

Valéria Maia de Oliveira is undergraduated in Biological Sciences and PhD in Genetics and Molecular Biology (1999, Campinas State University – UNICAMP). Currently, she is a researcher at the Research Center for Chemistry, Biology and Agriculture (CPQBA/UNICAMP), in Campinas, SP, Brazil. She has been the head of the Microbial Resources Division, at CPQBA/UNICAMP, since 2004 and is a professor of the Graduate Programme in Genetics and Molecular Biology (Biology Institute/UNICAMP). She supervises Doctoral, Master and post-docs students and is involved in a large number of research projects dealing with biodegradation, microbial ecology, bioprospection, applied microbiology and metagenomics, which are funded by government and/or private agencies. Her research interests are focused on the study of microbial diversity of petroleum-associated environments, the role of micro-organisms in oil biodegradation and the exploration of the uncultivated diversity through the metagenomics approach, including the screening of bioactive compounds for industrial applications and bioremediation.