any evidence of genetic instability (Corich *et al.*, 1994; Fedi *et al.*, 1995; Fedi *et al.*, 1996). The genetic insert is located in the chromosome in one copy per genome.

3) Possible pathogenicity of the GMO:

Not known, but unlikely. There is no evidence that the GMO shows plant or animal pathogenicity. Indeed, indigenous fluorescent *Pseudomonads* are present in high numbers on the roots and surrounding soil of all plants investigated, including vegetable crops.

4) Description of identification and detection methods:

*a) Techniques used to detect the GMO in the environment*

- Viable plate counting using selective media SA + Rif
- Strain F113lacZYrif can be detected as blue colonies when plated on selective media SA containing rifampicin (50 mg/l) and X-Gal (40 mg/L).
- In addition, a titration plate-based most probable number (MPN) system was developed to recover and estimate the introduced *P. fluorescens* F113 which harbour the lacZY genes from the plant rhizosphere (Fedi *et al.*, 1995).

*b) Techniques used to identify the GMO:*

- Physiological analysis of key phenotypic properties, e.g., biocontrol activity DAPG and HCN production, and growth on lactose
- Metabolic profiling using BIOLOG
- RAPD analysis using previously evaluated primers and conditions
- rRNA subunit sequence analysis



## **D2. Information relating to the genetically modified organism:**

### **GMO 2 *P. fluorescens* F113rifpcb**

#### Genetic traits and phenotypic characteristics

Apart from the fact that the GMO can now grow on biphenyl as a sole carbon and energy source and metabolise certain PCBs, the GMO behaves in a similar manner to the original recipient for all parameters examined. Published data indicate that the strain is no more competitive than the wildtype in non-sterile soil microcosms. (Ramos *et al.* 1994; Brazil *et al.* 1995). The mode and rate of reproduction are similar to the parent (recipient). (Ramos *et al.* 1994; Brazil *et al.* 1995). Likewise dissemination of GMO is expected to be no different than recipient. In numerous lab-based experiments including specific studies to address genetic stability of the GMO, the insert has not shown any evidence of genetic instability. (Ramos *et al.* 1994; Brazil *et al.* 1995; D.N.Dowling unpublished observations). The genetic insert is located in the chromosome in one copy per genome.

There is no evidence that the GMO shows plant or animal pathogenicity. Indeed, indigenous fluorescent Pseudomonads are present in high numbers on the roots and surrounding soil of all plants investigated.

#### The GMO can be detected in the environment by the following methods

- 1) Viable plate counting using selective media  
SA + Rif and colorimetric spray test of viable plate counts  
(sensitive to  $\sim 10^2$  culturable cells/g soil or root)
- 2) Detection of presence of the *bphC* gene by direct amplification using specific primers from soil extracted DNA.

#### Techniques used to identify the GMO

- 1) Physiological analysis of key phenotypic properties  
E.g. Biocontrol activity DAPG and HCN production  
Growth on biphenyl
- 2) Metabolic profiling using BIOLOG
- 3) RAPD analysis using previously evaluated primers and conditions
- 4) rRNA subunit sequence analysis

**D3. Information relating to the two genetically modified organisms:**

**GMO 1 *P. fluorescens* F113::lacZYrif and GMO 2 *P. fluorescens* F113rifpcb**

Notifier's assessment of the two GMOs' classification under the existing Community rules relating to the protection of human health:

The recipient organism is classified as Group 1 (see discussion in section A). It does not possess pathogenic or otherwise harmful properties. Episodes of secondary infection in immuno-deficient patients have not given evidence for illness caused by *P. fluorescens*, and none of the bacterial properties of *P. fluorescens* suggests that their might be.

Therefore, the recipient organism can be considered safe with respect to human, animal and plant health.

While the donor species are classified in Group 2 (although Group 1 is appropriate for at least one of the two specific strains used; see sections C1 and C2), the donated materials do not contain pathogenic or otherwise harmful properties (see discussion in sections B1 and B2).

The vectors used do not contain pathogenic or otherwise harmful properties, nor environmentally harmful properties. There are no known pathogenicity determinants encoded by any of the vectors used. Also -- apart from the herbicide resistance gene in the case of F113rifpcb -- no functional vector sequences are present in the GMOs. It is to be noted that no antibiotic resistance determinants were used in the construction of these GMOs.

The GMOs are not expected to cause diseases or illnesses in humans, animals or plants.

**Therefore, the two GMOs had been classified by the notifiers as Group 1 organisms.**

Re-evaluation at the time of release notification:

The GMOs have been used regularly for several years in several European laboratories under Class 1 conditions, without any evidence of adverse effects on humans or plants. No new evidence suggests that the classification should be changed.

## E. Information relating to the release

1) The general purpose of the release is to document the safety of GMO bioremediation strains based on *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain F113. The technological perspective is the development of genetically modified microbial technology addressing the problem of contaminated soil.

The specific purpose of the release is to answer the following research questions:

- Will the bacterial delivery system function physiologically (compatibility of plant plus bacterium in contaminated soil), ie., will the genetically modified bacterial inoculum colonise the plant root and survive in contaminated soil under field conditions?
- Will the biological system function physiologically, ie, will *bph* genes give a survival advantage in contaminated soil under field conditions?
- Does the genetically modified system perform better than existing non-genetically modified inocula under field conditions (comparison of LB400's and F113pcb's functional traits for survival and bioremediation)?

2) The site of the release is different from the natural habitat where the recipient organism is regularly used or found. The natural habitat of strain F113 is (non-contaminated) agricultural soil, in particular plant root surfaces within such soil. The difference at the release site is the contamination of the soil with PCBs. The effect of the contamination on the genetically modified strains' survival is the research topic of the release.

Soil analyses, performed in 1999, identified the top 50-cm layer of the release site to be contaminated with 1.4 mg/kg total PCBs (analysis report in Appendix E).

3) Release site and surrounding area:

a) The geographical location of the release is the topsoil of a corner (Danish GIS gridline reference 565995; 6217373) of a scrapmetal recycling yard (Fig. 1) owned by Uniscrap A/S Genvindingsindustri, Kathale 36, DK-6200 Aabenraa.

The release site's address is:

Uniscrap A/S  
Beringvej 45  
DK-8464 Hasselager

The administrative region is Aarhus Amt, Denmark.

b) The size of the release site is 81 m<sup>2</sup>. The wider release area is 4000 m<sup>2</sup>, which is the size of the part of the scrapmetal yard that has been planted with willow in the spring of 1999 (Fig. 1).

c) There are no internationally recognized biotopes or protected areas in the proximity. The distances, as the crow flies, to the nearest internationally recognized biotopes (as proposed by Denmark on its list of 194 "EF-habitatområder") are 14 km (Mossø, WSW), 25 km (Tved Kær, ENE), 27 km (Sydlige Helgenæs, E), and 28 km (Silkeborg Skove, W).

Information on other protected areas ("Paragraf 3 områder") , including water reservoirs, within 6 km of the release site is presented in Appendix E (distances between release site and these protected are presented in the form of two maps and a table).

d) The surrounding area consists to the East and North of commercial buildings, driveways and barren soil used for scrap storage (contaminated with up to 7600 mg/kg total hydrocarbons and 1100 mg/kg total cyanide, potentially contaminated with PCBs; analysis report in Appendix E), and to the South and West of uncultivated grass, bush and single tree vegetation (no history of contamination).

The release site can be regarded as a contained site in relation to surface migrating animals, as it will be surrounded by a fence.

4) Method and amount of release:

a) Number of genetically modified bacteria to be released:

Plants to be used:

Willow and alfalfa. All inoculation will be performed on cuttings or seeds.

Willow cuttings:  $10^{10}$  cells / willow plant, 2 plants /  $m^2$ .  
450 kg soil /  $m^2$  at 30 cm top layer thickness =  $0.5 \cdot 10^5$  cells / g soil.  
30  $m^2$  with willow = 60 plants =  $6 \cdot 10^{11}$  cells

Alfalfa seeds:  $10^6$  cells / alfalfa seed, 1000 seeds /  $m^2$ .  
450 kg soil /  $m^2$  at 30 cm top layer thickness =  $2.5 \cdot 10^3$  cells / g soil.  
30  $m^2$  with alfalfa = 30000 seeds =  $0.3 \cdot 10^{11}$  cells.

