

HADES November 2013 Status Report

The HADES team continues to compile the in flight data and process the microbiological samples. We also continue to isolate any viable organisms that may have been collected from 125,000 ft.

In addition to the epifluorescence microscopy, we are also using the scanning electron microscope (SEM) to visual samples. The unusual sample preparation (silicone coated rods) has presented challenges with this particular instrument. We have met with the JEOL microscope engineer and have a few additional techniques to try. Additionally, we have been directed to the applications department for further advice. With successful SEM images, we will be able to quantify the total number and size ranges of particles collected during flight. This data will then be compared to the data collected from the commercially available MSP-100 impact sampler to determine the relative efficiency of the HADES payload.

Earlier this month, a team member presented our results at the Annual Biograds Symposium at LSU. The HADES team is currently organizing the payload specifications and decontamination protocols for future publications.