



# Microbial Degradation of Explosives in a Bioreactor - a research project

Dr. Monica Odlare





# **BIOREX**

- Biological Remediation of Explosives



**Mälardalen University**



## **Research at the Department of Public Technology**

- Energy Management & Load Control
- Process & Sensor Development
- Process Efficiency Improvement
- Sustainable Management & Communication



## **Objectives with BIOREX**

- Develop a method for microbial degradation of explosives
- Remediate sludge and soil contaminated with explosives
- Characterization of the degradation process



## Project partners

- Mälardalen University
- Nammo Demil Division
- Cesium Innovation Company
- Eurenco Bofors
- Bofors Test Center
- Swedish Defense Research Agency
- KCEM (Competence Centre for Energetic Material)





## Explosives in Sweden

- Demilitarization
- Ammunition factories
- Explosives factories
- Testing sites
- Closed down military sites
- Mining industries





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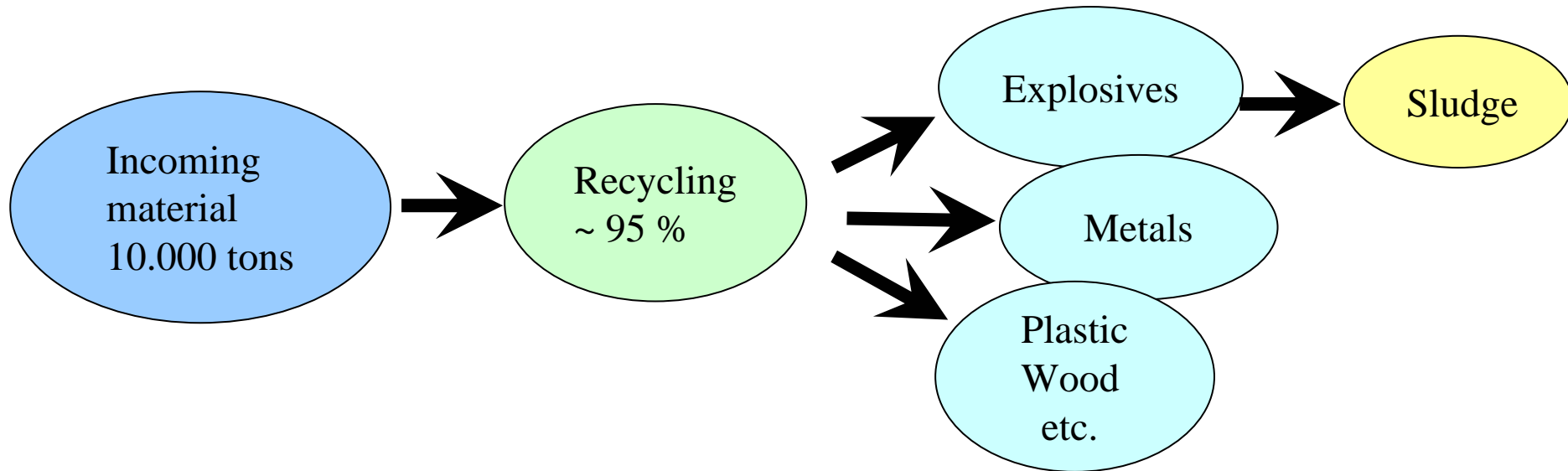
Contaminated

- Soil
- Water
- Waste (e.g. sludge)