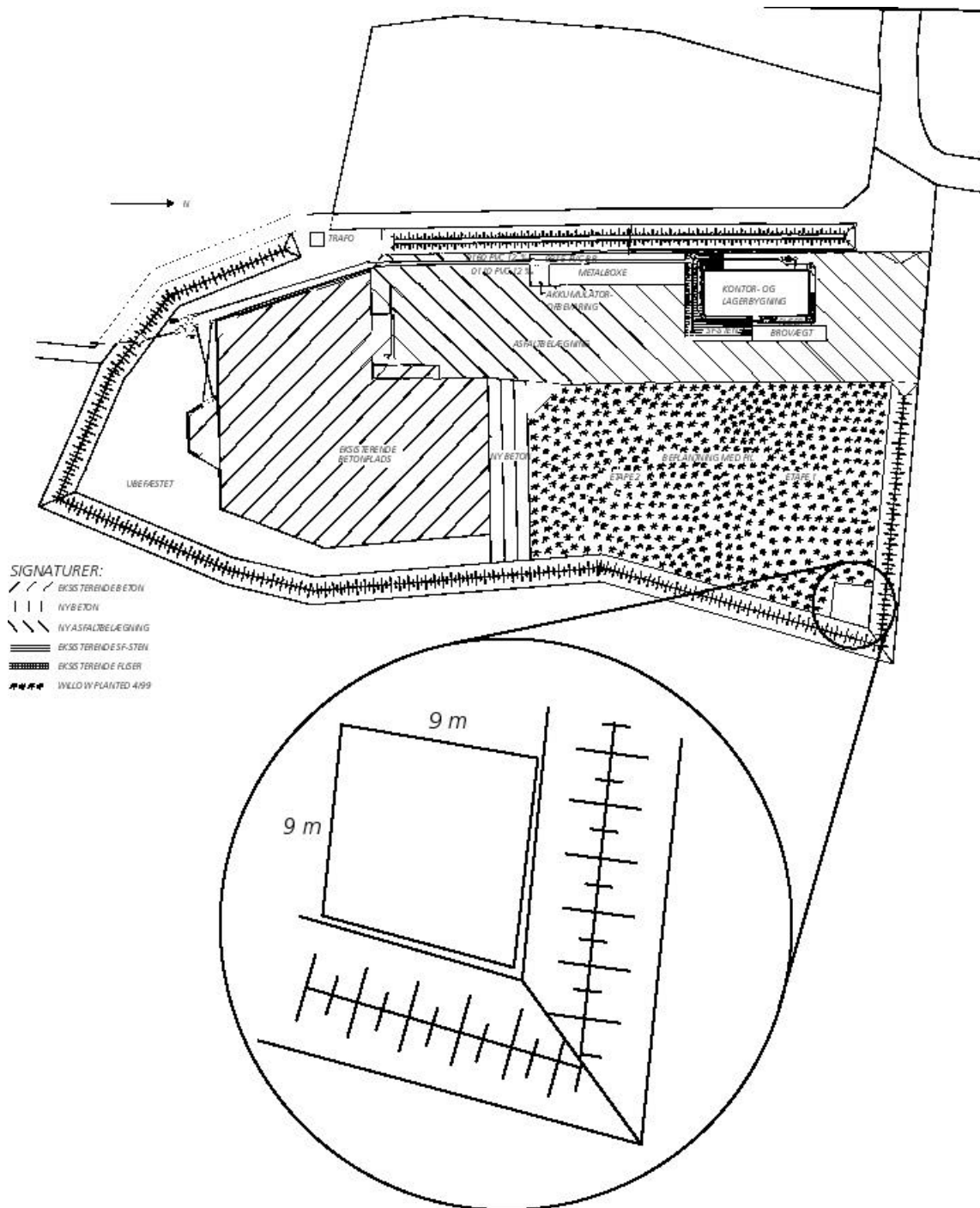
Total:  $6.3 \cdot 10^{11}$  genetically modified bacterial cells to be released, half of them strain F113::lacZYrif, and the other half strain F113rifpcb.

b) The release is to be performed within one day during daylight.

In preparation of the release, plants and seeds will be inoculated with the appropriate GMO bacteria at the laboratory of NERI, Roskilde. On the day of the release, inoculated materials will be packaged in suitable materials and transported to the release site by car.

c) To minimize spread of the GMOs, the genetically modified bacterial cells will be immobilised in a seed pelleting carrier and coated around the cuttings or seeds prior to the release (this procedure is to be performed in a closed GMO laboratory at NERI, Roskilde). The release operation will involve removing the coated seeds or cuttings from packages, sticking them into the soil and covering with soil. Contact of bacteria with the air will be minimum. Bacteria will not intentionally be spread on the soil surface. No aerosols will be formed at the site.

**Fig. 1:** Map of the Hasselager, Århus, release trial site. The release site measures 9 x 9 m.



## **F. Interactions of the GMOs with the environment and potential impact on the environment.**

The genetically modified microorganisms proposed to be released are derivatives of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113 and should behave identically to the non-modified parental strain in relation to its interactions with other organisms. Strain F113 was isolated from the sugar beet rhizosphere because of its potential use as a biocontrol agent and can interact with other organisms because of its ability to colonize the plant rhizosphere.

These traits have been extensively studied *in vitro*, in microcosm models and in a previous deliberate release (O’Gara *et al.* 1994; Dowling *et al.* 1995; Corich *et al.* 1995).

Experiments have demonstrated that F113 can colonize the rhizosphere of virtually any plant: published research has shown colonization of the sugarbeet (Carroll *et al.* 1995), pea (Naseby and Lynch, 1999) and tomato (Chin-A-Woeng *et al.*, 1997) rhizosphere. Unpublished results show equivalent colonization of the alfalfa (Dowling and Rivilla, unpublished, Appendix D) and willow (Appendix D) rhizosphere.

The F113 production of HCN can affect plant respiration. Experiments performed in gnotobiotic systems with alfalfa (no soil, only 2 bacterial strains, *Rhizobium* sp. and strain F113) have shown that plants inoculated with F113 are significantly smaller than non inoculated plants (Rivilla unpublished). However in soil microcosms similar experiments do not show this deleterious effect (Dowling, unpublished). It is likely that soil autochthonous microorganisms compete with F113 limiting its population and therefore its effects in the plant. For this reason it is highly unlikely that in a deliberate release in natural soil, F113 derivatives should negatively affect plants.

Experiments have been also performed to test the effect of F113 and derivatives on plant microsymbionts that indirectly may affect plant growth. F113 did not show any effect on the *Sinorhizobium meliloti*-alfalfa symbiosis (Rivilla, unpublished). Nodule numbers, plant nitrogen contents and rhizobial root colonization were unaffected in co-inoculated plants. Similarly, no adverse effects were observed on the micorrhizal symbiosis *Glomus mosseae*-tomato when inoculated with F113 and derivatives, including a DAPG overproducer strain (Barea *et al.* 1998).

F113 derivatives might adversely affect soil microorganisms. As reported above no such effects have been observed on beneficial microsymbionts. Furthermore, yeast and fungal colony forming units were not significantly affected by F113 and derivatives in a Pea rhizosphere microcosm at any soil pH studied (Naseby and Lynch, 1999). Similarly, no effect has been detected in bacterial colony forming units in the alfalfa rhizosphere (Dowling, unpublished). These results contrast with the biocontrol effect that F113 exerts on plant pathogenic fungi (Carroll *et al.*, 1995; Dunne *et al.*, 1995) and bacteria (Cronin *et al.*, 1997).

Other possible interaction of F113 derivatives with soil microorganisms is lateral DNA transfer. Insertion of *LacZY* and *bph* genes into F113 has been performed by transposition, generating stable insertions that do not contain the transposase gene (Fedi

*et al.*, 1996; Brazil *et al.*, 1996). However lateral *in vitro* transfer of the *LacZY* genes has been shown at a  $10^{-6}$ -  $10^{-7}$  frequency, while experiments in microcosms showed no transfer (Fedi *et al.*, 1996), indicating that DNA transfer in a natural soil does not occur, or occurs at a very low frequency.

The reports cited above indicate that although F113 might affect some species of microorganisms it would not have an effect on the overall soil microflora and it would not affect key species important because of its beneficial effects in soil. The experience generated by previous deliberate release together with laboratory experiments suggest that interactions of the genetically modified derivative of strain F113 with other organisms are not different from the wildtype strain F113.

Special considerations for the contaminated soil environment at the release site:

Strain F113pcb produces chlorobenzoates (CBs) from PCBs. The CBs are terminal metabolites in this genetically modified strain. As F113pcb will predominantly grow on the root surfaces of experimental plants, the primary ecological interaction of the CBs is expected to be with these plants at the contaminated release site, and with the contaminated soil around the plant roots at the release site. Metabolites cannot be produced outside the release area, as those soils are not contaminated, i.e., do not provide a substrate for the production of CBs, which excludes unintended effects outside the release area. Recent results (Lagergren 1999) suggest that plants readily take up CBs, tolerating surprisingly high concentrations. As CBs enter the plants' metabolism, they act as herbicides at high concentrations. Based on the relatively low PCB concentrations at the release site, rootzone CB concentrations can be expected to be several orders of magnitude lower than in the study cited, i.e., no deleterious effects on plant growth are to be expected. However, it is reasonable to expect that the CBs produced will be removed from the soil environment through plant uptake.

