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(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): **NEWS-OUTH INNOVATIONS PTY LIMITED** [AU/AU]; Rupert Myers Building, 14 Barker Street, University of New South Wales, NSW 2052 (AU). **UNIVERSITETET I OSLO** [NO/NO]; P.O. Box 1071 Blindern, 0316, Oslo (NO).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **NEILAN, Brett A.** [AU/AU]; 428 Malabar Road, Maroubra, NSW 2035 (AU). **MURRAY, Shauna Ann** [AU/AU]; 40 Binning Street, Erskineville, NSW 2043 (AU). **STUKEN, Anke** [DE/NO]; Bergstien 10, 0172 Oslo (NO). **JAKOBSEN, Kjetill S** [NO/NO]; Korsvollbakken 24A, (NO). **ORR, Russel J. S.** [GB/NO]; Gamle Ringeriksvei 15, 1368 Stabekk (NO). **KELLMANN, Ralf** [DE/NO]; Gamle Kirkeveien 5, 5222 Nesttun (NO).

(74) Agent: **SPRUSON & FERGUSON**; GPO BOX 3898, Sydney, New South Wales 2001 (AU).

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(54) Title: DETECTION OF SAXITOXIN-PRODUCING DINOFLAGELLATES

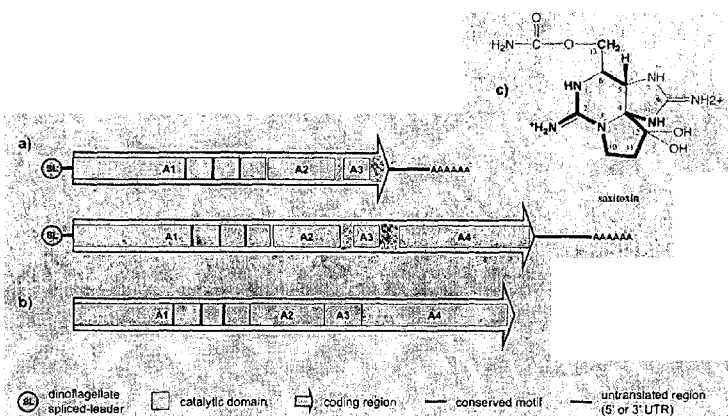


FIGURE 1

(57) Abstract: The current disclosure generally relates to the field of saxitoxins and the identification of microorganisms capable of producing them. In particular, the saxitoxin A (sxtA) gene comprising catalytic domain sequences saxitoxin A1 (sxtA1) and saxitoxin A4 (sxtA4) is identified in a number of dinoflagellate species. The disclosure relates to methods of detection of saxitoxin-producing dinoflagellates by amplification and detection of the sxtA gene (in particular by PCR) and kits and primers for use in the method are also disclosed. Saxitoxin-producing dinoflagellate genera detected by the method include Alexandrium, Pyrodinium or Gymnodinium.