## Nammo Demil Division





TNT sludge

- 80% TNT
- Organic material
- Metals

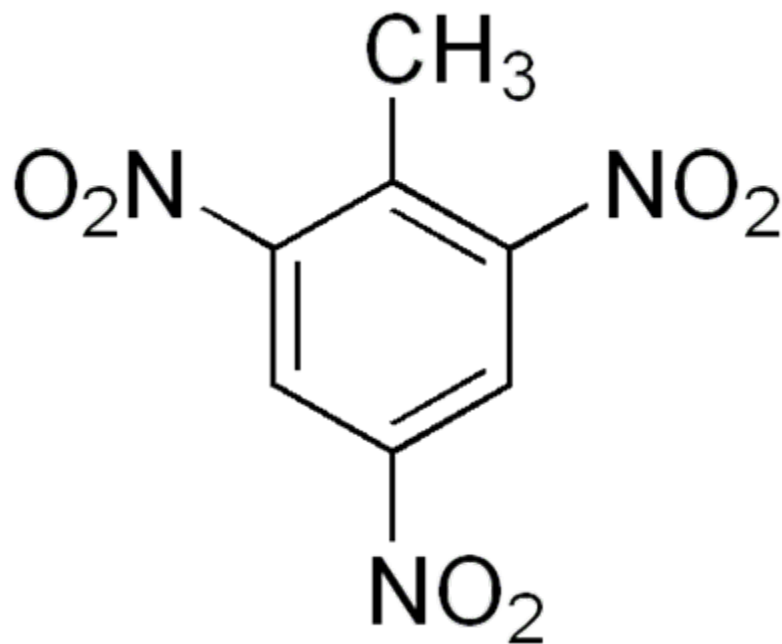


## **Explosives are toxic**

- Microorganisms
- Plants
- Animals
- Humans

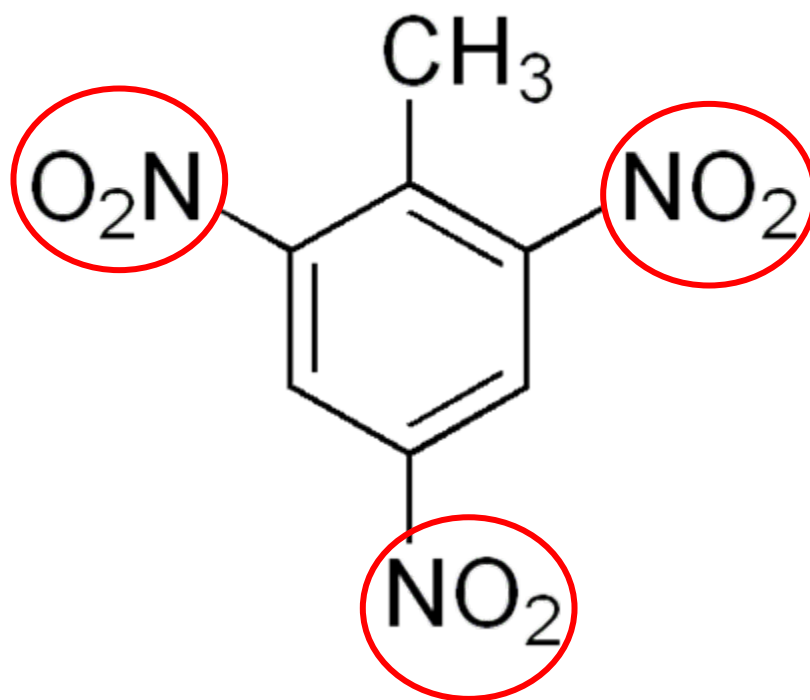


## TNT (Trinitrotoluene)



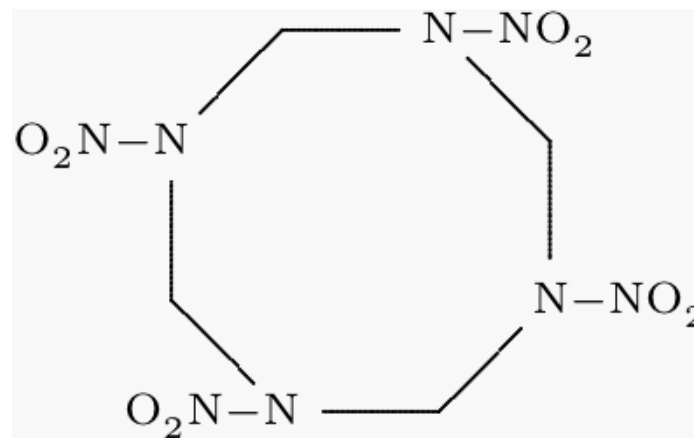
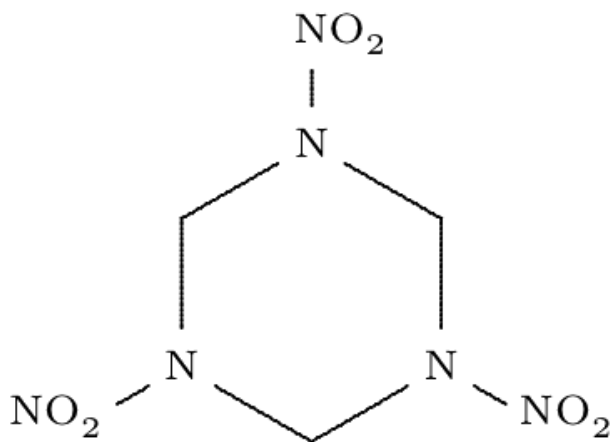