Conclusion: Unintended ecosystem effects are not to be expected from a bacterium modified to degrade the soil pollutant PCBs. At the contaminated site the metabolites formed will not be released to non-contaminated soil layers or groundwater.

Suggested monitoring: Soil porewater analyses at and below rootzones (at and below PCB-contaminated soil layers) in order to confirm the absence of water-soluble CBs.

Regarding strain F113rifpcb:

This GMO has not been released in the past. However, published data show that the strain displayed the same kinetics of colonisation of roots and the numbers of bacteria colonised the roots as the wildtype. In addition, it was observed that the colonisation competence in nonsterile soil microcosms of the GMO strain and the wild type are equally competitive in the rhizosphere of sugarbeet (Brazil *et al.* 1995).

Regarding strain F113::lacZYrif

Further details on experiences made during 2 deliberate releases of strain F113lacZY are cited in Appendix F. The only difference between the previously released strain, and the strain F113::lacZYrif of this application, is a Rifampicin resistance achieved by spontaneous mutation.

## G. Information relating to monitoring

### 1) Method for monitoring the GMOs

Soil, root and leaf samples will be taken periodically and analysed. Viable bacterial cells will be counted by selective plating on agar media.

- Media formulation (SA medium):

Sucrose (Saccharose)	20 g/L
Asparagine	2 g/L
Rifampicin	50 mg/L
X-Gal	40 mg/L

- Alternative media formulation:

Lactose as a sole source of organic C, for F113::lacZYrif. The expression of LacY (lactose permease) effects a phenotype that is capable of growing (selectively) on lactose plates.

- Spray test:

2,3-dihydroxy-biphenyl 0.1% wt/vol., spray with atomiser

Detection and quantification: Low iron SA rif Xgal plates will be used to distinguish between natural soil microflora and the two released strains:

- a. non-fluorescent colonies + spray test positive = rifampicin resistant PCB-degraders, e.g. *Burkholderia cepacia* LB400
- b. fluorescent colonies + spray test positive = *P. fluorescens* F113rifpcb
- c. blue colonies = *P. fluorescens* F113::lacZYrif

Alternatively, an MPN method (Fedi *et al.* 1996) targeting the phenotypic expression of the lacZY genes can be employed to quantify strain F113::lacZY.

Additional PCR-based detection system (lacZY & EcoR1 restriction):

Soil, root and leaf sampling will be performed at the release site and its surroundings. Total DNA will be extracted. DNA samples will be processed by PCR, targetting specific regions of the donated genes. Specific DNA probes will be used to visualize PCR products derived from the donated genes.

### 2) Methods for monitoring ecosystem effects

Unintended ecosystem effects are not to be expected outside the release area. Potential effects are limited to the presence of the soil contaminant type, PCBs. Soil porewater analyses at and below PCB-contaminated soil layers (at 20, 50 and 100 cm depth) will be performed confirming the absence of water-soluble CBs.

### 3) Methods for detecting transfer of the donated genetic material from the GMO to other organisms

Organisms considered: Other bacteria.

Soil, root and leaf sampling will be performed at the release site and its surroundings. From these samples, bacterial colonies will be grown on nutrient media. Colonies will be blotted and lysed. Specific DNA probes will be used to visualize DNA derived from the donated genes. Donated DNA detected in colonies that do not fulfil the requirements under 1a.-1c. will be considered recipient organisms of tranfered DNA.



4) Spatial extent of the monitoring area

500 m in all directions

5) Duration of the monitoring

During the experiment (1 to 2 seasons) plus 5 years thereafter. To be extended according to environmental needs.

6) Frequency of the monitoring

1 x per month, during the first 6 months.

1 x every 3 months during the period month 7—18 post release.

2 x per year thereafter.

## **H. Information on post-release and waste treatment**

### 1) Post-release treatment of the site

None.

### 2) Post-release treatment of the GMOs

None.

### 3) Waste: type, amount and treatment

Waste: Packaging of materials used on the day of the release; a few kg.

Samples taken during monitoring, 10—100 kg per sampling, see part G.6 for monitoring schedule.

Treatment: All waste will be collected in plastic bags and transported by car to the laboratory at NERI, Roskilde, which is approved for work with GMOs. Ultimately, everything will be destroyed by autoclaving.

## **I. Information on emergency response plans**

### 1) Methods and procedures for controlling GMOs in case of unexpected spread

Spraying of vegetation with Roundup, thereby eliminating the host plants for the derivatives of strain F113. In addition, strain F113 is Roundup-sensitive (D. Dowling, unpublished), i.e., survival of F113 derivatives will be reduced.

### 2) Methods for decontamination of the areas affected

Removal of soil and plants followed by incineration: Plant tops will be harvested, plant main roots with surrounding soil (hot spots of bacterial inoculation) will be dug out, everything transferred into plastic sacks and treated as hospital waste.

### 3) Methods for disposal or sanitation of plants, animals, soils etc. that were exposed during or after the spread

Autoclaving, incineration.

### 4) Plans for protecting human health and the environment in case of the occurrence of an undesirable effect

See above 1) – 3).

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## **APPENDIX**

The sections of the appendix are numbered to match the main sections of the dossier.

## Appendix B1

### Technical details relating to the *lac* genes inserted in *P. fluorescens* F113lacZY.

#### Strain F113::lacZYrif: Details on gene products and DNA sequence.

Note that only *lacZ* and *lacY* are present in the GMO.

LOCUS ECOLAC 7477 bp DNA BCT 05-MAY-1993  
DEFINITION E.coli lactose operon with lacI, lacZ, lacY and lacA genes.  
ACCESSION J01636 J01637 K01483 K01793  
NID g146575  
KEYWORDS acetyltransferase; beta-D-galactosidase; galactosidase; lac operon;  
lac repressor protein; lacA gene; lacI gene; lacY gene; lacZ gene;  
lactose permease; mutagenesis; palindrome; promoter region;  
thiogalactoside acetyltransferase.  
SOURCE Escherichia coli DNA; mRNA; clone lambda-h80dlac DNA; clone puk217;  
pgm8 (see comment).  
ORGANISM [Escherichia coli](#)  
Eubacteria; Proteobacteria; gamma subdivision; Enterobacteriaceae;  
Escherichia.  
REFERENCE 1 (bases 1243 to 1266)  
AUTHORS Gilbert,W. and Maxam,A.  
TITLE The nucleotide sequence of the lac operator  
JOURNAL Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 70, 3581-3584 (1973)  
MEDLINE [74055539](#)  
REFERENCE 2 (bases 1246 to 1308)  
AUTHORS Maizels,N.M.  
TITLE The nucleotide sequence of the lactose messenger ribonucleic acid  
transcribed from the UV5 promoter mutant of Escherichia coli  
JOURNAL Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 70, 3585-3589 (1973)  
MEDLINE [74055540](#)  
REFERENCE 3 (sites)  
AUTHORS Gilbert,W., Maizels,N. and Maxam,A.  
TITLE Sequences of controlling regions of the lactose operon  
JOURNAL Cold Spring Harb. Symp. Quant. Biol. 38, 845-855 (1974)  
MEDLINE [74174501](#)  
REFERENCE 4 (sites)  
AUTHORS Gilbert,W., Gralla,J., Majors,A.J. and Maxam,A.  
TITLE Lactose operator sequences and the action of lac repressor  
JOURNAL (in) Sund,H. and Blauer,G. (Eds.);  
PROTEIN-LIGAND INTERACTIONS: 193-207;  
Walter de Gruyter, New York (1975)  
REFERENCE 5 (bases 1146 to 1282)  
AUTHORS Dickson,R.C., Abelson,J.N., Barnes,W.M. and Reznikoff,W.S.  
TITLE Genetic regulation: The lac control region  
JOURNAL Science 187, 27-35 (1975)  
MEDLINE [75048325](#)  
REFERENCE 6 (bases 1227 to 1271)  
AUTHORS Gilbert,W., Maxam,A. and Mirzabekov,A.  
TITLE Contacts between the lac repressor and DNA revealed by methylation  
JOURNAL (in) Kjeldgaard,N.C. and Maaloe,O. (Eds.);  
CONTROL OF RIBOSOME SYNTHESIS: 138-143;  
Academic Press, New York (1976)  
REFERENCE 7 (sites)  
AUTHORS Marians,K.J. and Wu,R.  
TITLE Structure of the lactose operator  
JOURNAL Nature 260, 360-363 (1976)  
MEDLINE [76150089](#)  
REFERENCE 8 (bases 1242 to 1268)  
AUTHORS Heyneker,H.L., Shine,J., Goodman,H.M., Boyer,H.W., Rosenberg,J.,  
Dickerson,R.E., Narang,S.A., Itakura,K., Lin,S. and Riggs,A.D.  
TITLE Synthetic lac operator is functional in vivo  
JOURNAL Nature 263, 748-752 (1976)  
MEDLINE [77056376](#)  
REFERENCE 9 (sites)  
AUTHORS Dickson,R.C., Abelson,J.N., Johnson,P., Reznikoff,W.S. and  
Barnes,W.M.  
TITLE Nucleotide sequence changes produced by mutations in the lac  
promoter of Escherichia coli  
JOURNAL J. Mol. Biol. 111, 65-75 (1977)  
MEDLINE [77168230](#)  
REFERENCE 10 (bases 51 to 264)  
AUTHORS Steege,D.A.



