

Abstract zum Seminarvortrag 26.02.2015

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High-resolution microscopy for the measurement of the biological effects of naturally-derived products

In our group in Porto, we focus on a range of applications of atomic force microscopy (AFM), a high-resolution surface microscopy technique. In addition to applications, we also work on education, and instrumental development in AFM.

In this talk, I will focus on some recent work in collaboration with a group in the northeast of Brazil, which is based on the analysis of the effects of natural products using AFM. The products are all derived from the rich biodiversity from this region of Brazil, including plants, amphibians and reptiles. These naturally-derived molecules present interesting antibacterial and antiparasitic properties.

I will also compare and contrast the technique of AFM, and the results that can be obtained from it, with scanning electron microscopy, a more widespread surface microscopy technique.