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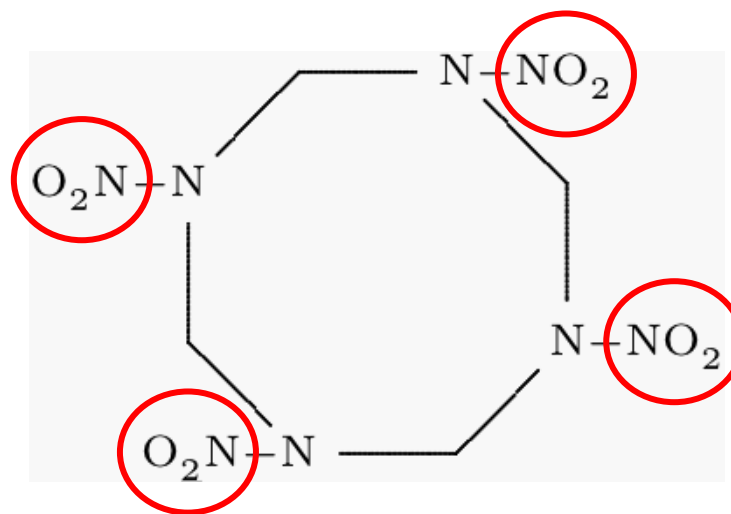
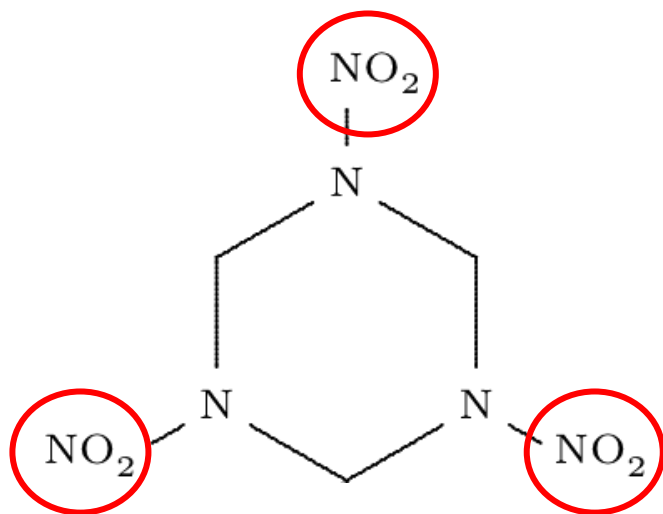


## RDX and HMX





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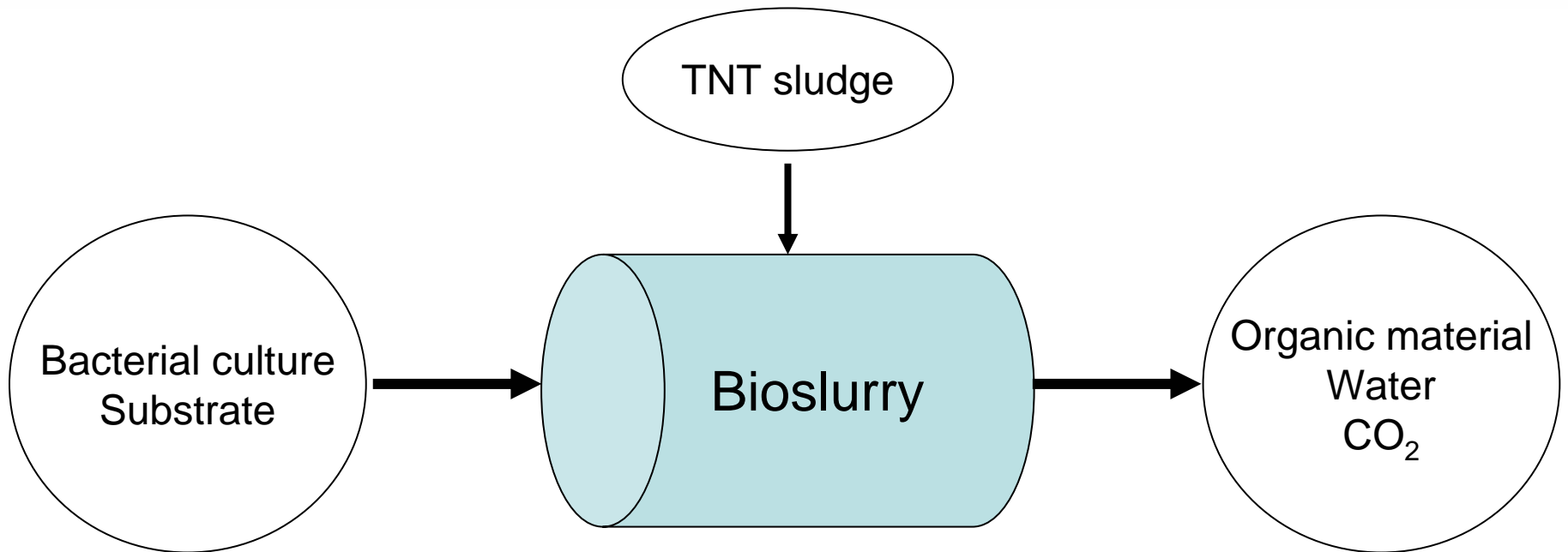
## The large-scale bioreactor