TITLE 5'-terminal nucleotide sequence of Escherichia coli lactose repressor mRNA: Features of translational initiation and reinitiation sites  
JOURNAL Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 74, 4163-4167 (1977)  
MEDLINE [78052881](#)  
REFERENCE 11 (bases 1 to 81)  
AUTHORS Calos,M.P.  
TITLE DNA sequence for a low-level promoter of the lac repressor and an 'up' promoter mutation  
JOURNAL Nature 274, 762-765 (1978)  
MEDLINE [78246990](#)  
REFERENCE 12 (bases 49 to 1161)  
AUTHORS Farabaugh,P.J.  
TITLE Sequence of the lacI gene  
JOURNAL Nature 274, 765-769 (1978)  
MEDLINE [78246991](#)  
REFERENCE 13 (sites)  
AUTHORS Miller,J.H., Coulondre,C. and Farabaugh,P.J.  
TITLE Correlation of nonsense sites in the lacI gene with specific codons in the nucleotide sequence  
JOURNAL Nature 274, 770-775 (1978)  
MEDLINE [78246992](#)  
REFERENCE 14 (sites)  
AUTHORS Calos,M.P. and Miller,J.H.  
TITLE DNA sequence alteration resulting from a mutation impairing promoter function in the lac repressor gene  
JOURNAL Mol. Gen. Genet. 178, 225-227 (1980)  
MEDLINE [80209248](#)  
REFERENCE 15 (bases 4306 to 5804)  
AUTHORS Buechel,D.E., Gronenborn,B. and Mueller-Hill,B.  
TITLE Sequence of the lactose permease gene  
JOURNAL Nature 283, 541-545 (1980)  
MEDLINE [80120651](#)  
REFERENCE 16 (sites)  
AUTHORS Miller,J.H., Calos,M.P. and Galas,D.J.  
TITLE Genetic and sequencing studies of the specificity of transposition into the lac region of E. coli  
JOURNAL Cold Spring Harb. Symp. Quant. Biol. 45, 243-257 (1981)  
MEDLINE [82049502](#)  
REFERENCE 17 (sites)  
AUTHORS Chenchick,A., Beabealashvilli,R.S. and Mirzabekov,A.  
TITLE Topography of interaction of Escherichia coli RNA polymerase subunits with lac UV5 promoter  
JOURNAL FEBS Lett. 128, 46-50 (1981)  
MEDLINE [82004657](#)  
REFERENCE 18 (sites)  
AUTHORS Betz,J.L. and Sadler,J.R.  
TITLE Variants of a cloned synthetic lactose operator: I. A palindromic dimer lactose operator derived from one strand of the cloned 40-base pair operator  
JOURNAL Gene 13, 1-12 (1981)  
MEDLINE [81213459](#)  
REFERENCE 19 (sites)  
AUTHORS Sadler,J.R. and Tecklenburg,M.  
TITLE Cloning and characterization of the natural lactose operator  
JOURNAL Gene 13, 13-23 (1981)  
MEDLINE [81213463](#)  
REFERENCE 20 (sites)  
AUTHORS Betz,J.L. and Sadler,J.R.  
TITLE Variants of a cloned synthetic lactose operator: II. Chloramphenicol-resistant revertants retaining a lactose operator in the CAT gene of plasmid pBR325  
JOURNAL Gene 15, 187-200 (1981)  
MEDLINE [82051311](#)  
REFERENCE 21 (sites)  
AUTHORS Calos,M.P. and Miller,J.H.  
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JOURNAL Mol. Gen. Genet. 183, 559-560 (1981)  
MEDLINE [82147746](#)  
REFERENCE 22 (sites)  
AUTHORS Mieschendahl,M., Buechel,D.E., Bocklage,H. and Mueller-Hill,B.  
TITLE Mutations in the lacY gene of Escherichia coli define functional organization of lactose permease  
JOURNAL Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 78, 7652-7656 (1981)  
MEDLINE [82150928](#)  
REFERENCE 23 (sites)

AUTHORS Russell,D.R. and Bennett,G.N.  
TITLE Construction and analysis of in vivo activity of E. coli promoter hybrids and promoter mutants that alter the -35 to -10 spacing  
JOURNAL Gene 20, 231-243 (1982)  
MEDLINE [83158761](#)

REFERENCE 24 (sites)  
AUTHORS Horowitz,H. and Platt,T.  
TITLE A termination site for lacI transcription is between the CAP site and the lac promoter  
JOURNAL J. Biol. Chem. 257, 11740-11746 (1982)  
MEDLINE [83007251](#)

REFERENCE 25 (sites)  
AUTHORS Klein,R.D. and Wells,R.D.  
TITLE Effects of neighboring DNA homopolymers on the biochemical and physical properties of the Escherichia coli lactose promoter: I. Cloning and characterization studies  
JOURNAL J. Biol. Chem. 257, 12954-12961 (1982)  
MEDLINE [83030833](#)

REFERENCE 26 (bases 1183 to 1291)  
AUTHORS Weiher,H. and Schaller,H.  
TITLE Segment-specific mutagenesis: Extensive mutagenesis of a lac promoter/operator element  
JOURNAL Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 79, 1408-1412 (1982)  
MEDLINE [82174608](#)

REFERENCE 27 (sites)  
AUTHORS Van Dyke,M.W. and Dervan,P.B.  
TITLE Footprinting with MPE-Fe(II). Complementary-strand analyses of distamycin- and actinomycin-binding sites on heterogeneous DNA  
JOURNAL Cold Spring Harb. Symp. Quant. Biol. 47, 347-353 (1983)  
MEDLINE [83233528](#)

REFERENCE 28 (bases 1287 to 4364)  
AUTHORS Kalnins,A., Otto,K., Ruether,U. and Mueller-Hill,B.  
TITLE Sequence of the lacZ gene of Escherichia coli  
JOURNAL EMBO J. 2, 593-597 (1983)  
MEDLINE [84028567](#)

REFERENCE 29 (sites)  
AUTHORS Cone,K.C., Sellitti,M.A. and Steege,D.A.  
TITLE Lac repressor mRNA transcription terminates in vivo in the lac control region  
JOURNAL J. Biol. Chem. 258, 11296-11304 (1983)  
MEDLINE [83291093](#)

REFERENCE 30 (sites)  
AUTHORS Sadler,J.R., Sasmor,H. and Betz,J.L.  
TITLE A perfectly symmetric lac operator binds the lac repressor very tightly  
JOURNAL Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 80, 6785-6789 (1983)  
MEDLINE [84070714](#)

REFERENCE 31 (sites)  
AUTHORS Glickman,B.W. and Ripley,L.S.  
TITLE Structural intermediates of deletion mutagenesis: A role for palindromic DNA  
JOURNAL Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 81, 512-516 (1984)  
MEDLINE [84119517](#)

REFERENCE 32 (sites)  
AUTHORS Spassky,A., Kirkegaard,K. and Buc,H.  
TITLE Changes in the DNA structure of the lac UV5 promoter during formation of an open complex with Escherichia coli RNA polymerase  
JOURNAL Biochemistry 24, 2723-2731 (1985)  
MEDLINE [85280412](#)

REFERENCE 33 (sites)  
AUTHORS Straney,D.C. and Crothers,D.M.  
TITLE Intermediates in transcription initiation from the E. coli lac UV5 promoter  
JOURNAL Cell 43, 449-459 (1985)  
MEDLINE [86079527](#)

REFERENCE 34 (sites)  
AUTHORS Looman,A.C., de Gruyter,M., Vogelaar,A. and van Knippenberg,P.H.  
TITLE Effects of heterologous ribosomal binding sites on the transcription and translation of the lacZ gene of Escherichia coli  
JOURNAL Gene 37, 145-154 (1985)  
MEDLINE [86031346](#)

REFERENCE 35 (sites)  
AUTHORS Mandecki,W., Goldman,R.A., Powell,B.S. and Caruthers,M.H.  
TITLE Lac up-promoter mutants with increased homology to the consensus promoter sequence  
JOURNAL J. Bacteriol. 164, 1353-1355 (1985)  
MEDLINE [86059235](#)

REFERENCE 36 (sites)

AUTHORS Malamy,M.H., Rahaim,P.T., Hoffman,C.S., Baghdoyan,D., O'Connor,M.B. and Miller,J.F.

