

	Ana M. L. Seca, Professor
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Prof. Ana M. L. Seca is an Associate Professor with Habilitation in Chemistry at the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of the Azores, Portugal, where she has been teaching since 1999. She holds a PhD in Chemistry, a Master's degree in Science and Technology of Paper and Forest Products, and a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry with specialization in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Aveiro. In 2023, she obtained her Habilitation in Chemistry from the University of Beira Interior, Portugal.

Alongside her academic career, she has pursued complementary training in several areas, including medicinal chemistry, information technologies, and laboratory safety, strengthening her multidisciplinary expertise in chemical research and education.

Since 2016, she has been affiliated with the Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes (cE3c – CHANGES Institute), where she currently leads the research group *Natural Products and Applications* (since 2024). Her research focuses on the chemistry of natural compounds, particularly the discovery and characterization of bioactive secondary metabolites from terrestrial and marine vegetal species such as macroalgae.

Her work emphasizes the importance of biodiversity as a source of novel high-value compounds with potential applications in health promotion, food science, and sustainable agriculture. Through her research, she contributes to the development of nature-based solutions addressing challenges that affect both human health and the environment.

Prof. Seca has extensive experience in the isolation, purification, and identification of natural compounds using chromatographic techniques such as TLC, column chromatography, HPLC, and GC, combined with advanced spectroscopic methods including NMR and mass spectrometry. Her research also includes the synthesis and structural modification of natural product derivatives to enhance their biological activity, followed by the evaluation of their bioactive potential.

She actively collaborates with several international research institutions, including LAQV-REQUIMTE (University of Aveiro, Portugal), the Instituto Universitario de Bioorgánica “Antonio González” (University of La Laguna, Spain), the Institute of Chemistry and Biotechnology (Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia), and the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Centre of Phytochemistry (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria). These collaborations support multidisciplinary research in natural products chemistry and biological activity assessment.

Prof. Seca has authored more than 60 peer-reviewed scientific publications and contributed to eight book chapters, reflecting her sustained contribution to the field of bioactive natural compounds. She is also an active participant in international conferences and scientific workshops, regularly sharing her research with the global scientific community.

Through her teaching, research leadership, and international collaborations, Prof. Seca continues to advance the exploration of natural resources as a source of innovative compounds and sustainable solutions for contemporary global challenges.