BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Tamas Torok

POSITION TITLE: Microbiologist/staff scientist

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	YEAR(s)	FIELD OF STUDY
Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany	B.S.	1969	Food sciences
Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany	M.S.	1971	Food microbiology
University of Szeged, Hungary	Ph.D.	1982	Microbiology
Technical University, Budapest, Hungary	M.S.	1984	Bioengineering

A. Positions and Honors.

1971 - 1974 Microbiologist, Center for Food Control and Analysis, Budapest, Hungary

1974 - 1988 Senior staff scientist, Department of Microbiology, University of Horticulture and Food Sciences, Budapest, Hungary

1988 - 1992 Visiting scientist, USDA Western Regional Research Center, Albany, CA

1992 - 1995 Senior research associate, Life Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

1995 -1997 Scientist, Life Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

1997 - present Staff scientist, Life Science Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

2001 - present Adjunct faculty at Cañada College (Redwood City, CA; teach microbiology courses)

2003 - present Adjunct professor of medical microbiology and immunology (Touro University at Mare Island, Vallejo, CA)

2003 - present Adjunct professor at California State University Hayward (teach microbiology and immunology courses, graduate thesis committee member)

Member of the Editorial Board for the J. of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology (1996 - present)

Member - DOE Review Panel for the Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention (IPP) program (1998 - 2001)

Chair of the DOE Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention (IPP) program review panel (2001 - 2003)

Member - DOE Review Panel for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program (1998 - present)

Member of Board of Directors, US Federation of Culture Collections (2002 - present)

Ad-hoc review panel member for NIH program on culture collections (1999 and 2003)

Member of the University of California Discovery Program review panel (2003)

Honors

"Outstanding Performance Award" - Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (1996)

"Outstanding Mentor Award" - US Department of Energy (2004)

Memberships

American Society for Microbiology

American Society for Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology

American Association for the Advancement of Science

US Federation for Culture Collections

Volunteer for Citizens Development Corps (CDC) [assignment in Kosovo in 2002]

B. Selected peer-reviewed publications

Repin, V. T. Torok, M. I Kuzmin, and J. C. Hunter-Cevera. 1999. Unusual restriction enzyme profile of Bacillus spp. isolated from Lake Baikal water and sediment samples. ASM International Subsurface Microbiology Meeting, Vail, CO, p.77.

Torok, T. V. Repin, V. Geletij, and J. C. Hunter-Cevera. 1999. Microbial diversity in Lake Baikal water and sediment samples as determined by an extensive isolation program. ASM International Subsurface Microbiology Meeting, Vail, CO, p.77.

Rodriguez-Martinez, R. A., Hazen, T. C., Torok, T., Clark, M.B. 2000. Microbial community studies of differently treated explosive contaminated soils. ASM 100th General Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, p.495.

Andreeva I., Ryabchikova, E., Pechurkina, N., Zajtsev, B., Geletij, V., Korobushkina, E., Vinogradova, T., Torok, T., Hunter-Cevera, J. C., and Repin, V. 2001. Morphological analysis of aerobic microorganisms in deep drilling core samples. Geology and Geophysics (Russia) 42:220-230.

Repin, V., Torok, T., and Kuzmin, M. I. 2001. Biodiversity of deep sub-bottom sediments of Lake Baikal. Geology and Geophysics (Russia) 42:231-234.

Repin, V., Torok, T., Degtyarev, S., Abdurashitov, M., Puchkova, L., Andreeva, I., Pechurkina, N., Hunter-Cevera, J. C., Geletij, V., and Kuzmin, M. I. 2001. Microbiological and biotechnological investigations of sub-bottom sediments of Lake Baikal and samples of closely located hot springs (Zmeiniy, Goryachenskij). Geology and Geophysics (Russia) 42:235-240.

Torok, T. 2002. Ecological and health threat-associated research at the Center for Environmental Biotechnology, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory , J. Phys. Biol. Chem., 2:119-120.

Torok, T. 2004. Extraction of PCR-amplifiable genomic DNA from Bacillus anthracis spores (submitted)

Reiman, L., Torok, T., Moss, S., and Dixon, B. 2005. Possible role of intestinal obligate anaerobic bacteria in the digestive process of Pacific white shrimp Litopenaeus vannamei (submitted)

Andreeva, L.S., M.V. Repina, S.F. Oreshkova, E.I. Ryabchikova, L.I. Puchkova, N.N. Blinova, M.V. Repina, N.I. Pechurkina, T. Torok, and V.E. Repin 2005. Genomic and phenotypic analysis of microorganisms isolated from the sediments of Lake Baikal. Microbiology74:709-714.

Andreeva, L.S., N.I. Pechurkina, E.I. Ryabchikova, S.I. Belikov*, N.I. Denikina*, L.I. Puchkova, E.K. Emelyanova, T.Torok, V.E. Repin (2005) Roseomonas baikalica-vector sp. nov., a new bacterial species isolated from sub-bottom drilling samples from Lake Baikal (in press)

C. Projects

- "Microbially derived crop protection products" - DOE IPP program (PI); 5/2002 – 7/2006

The project screens large numbers of microbial natural products for their biological activity with potential application for crop protection. The microorganisms were isolated in extreme environments mostly in the territory of the former Soviet Union.

- "Microbial diversity for novel biotechnology applications" - DOE IPP program (PI); 8/2004 – 12/2006.The project is targeting the collection of extremophilic microorganisms and uses both total community genomic DNA and cultivation based approaches.

- "Screening plant extracts and microbial natural products" - DOE IPP program (PI); 10/2000 – 12/2003. Plants and microorganisms were collected in and around the failed nuclear power plant in Chernobyl and in the 30-km exclusion zone in Ukraine. Screening for Pol III inhibiting natural molecules.