TITLE A frameshift mutation at the junction of an IS1 insertion within lacZ restores beta-galactosidase activity via formation of an active lacZ-IS1 fusion protein

JOURNAL J. Mol. Biol. 181, 551-555 (1985)

MEDLINE [85210885](#)

REFERENCE 37 (bases 5646 to 7477)

AUTHORS Hediger,M.A, Johnson,D.F., Nierlich,D.P. and Zabin,I.

TITLE DNA sequence of the lactose operon: The lacA gene and the transcriptional termination region

JOURNAL Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 82, 6414-6418 (1985)

MEDLINE [86016712](#)

COMMENT [3] sites; UV5 mRNA transcripts and operator mutants. [(in) Sund,H. and Blauer,G. (eds.);Protein-Ligand Interactions: 193-207;Walter de] sites; operator mutational analysis. [7] sites; S1 and mung bean nuclease action on operator DNA. [9] sites; class I, II and III promoter mutant analysis. [13] sites; lacI mutant analysis. [16] sites; Tn5, Tn9 and Tn10 insertion sites in lac region. [14] sites; lacI promoter mutation UJ177. [18] sites; palindromic dimer operator;. [19] sites; natural operator sequence. [20] sites; operator mutational analysis. [21] sites; lacI-Q deletion. [17] sites; RNA polymerase UV5 promoter interaction. [22] sites; lacY mutational analysis. [24] sites; lacI-promoted transcription termination. [25] sites; wt and UV5 promoter sequence studies. [23] sites; UV5 promoter mutational analysis. [30] sites; perfectly symmetric operator sequence. [29] sites; lacI mRNA termination site. [27] sites; distamycin and actinomycin binding to promoter. [31] sites; lacI deletion studies. [35] sites; promoter mutational studies. [33] sites; DNAase I studies with promoter sequence. [34] sites; ribosomal binding and translation initiation for lacZ. [36] sites; insertion sequence IS1 integration in lacZ;. [32] sites; DNAase I studies with promoter. [1] first reports a 27 bp operator(sites 1240-1266) with two-fold symmetries; the operator has also been defined to be bases 1246-1266 or bases 1239-1273 [8]. [(in) Kjeldgaard,N.C. and Maaloe, O.(eds);Control of ribosome synthesis: 138-143;A] explores the ability of lac repressor protein to affect methylation of operator DNA. [8] argues that DNA on both sides of the 21 bp operator (bases 1246-1266) affects repressor binding but that the sequences of this DNA are probably not critical. [5] gives a larger sequence known as the promoter-operator region for the wild-type, whereas [2] and [26] give portions of this region for the mutant strain UV5. Within the promoter region, bases 1162-1199 are identified as the catabolite gene activator protein binding site (cap) and bases 1200-1245 are the RNA polymerase interaction site. [10] reports a sequence for the 5'end of the lacI (repressor) gene and discusses restart in mutant strains. [11] presents a sequence for the lacI promoter region and identifies an I-Q mutation which enhances lacI transcription approximately ten-fold. [12] gives a complete sequence for lacI which agrees with the known lac repressor sequence. [26] examines the promoter-operator region in the UV5 strain (lacI09) and studies 23 mutant derivatives of this sequence. This sequence agrees with known protein sequences for the lacZ, lacY and lacA enzymes. [15] notes that the fMet codon is not present for lacA and suggests that the 'ttg' codon (5727-5729), which immediately precedes the mature N-terminal asparagine codon, is the start codon. The cds for lacZ, lacY and lacA are included on a single mRNA transcript. Complete source information: Escherichia coli DNA [1],[(in) Kjeldgaard,N.C. and Maaloe,O.(eds); Control of ribosome synthesis: 138-143;A],[8],[12],[26]; mRNA [2],[5],[10]; clone lambda-h80dlac DNA [11],[15]; clone puk217 [28]; pgm8 [37].

FEATURES Location/Qualifiers

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/db\_xref="taxon:562"

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 variation 1183..1186  
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 mutation 1209..1211  
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 mutation 1212  
 /note="t in wild-type; a in mutant 1241 [5]"  
 mutation 1230  
 /note="c in wild-type; a in mutant p-r-1a [5]"  
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## Appendix B2

### Technical information relating to the *bph* genes inserted in *P. fluorescens* F113rifpcb:

#### More details on protein and DNA sequences

LOCUS PSEBPHA 5700 bp DNA BCT 18-JUL-1997  
DEFINITION Pseudomonas sp. LB400 biphenyl dioxygenase (bphA), biphenyl dioxygenase (bphE), biphenyl dioxygenase (bphF) and biphenyl dioxygenase (bphG)s, complete cds, and dihydrodiol dehydrogenase (bphB), partial cds.  
ACCESSION M86348  
NID g349602  
KEYWORDS .  
SOURCE Burkholderia sp. LB400.  
ORGANISM [Burkholderia sp. LB400](#)  
Eubacteria; Proteobacteria; beta subdivision; Burkholderia.  
REFERENCE 1 (bases 1 to 5700)  
AUTHORS Erickson,B.D. and Mondello,F.J.  
TITLE Nucleotide sequencing and transcriptional mapping of genes encoding biphenyl dioxygenase, a multicomponent PCB-degrading enzyme in pseudomonas strain LB400  
JOURNAL J. Bacteriol. 174, 2903-2912 (1992)  
MEDLINE [92234948](#)  
REFERENCE 2 (bases 1 to 5700)  
AUTHORS Erickson,B.D.  
JOURNAL Unpublished (1993)  
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 ORGANISM [Pseudomonas sp.](#)  
 Eubacteria; Proteobacteria.  
 REFERENCE 1 (bases 1 to 1963)  
 AUTHORS Hofer,B.  
 TITLE Direct Submission  
 JOURNAL Submitted (01-JUN-1992) B. Hofer, G.B.F., Bereich Mikrobiologie,  
 Mascheroder Weg 1, 3300 Braunschweig, FRG  
 REFERENCE 2 (bases 1 to 1963)  
 AUTHORS Hofer,B., Eltis,L.D., Dowling,D.N. and Timmis,K.N.  
 TITLE Genetic analysis of a Pseudomonas locus encoding a pathway for  
 biphenyl/polychlorinated biphenyl degradation  
 JOURNAL Gene 130 (1), 47-55 (1993)  
 MEDLINE [93345822](#)  
 COMMENT See also X66123 & M86348.  
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1801 gtggtgaggg acgacagtcc gagcatgtgg ggccacaagt ctgtgcgca caaagcagct
1861 gcgcgcaaca aagcatgaac aacaacctga atagcacggg aatccctgca tgaaacttta
1921 ctacagccct ggtgctgct cctgtcacc gcacattgca ttg
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**Appendix D -- (Unpublished information):  
Technical details on the survival of the genetically modified organisms.**

*Pseudomonas fluorescens* strains F113::lacZY, F113rifpcb and F113pcblac3.1 were evaluated in terms of risk assessment, using plant-soil microcosm models.

F113::lacZY in contaminated soil from the release site:

Strain F113::lacZY was inoculated on willow cuttings, and the survival of the strain in the rhizosphere was followed over 2, 4 and 6 weeks in a contaminated and a non-contaminated soil. Parallel to this, two parallel sets of cuttings inoculated with the strain were treated with the herbicide round up. After the partial decay of the roots (three weeks after treatment), the number of culturable cells of F113::lacZY was measured in one set of the willows. In the other set, new cuttings were planted in the soil to see whether the strain was able to recolonise the roots of the plants (over three weeks of growth).

