



Kurt Hanselmann , ETHZ – Switzerland and Volker Mohrholz, IOW – Germany about steps in Chibo's scientific career

Chibo had a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Zoology/Animal Biology from the University of Cape Town (UCT) where she had studied from 2000 - 2002.

For her studies at the University of Bremen which she fulfilled between 2004 and 2006 she had received a Master's degree in Marine Microbiology. During the following 2 years (2006 -2008) she had worked at the Fisheries Biology Mariculture section, at NatMIRC, a branch of the Namibian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR). It was Chibo's duty to test chemical parameters that could affect the shellfish growing areas.

From 2008 to 2010 she was responsible for testing shellfish for phycotoxin contents and was designing and implementing chemical and biological Laboratory Quality Assessment Systems at the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) in Walvis Bay and for training laboratory personnel.

A fellowship that she had received from the German GENUS program had allowed her to continue the work she'd started earlier in the Mariculture areas between Pelican Point and Walvis Bay harbour while working at NatMIRC.

In October 2010, Chibo started to work for her PhD at the Leibniz institute for Baltic Sea Research (Leibniz-Institut für Ostseeforschung) in Warnemünde, IOW, Germany). The work was guided by Joanna Waniek from the IOW and by Allan Cembella from the AWI Bremerhaven.

After only 4 years, in April 2014, she defended her dissertation on "Marine phycotoxins in the northern Benguela region: biological and chemical parameters promoting the production of harmful algal blooms" for which she received the academic degree of Dr. rer. nat. (Doctor rerum naturalium = Doctor of natural sciences) in Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography from the University of Rostock.

The time in Germany must have been a scientifically fulfilling period in her life. She had access to most modern analytical technologies from Liquid

Chromatography coupled with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) for the identification of chemical structures of algal toxins, to culturing facilities and to DNA sequencing for rRNA gene-based phylogenetic analyses.

She was the first to detect high concentrations of the phycotoxin YTX (Yessotoxin derivatives) in strains of the dinoflagellate *Gonyaulax spinifera* present in phytoplankton samples and bioaccumulated in shellfish in the northern Benguela.

Towards the end of her stay in Warnemünde she took the opportunity to participate in an expedition on the RV Meteor which allowed her to confirm and extend what she had done during her PhD research: Harmful algal blooms (HAB).

After her return to Namibia Chibo worked at the National Standard Institute (NSI) before she got a position in 2015 as researcher with the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (soon Department of Fisheries and Oceanography) at the Henties Bay campus of UNAM.

In 2016, she became co-director and member of the RGNO organizing committee that has organized the annual RGNO discovery camps. She offered her expertise on HAB, seaweeds, and geochemical processes to UNAM and to RGNO students and participated in international programs up to the time when the Covid-2 viral pandemic put a halt on her many projects and ended her young life.