- Mobile
- On-site
- Cost-effective
- Simple to operate



## Project idea





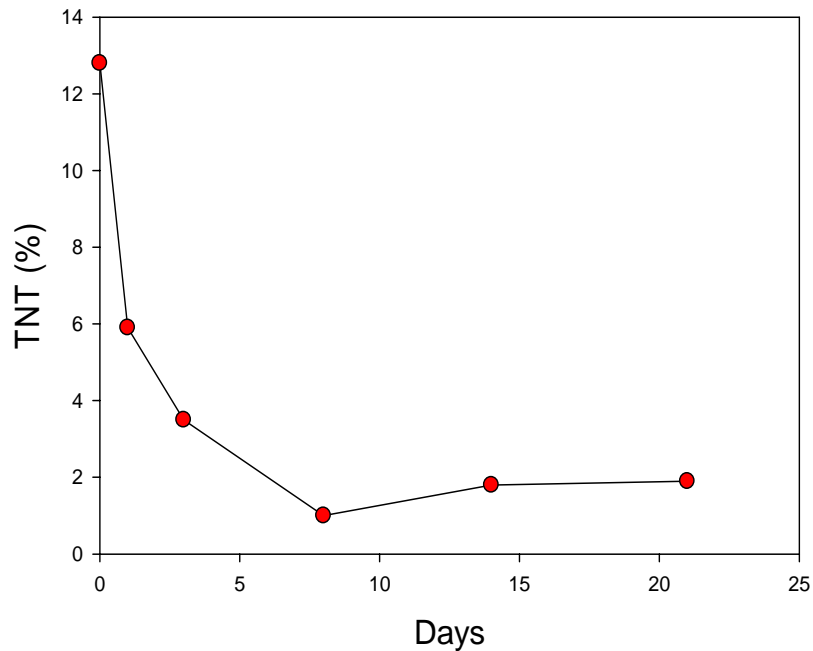
## A laboratory bioreactor



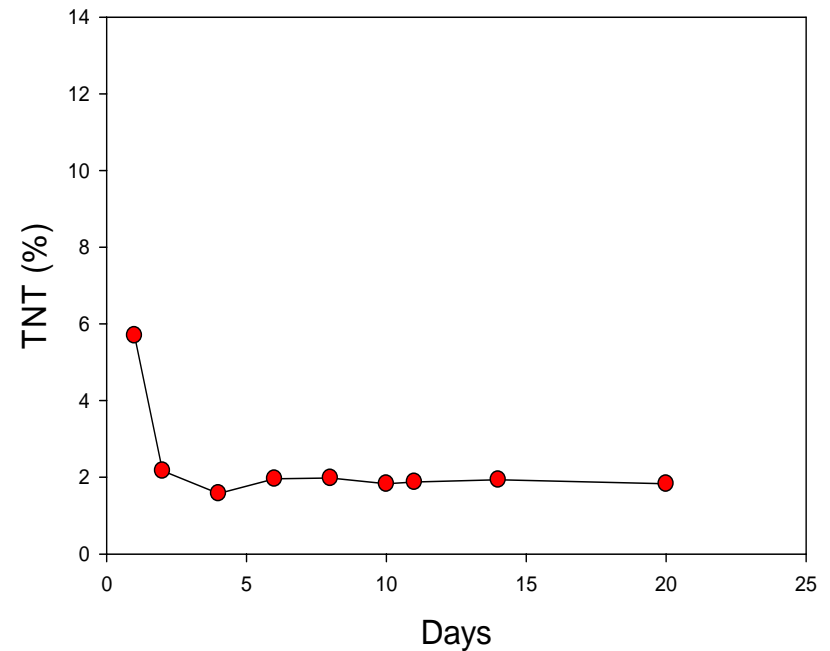


# Promising results

Experiment 1



Experiment 2





## **Future plans**

- Use the bioreactor for degradation of other pollutants (oil, petrol, creosote etc.)
- Using filter techniques for treatment of polluted water (explosives, metals etc.)



**MÄLARDALENS HÖGSKOLA**  
**ESKILSTUNA VÄSTERÅS**

## **Contact information**

**Monica Odlare**  
**monica.odlare@mdh.se**  
**+46 21 101611**