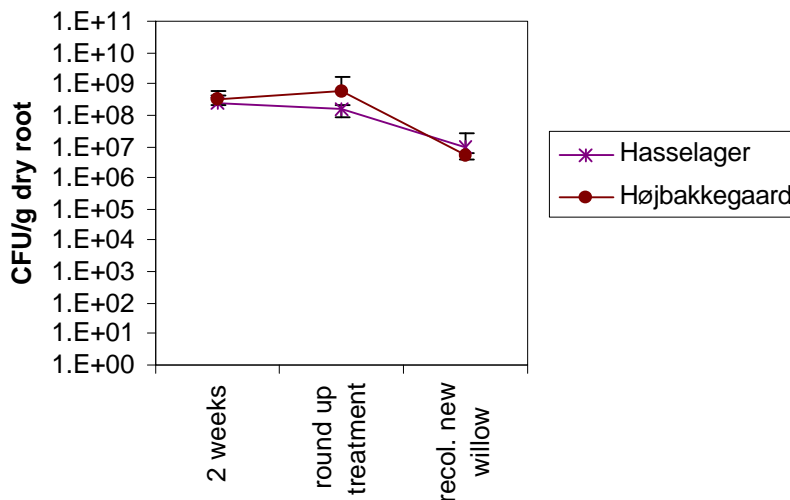
The results of the experiment indicate that the PCB contamination did influence the colonisation and survival of F113 in the rhizosphere of the plants. The colonisation of the strain in the contaminated soil was less than the colonisation in the non-contaminated soil (Fig. 1). Furthermore, there was a tendency for a better survival of the strain in the non-contaminated soil than in the contaminated soil after the round up treatment (Fig. 2). The recolonisation of the willow plants seemed to be the same in the two soils.

In the experiment, there were unfortunately some methodological problems, resulting in an overestimation of the cell density of *P. fluorescens* in the experimental soil. The reporter gene *LacZY* alone was found to be insufficient in facilitating a selective detection method, as a high number of the indigenous soil bacteria were able to metabolise the substrate X-gal (although this caused blue colouring of colonies at a distinctly lower intensity). This was probably due to other metabolising enzymes with a lower affinity for X-gal. Future work will, therefore, rely on a rifampicin-resistant mutant of F113::lacZY for reducing false positive background counts.



**Figure 1:** Survival of the strain F113::lacZY (abbreviated "lacZ") in a contaminated (Hasselager) and a non-contaminated (Højbakkegaard) soil after two, four and six weeks of incubation. Furthermore, the total population of fluorescent pseudomonads (SA medium) are shown. It can be seen that the survival of the strain is reduced by the contamination in the soil.

## Survival and recolonisation of F113lacZY in the rhisosphere.



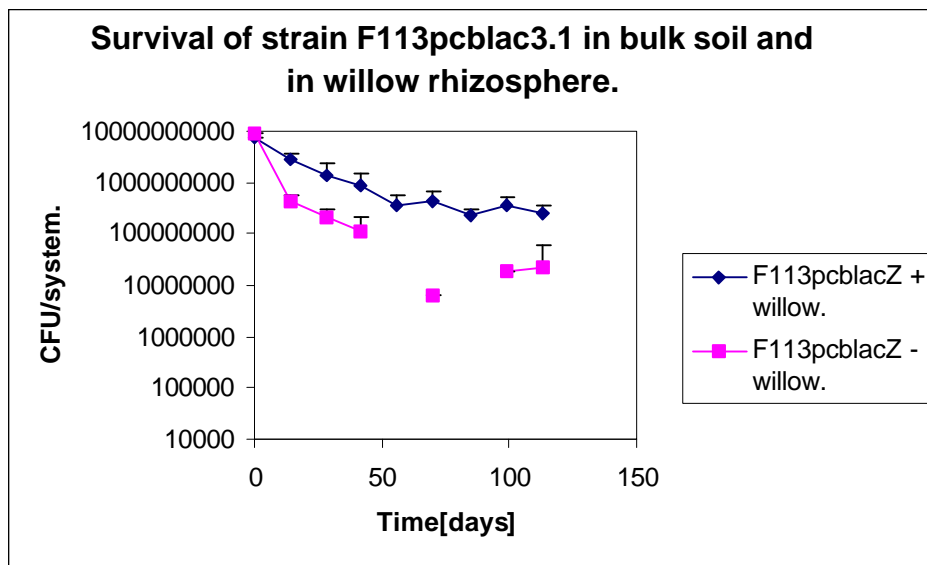
**Figure 2:** Survival and recolonisation of F113::lacZY in the rhizosphere of willow in a contaminated (Hasselager) and a non-contaminated (Højbakkegaard) soil. The data show the cell density of strain F113::lacZY after two weeks of incubation, after partial decay of the roots (because of round up treatment), and the recolonisation of a new willow planted in the round up treated rhizosphere. The results indicate that the strain is able to survive better in the non-contaminated soil than in the contaminated soil. There seems to be no difference in the recolonisation of the willow hereafter.

Nevertheless, even when including false positive counts, which (as background counts revealed) were only significant after 4 and 6 weeks, the data support an overall decreasing tendency of strain F113::lacZY's bacterial density in the experimental systems. When the initial inoculation was performed at ca.  $1 \cdot 10^8$  per system (corresponding to  $1 \cdot 10^6$  per g of soil), bacterial counts remained approximately constant or decreased over the first 4 weeks, whereas all final levels (after 6 weeks or after replanting with willow) were 2 to 3 orders of magnitude lower than initially inoculated.

### F113pcblac3.1 in soil piked with 4-PCB:

Strain F113pcblac3.1 was evaluated for the ability to survive in the rhizosphere of willow and in bulk soil.

Cuttings of willow were inoculated with the strain at  $8 \cdot 10^9$  cells/cutting (=  $8 \cdot 10^9$  cells/microcosm system, corresponding to  $0.84 \cdot 10^6$  per g of soil). The inoculated cuttings were planted in a natural soil spiked with 4-PCB (200mg/kg). In the treatments for evaluating the survival of the strain in bulk soil without willow,  $9 \cdot 10^9$  cells (=  $9 \cdot 10^9$  cells/microcosm system, corresponding to  $0.95 \cdot 10^6$  per g of soil) were mixed into the soil. Every 14th day, over a period of 113 days, a triplicate of willows were extracted for the number of F113 in the systems. The results are shown in the following figure.



**Fig. 3:** Survival of F113pcblac3.1 (in the graph labelled F113pcblacZ) in soil microcosms with and without willow.

In both systems the number of bacteria decreased during the first 5 weeks after inoculation by more than 1 order of magnitude with willow, and by more than 2 orders of magnitude without willow. Hereafter, the number of bacteria seems to decrease at a slow rate during the remaining time of the experiment. For the systems consisting of willow-inoculated bacteria, the final level was about  $3 \cdot 10^8$  bacteria per system (corresponding to  $3 \cdot 10^6$  per g of soil). For the systems without the willow, the number is about  $2 \cdot 10^7$  bacteria per system (corresponding to  $0.2 \cdot 10^6$  per g of soil).

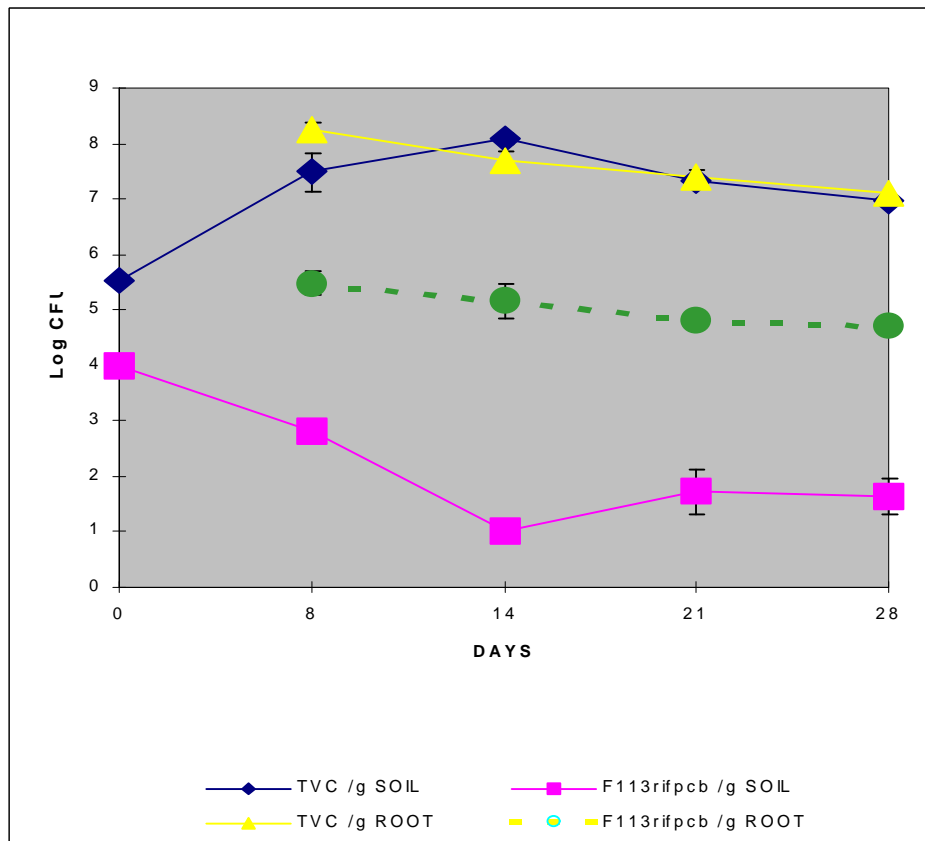
The experiment indicates, that the survival of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113pcblac3.1 in soil is good. The strain has an initial adaptation period for establishment, during which they rapidly decreases in number. Hereafter, the bacteria are present at an almost constant number in the systems. It is also indicated that the survival of the strain is enhanced about 10 times by the presence of willow.

