Bio-Trap – Stable Isotope Probing Protocol

Sampling Instructions

Handling:

- Bio-Trap Samplers used for Stable Isotope Probing (SIP) are baited with ^{13}C-labeled contaminant of interest (e.g. benzene, MTBE, chlorobenzene) adsorbed onto the powder activated carbon (PAC). Controlled laboratory conditions show only minimal loss of contaminant due to volatilization. However, special considerations must be taken into account when handling SIP Bio-Trap Samplers in order to reduce the risk of volatilization.
- SIP Bio-Trap Samplers are shipped out chilled, on blue ice, and it is essential that they should be kept cool (not frozen) until deployment.
- When retrieving the Bio-Trap Samplers that have been deployed in the field, they should immediately be placed on ice and shipped on ice for next day delivery. These steps will ensure the most accurate results.
- Although the contaminant is absorbed onto the beads, caution should be used in handling these Bio-Trap Samplers because the contaminant compounds are associated with possible health and safety risks.

Note: Clean latex gloves (or similar) should be used at all times when handling the Bio-Trap Samplers.

Storage:

It is important to minimize the amount of time that Bio-Trap Samplers are stored prior to being installed in the field. The physical properties of the Bio-Trap Samplers that make them an ideal medium for collecting microbes also increase the chances of microbial or chemical contamination. Bio-Trap Samplers need to remain sealed and refrigerated (not frozen) until they can be installed in the field.

Installation:

- Prior to installing Bio-Trap Sampler, the monitoring well may need to be purged if it has not been sampled in a while. If purging is necessary, MI recommends that three well volumes be removed to ensure contact with formation water and reduce well bore effect.
- Attach the Bio-Trap Sampler's nylon loop (provided) to a nylon line (not provided) and suspend Bio-Trap Sampler at a depth where significant contaminant concentrations exist. If no data are available on the vertical distribution of contaminants, then suspend the Bio-Trap Sampler in the middle of the saturated screened interval.
- If large fluctuations in the water level are anticipated during the period of incubation, the Bio-Trap Sampler should be suspended from a float (contact MI for further details). Be sure not to suspend the bio-trap in the NAPL zone.
- Once installed, incubation times can vary depending upon the scope of the project. A typical Stable Isotope Probing (SIP) study incubation period is 30 days but is project dependant. Please contact us if you have questions regarding the optimum deployment period for your samples.

Retrieval:

- Open the monitoring well and pull up the Bio-Trap Sampler. Cut and remove the braided nylon line used to suspend the Bio-Trap Sampler.
- Transfer the recovered Bio-Trap Sampler to labeled (well number and date) zippered bags, seal and then double bag in a larger (one-gallon) zippered bag, immediately place on blue ice in a cooler.
- Repeat above for all the Bio-Trap Samplers from the site.
- A chain of custody (COC) form must be included with each shipment of samples.
- In order to minimize the potential effect of these samplers on the monitoring well, MI recommends purging three well volumes from the test well following the retrieval of the SIP Bio-Trap Samplers.

Shipping Instructions

Packaging Samples:

1. Samples should be shipped in a cooler with ice or blue ice for next day delivery. If regular ice is used, the ice should be double bagged.
2. A chain of custody form must be included with each shipment of samples. Access our chain of custody at www.microbe.com.

Shipment for Weekday Delivery:

Samples for weekday delivery should be shipped to:

OmniQU Laboratories
Attn: Sample Custodian
6 Ferrule Avenue
Montague Gardens
Cape Town, 7441
South Africa

**Please note Saturday delivery is not available.

Please send an email message including the tracking number of your package(s) to CustomerService@microbe.com to notify us your shipment is on the way.

Stable Isotope Probing (SIP) may preclude subsequent Compound Specific Isotope Analysis (CSIA) in the study well for a period of time. CSIA can be performed prior to SIP or at another location.