

The Alpine Institute for Phytopharmacology
Olivone, Blenio Valley, Switzerland

Foundation year:

The *Alpine Institute for Phytopharmacology* with residence in Olivone (Blenio Valley, Ct. Ticino, Switzerland) was founded January 2003, and was certified as *Laboratory GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices)*, Cert. N. 1007687, by the *Swiss agency for therapeutic agents* Swissmedic, Bern, Mai 04, 2004.

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Business name:

The *Alpine Institute of Phytopharmacology* belong to the “Cooperative for Plants and Phytoproducts in Ticino” : the last was founded February 07 , 2000 and within the Institute activities aimed at contributing to the economical, territorial, cultural and social revalorization of the alpine regions.

Fields of application (in alphabetical order):

Cosmetics	X	Pharmacologic specialities	X
Environment	X	Pharmacotoxicology	X
Nutraceuticals	X	Research	X
Pharmaceutics	X	Training	X

The Alpine Institute for Phytopharmacology

The Institute in summer ...



... and in winter.



The Institute began its activities in January 2003 with the aim of offering high-quality services to local, Swiss and foreign industries as well as to public administrations, communities and syndicates. The service consists of quality control of products based on natural raw material and of the analysis of water and of environment pollution. The scientists of the institute, thanks to their considerable know-how and to the transfer of technology from other academic or industrial structures in Switzerland or other countries are able to satisfy specific requests by the precise use of particular methodologies related to chromatographic, spectrometric and atomic absorption techniques. On these basis and according to the vocation of the academic staff of the *Alpine Institute of Phytopharmacology* a fundamental role is played in basic and fundamental research aimed at discovering new phyto-products and to contribute in developing the training of young students.

The Alpine Institute of Phytopharmacology is basically subdivided into three branches:

1. administrative
 2. preparatory
 3. analytical
1. **The administrative branch** gets in touch with clients, makes out the results of the analyses and of the related certificates of quality-control. It is also in charge of accounting.
 2. **The preparatory branch** organizes the collection and conservation of samples in appropriate quantities so as to guarantee a complete chemical examination. It therefore constitutes a significant prerequisite for obtaining valid final results. The establishment of efficient contact between clientele and analyst is an important step towards attaining well-founded results from the succeeding analyses. The biological samples must be gained and sent to the laboratory in the shortest time possible and in the proper way, i.e. in separate containers, opportunely labelled and, if possible, refrigerated. All collected material must be chilled or frozen immediately and stored in accordance with the general prescriptions, in order to guarantee efficient supervision. What concerns the required quantity of biological material for the analysis, there are instructions from the laboratory to be followed. The actual analysis is preceded by a series of procedures that aim at isolating the molecules to be investigated from the organic matrices. These procedures are performed in a laboratory equipped with all the necessary instruments such as *precision balances, cooled centrifuges, desiccators, extractors, pH-meters and a programmed congelation system for samples in liquid nitrogen at -195,8°C and congelation at -80°C.*
 3. **The analytical branch** proceeds to the actual analysis, identifying and quantifying the researched organic molecules. The institute is equipped with progressive analytical systems that allow for the detection and quantification of organic volatile and non-volatile substances present in the biological samples obtained.

Methods of analysis for the following molecules are now at disposition or are being prepared:

- *antibiotics* of vegetal or animal origins
- *heavy metals* in natural products according to the methodology previewed from the European pharmacopoeia
- *indolic molecules* such as melatonin and others in products of vegetal or animal origins
- *pesticides* in vegetable products according to the methodology previewed from the European pharmacopoeia
- *products of degradation* in vegetable extracts
- *serotonine* in vegetable products
- vegetable and animal hormones

The instrumental analysis is guaranteed by a modern and functional infrastructure that permits:

- *High pressure liquid chromatography with multichannel electrochemical revelation or HPLC coularray*
- *High pressure liquid chromatography with combined ultra-violet - mass revelation or HPLC-UV-MS*
- *Gas chromatography with revelation of mass or GC-MS*
- *Gas chromatography with revelation by flame ionisation or GC-FID*
- *Atomic absorbment or AAS*
- *spectrophotometry*

Acknowledgments

The Alpine Institute of Phytopharmacology has received the following national awards for the design, realization and management of projects:

PIAS 2001 :

Award for "Innovation in Swiss Agriculture", St. Gallen, October 17, 2001

Allodola d'oro :

1st prize in a field of 70 participating projects - main reward assigned by the foundation "MUT" from Winterthur for the promotion of ecological and environment-conscious methods of agriculture. Reckenholz, February 24, 2002.

SAB 2003 :

Main prize in a field of 42 participating projects assigned by the Swiss group for mountain regions "Gruppo Svizzero per le regioni di montagna", Alvaneu Dorf / Albulatal, August 29-30, 2003.

The Alpine Institute of Phytopharmacology and the Life Sciences Network.

Many connections have been established in the last years. Please see attached file *Network Life Sciences*.