#### F113rifpcb in alfalfa microcosms:

Strain F113rifpcb was evaluated for the ability to survive in the rhizosphere of alfalfa and in bulk soil.

Alfalfa seeds were inoculated with the strain at  $1 \cdot 10^6$  cells/seed (=  $7 \cdot 10^6$  cells/microcosm system, corresponding to  $3 \cdot 10^4$  per g of soil). The inoculated seeds were planted in a natural soil not spiked with PCB. Every 7th day, over a period of 4 weeks, a triplicate of alfalfa plants were extracted for the number of F113 on the root system and in the surrounding bulk soil. The Total Viable Count (TVC) of bacteria was also enumerated. The results are shown in the following figure.





**Fig. 4:** Colonisation of alfalfa rhizosphere by *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113rifpcb: Alginate encapsulated and inoculated alfalfa seeds in non-sterile soil microcosms. CFU, colony forming units; TVC, total viable count. (D. Dowling, unpublished data).

It can be seen, that the number of inoculated bacteria decreased during the 4 weeks of incubation by almost 1 order of magnitude in the root zone, and by more than 2 orders of magnitude in bulk soil. The experiment indicates, that the survival of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113rif pcb in soil is good, but limited. It is also indicated that the survival of the strain, after inoculation on seeds, is confined to the root zone, as its numbers in bulk soil rapidly decrease during the first two weeks after inoculation, reaching a constant plateau between  $10^1$  and  $10^2$  per g soil during these two two weeks.

Conclusions:

- Modified strains of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113 survive well in soil, i.e., their number of colony-forming units decreases only slowly. However their survival is not enhanced by the genetic modifications.
- There is no indication of growth of any of the strains exceeding the originally inoculated bacterial numbers.
- Plant removal reduces the strains' survival in soil.

## **Appendix E.**

### **Results of soil analyses of the release site.**

Analytical results: See table in the analysis report reproduced on the following page.

Sample codes: See text of the analysis report reproduced on the following page, and the map insert on it.

Tonder den 31. maj 1999

**DMU**  
**Ulrich Karlson**

**1. sæt analyser i forbindelse med pileoprensning i Hasselager.**

Den 30.04.99 blev det første sæt prøver udtaget, samtidig med at pilebeplantningen blev tilendebragt.

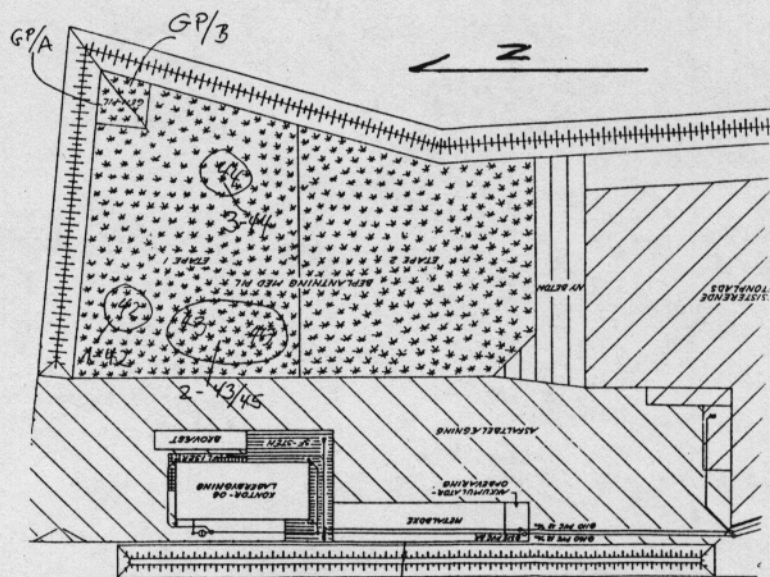
Prøveudtagning fandt sted som skitseret i forslag til analyseprogram med følgende ændringer:

1. oprindelige prøvesteder 43 og 45 er slået sammen i stedet for 42 og 43. Mellem 42 og 43 var der oprindeligt en kørevej, således at 43 og 45 mere udgør et sammenhængende område end 42 og 43.
2. der analyseres for oliekomponenter ved hj. af GC-FID, som ønsket af Århus Amt.

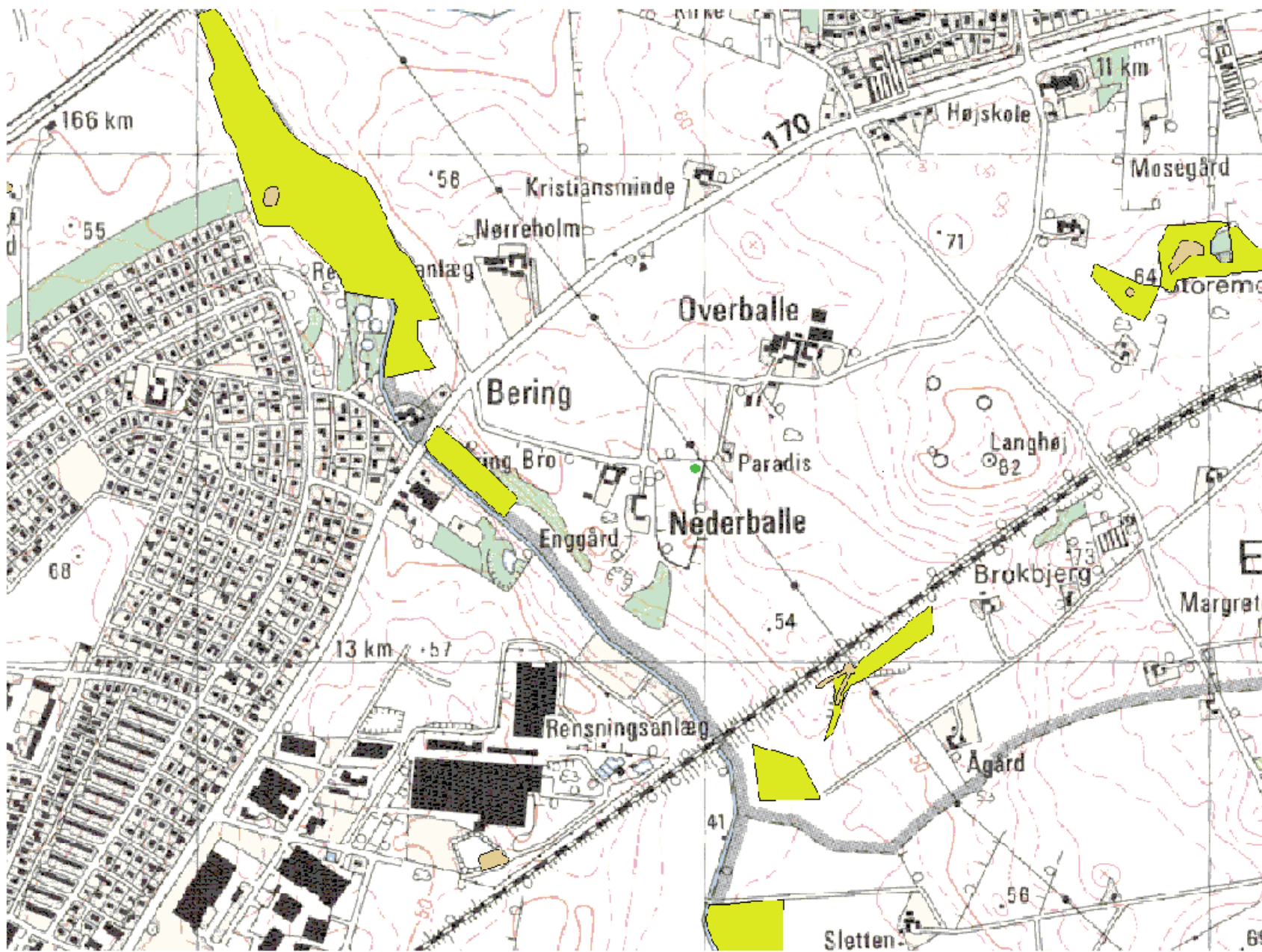
Nedenfor er der givet en oversigt over de fundne resultater:

