

[Document Name] Abstract

There is provided a method for detecting microorganisms in ballast water, the method capable of easily detecting such phytoplankton that a fluorescent staining reagent is not easily taken in, in a short time, and an apparatus for the method. The above microorganism detecting apparatus is provided with: an excitation light source 8 provided with light sources for emitting excitation light to irradiate an irradiated surface of sample solution 4 continuously; photodetector 9 detecting light of fluorescence emission caused by the excitation light from the excitation light source 8; control means 10 converting the light detected by the photodetector 9 to an electrical signal to detect and count the number of light emissions, and estimating the number of microorganisms included in a sample within the sample container 4 from the number of light emissions; and an operation unit 3 electrically connected to the control means 10; and the excitation light source 8 uses two different kinds of excitation light sources including a light source 8b emitting light with a wavelength region causing phytoplankton to emit chlorophyll fluorescence and a light source 8a emitting light with a wavelength region causing microorganisms stained by the fluorescent staining reagent to emit fluorescence.

[Selected Drawing] Figure 4