



## Determination of the ( $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$ ) of Nitrate in Water: Rsil Lab Code 2899

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By -

BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 38 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. Summary of Procedure The purpose of Reston Stable Isotope Laboratory (RSIL) lab code 2899 is to determine the ( $^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$ ), abbreviated as  $^{15}\text{N}$ , of nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ) in water. The  $^{15}\text{N}$  of dissolved  $\text{NO}_3^-$  is analyzed by conversion of  $\text{NO}_3^-$  to nitrous oxide ( $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ), which serves as the analyte for mass spectrometry. A culture of denitrifying bacteria is used in the enzymatic conversion of  $\text{NO}_3^-$  to  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ , which follows the pathway shown in equation 1. Because the bacteria *Pseudomonas aureofaciens* lacks  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  reductive activity, the reaction stops at  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ , unlike the typical denitrification reaction, which goes to  $\text{N}_2$ . After several hours, the conversion is complete, and the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  is extracted from the vial, separated from water vapor by Nafion drier and from  $\text{CO}_2$  with a layered  $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$  Ascarite trap, and trapped in a small-volume trap immersed in liquid nitrogen. After the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  is released, it is further purified by gas chromatography (GC) before introduction to the isotope-ratio mass spectrometer (IRMS). The IRMS is a Finnigan DeltaPlus continuous flow IRMS (CF-IRMS). It has a universal triple collector, consisting of two wide cups with a narrow cup...



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