Parameter	GP/A	GP/B	1-42	2-43/45	3-44
tot. Kulbrinter i mg/kg tørstof	3.400	3.100	3.200	7.600	3.600
Benzen	0,54	0,26	< 0,1	0,24	0,18
Toluen	< 0,1	< 0,1	< 0,1	0,66	0,18
m+p Xylen	< 0,1	< 0,1	< 0,1	1,6	0,10
o Xylen	0,17	0,25	0,11	0,41	0,27
Ethylbenzen	< 0,1	< 0,1	< 0,1	0,51	< 0,1
tot. Cyanid i mg/kg vådvægt			480	1.100	45
PCB 28	0,20	0,17			
PCB 52	0,26	0,21			
PCB 101	0,25	0,17			
PCB 118	0,16	0,099			
PCB 138	0,28	0,20			
PCB 153	0,19	0,14			
PCB 180	0,086	0,073			

Med venlig hilsen  
*Fedder Hindrichsen*  
Fedder Hindrichsen

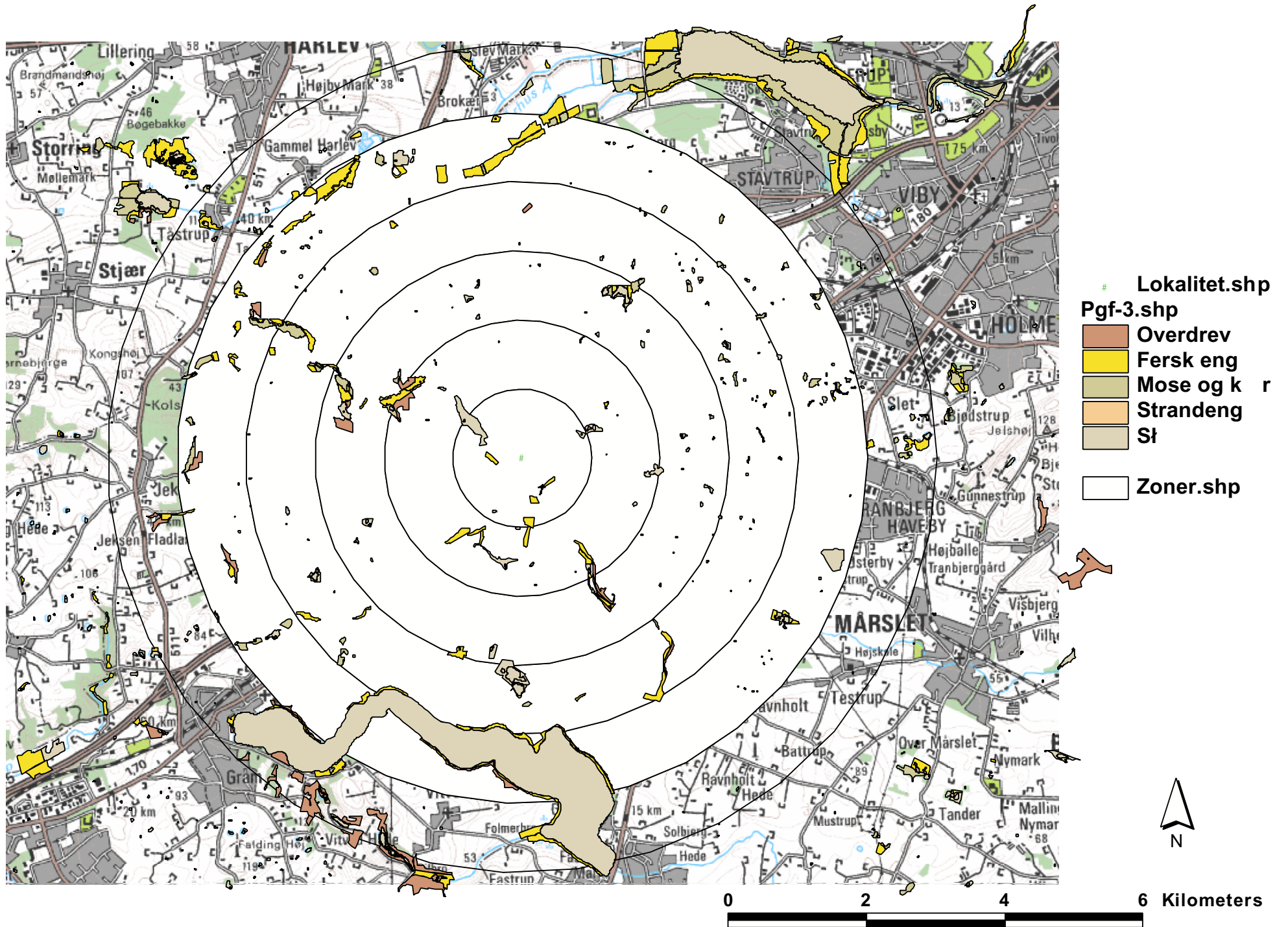


**Two maps (see next 2 pages) showing the release site in relation to areas protected according to “Paragraf 3 Naturbeskyttelseslov”.**



- Lokalitet
- Paragraf 3 områder
- Overdrev
- Fersk eng
- Mose og kær
- Sø
- 





**List of areas, protected according to “Paragraf 3 Naturbeskyttelseslov”, in 0 to 6000 m distance from the release site. Sum of area in m<sup>2</sup>.**

Note that the number of areas cannot be summed up across the whole list, as areas falling into more than one distance zone are counted more than once.

ZONE	0	0	1000	1000	2000	2000	3000	3000	4000	4000	5000	5000
	- 1000 m	- 1000 m	- 2000 m	- 2000 m	- 3000 m	- 3000 m	- 4000 m	- 4000 m	- 5000 m	- 5000 m	- 6000 m	- 6000 m
	COUNT	SUM AREA	COUNT	SUM AREA	COUNT	SUM AREA	COUNT	SUM AREA	COUNT	SUM AREA	COUNT	SUM AREA
Overdrev			3	90274	7	161112	4	30298	8	164801	17	415348
Fersk eng	8	182967	17	370067	15	234977	19	521943	42	1157859	27	746714
Mose og kær			7	24523	14	130902	20	197261	28	345633	32	530098
Sø	4	4104	23	45413	45	108721	67	18711765	75	7594593	74	8973449

## Appendix F.

### **Oplysninger leveret af Holger Pedersen, MST, landbrugs- og bioteknologikontor baseret på den officielle rapport fra de kompetente myndigheder i Italien, af forsøgsudsætningerne af *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113 lacZY i 1994 og 1995.**

#### **Konklusioner**

Der er ingen resultater angående effektiviteten af *P.fluorescens* F113 lacZY som biologisk bekæmpelsesmiddel af damping-off, da der de to forsøgsår ikke blev observeret symptomer på sygdommen.

Innokulering med *P.fluorescens* F113 lacZY havde ingen negativ effekt på nodulering på soyarødder. I 1994 var der en øget nodulering ved innokulering med både *P.fluorescens* F113 lacZY og *B. japonicum* i forhold til de andre behandlinger. Dette blev dog ikke bekræftet i 1995.

I en rotation mellem kulturer innokuleret med forskellige GMM viser der sig ingen effekter på hverken *P.fluorescens* F113 lacZY, jordens mikroorganismer eller det innoculum der blev udsat året før.

Alle de agronomiske parametre, der blev målt (spiringsprocent, noduleringskapacitet, udbytte, protein i bønner, olie i bønner, biomasse af de grønne dele, kvælstofindhold), var sammenlignelige ved behandling med *P.fluorescens* F113 lacZY og ved kontroller.

*P.fluorescens* F113 lacZY viste sig som en god koloniasator af jord og rhizosfære, med relativt forhøjede densiteter i dyrkningsperioden og derefter faldende densiteter i tiden efter. Et år efter udsætningen var densiteten 2 logaritmer mindre end ved slutningen af soyaens vækstperiode (120 dage). Ved 515 dage var densiteten under detektionsgrænsen.

Der er ikke indikationer på ændringer i mikroflora/fauna i jorden.

(I forsøget fra 1994 havde *P.fluorescens* F113 lacZY næsten fuldstændig udkonkurreret den naturlige population af *P.fluorescens* efter 120 dage, hvorimod *P.fluorescens* F113 lacZY i 1995 forsøget kun udgjorde 11% af den samlede *P.fluorescens* population. Dette kunne tildels skyldes et skraftigt regnskyl lige efter såning i 1995. Mængden af *P.fluorescens* F113 lacZY blev ikke målt efter 120 dage i 1994, som det var tilfældet i 1995.)