

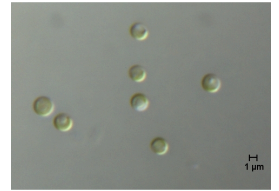


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Basic protocol for elimination of bacteria from microalgal culture using antibiotics

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Adriana Lopes dos Santos¹, Claude Lemieux², Monique Turmel²

¹Asian School of the Environment, Nanyang Technological University, 50 Nanyang Avenue, Singapore 639798, Singapore;

²Département de biochimie, de microbiologie et de bio-informatique, Institut de Biologie Intégrative et des Systèmes, Université Laval, Québec, QC G1V 0A6, Canada.



Adriana Lopes dos Santos

University of Oslo

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Protocol status: In development

We are still developing and optimizing this protocol

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Keywords: routine purification of algal culture, bacteria from microalgal culture, microalgal culture, axenic cultures of diatom, algal culture, antibiotics method, using antibiotics method, modern antibiotic mix, antibiotic combination, antibiotic, bacterial contamination, lethal to the bacteria, presence of bacteria, bacteria, routine purification, marine science, diatom, purification

Abstract

Method used to eliminate bacterial contamination of a marine micro-algal culture. Note, this method is not guaranteed to be 100% successful either due to the fact that the antibiotic combination is not lethal to the bacteria present or it is possible that the strain may not be capable of prolonged growth without the presence of bacteria. This method is based on that of Droop, adapted according to Andersen but using a modern antibiotic mix suggested by S. Slocombe (SAMS - Scottish Association for Marine Science). The method described here have been successfully used by Christian Jeanthon (ECOMAP) to produce axenic cultures of diatoms and *E. huxleyi*.

1. Droop, M. R. A procedure for routine purification of algal cultures with antibiotics. Br. Phycol. Bull. 3, 295–297 (1967).
2. Andersen, R. Algal Cultering Techniques. (Academic Press, 2005).

Troubleshooting



- 1 Using appropriate protective clothing, prepare 20ml of an antibiotic solution mixture 10X in pure water as follows:
 - Cefotaxime (5g/L)
 - Carbenicillin (5g/L)
 - Kanamycin (2g/L)
 - Augmentin (2g/L)
- 2 Sterilize through a 0.1 or 0.22 μm filter into a sterile bottle. Keep refrigerate for up to weeks, or store at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ in small aliquots.
- 3 Centrifuge 20ml of a healthy micro-algal culture in log phase of growth. Resuspend the pellet in fresh media sterilize through a 0.1 or 0.22 μm filter. If it is possible, check the media a priori by flow cytometer (FC) for bacteria contaminant.

The speed and time of the centrifugation will vary among the different groups of algae. For E.hux, Christian Jeanthon used 1600g during 2'.

- 4 Repeat steps 3 and 4 up for 5 – 6x.

The wash step (3) needs to be optimized depending on the algae. A good balance between how many times the cells are washed, how many algae cells are remained and the efficiency of bacteria removal needs to be check for each algal group and can be done by FC.

- 5 Resuspend the cells in 600 μl of fresh sterile media.

The inoculum should be dense therefore the volume to resuspend the cells and to add in the next step can be changed accordingly.

- 6 Mix the cells with antibiotic as describe below and ensure the contents are well mixed - gently vortex if necessary.

| | 1 10% | 2 15% | 3 20% | 4 25% | 5 35% | 6 50% |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Tub e ANT conc entr ation | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Anti bioni c Mix 10X (μ l) | 40 | 60 | 80 | 100 | 140 | 200 |
| Alga e cells (μ l) | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Alga e Medi a (μ l) | 1860 | 1840 | 1820 | 1800 | 1760 | 1700 |
| Enri ched Medi a (μ l) (LB, SOC) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

- 7 Incubate the tubes at the optimum growth temperature in an illuminated incubator.
- 8 After 16/24/48/72/80 hours of incubation take ~ 10 μ l from each tube and inoculate into 1 ml of fresh growth medium in a 24 well plate.
- 9 Incubate the plate at the optimum growth temperature in an illuminated incubator.
- 10 Follow the algae growth and bacteria contaminant on the plate samples during a week by using the flow cytometer.
- 11 Transfer the multiples wells that contain the axenic algae to 15 ml of sterilize fresh media even if they are from the same strain
- 12 Cryopreserve immediately the axenic strain if it is possible. For genome sequencing purpose, once the axenic strain is stablished, prepare 1 – 2L of dense culture, collect the cells by centrifugation and freeze at -80 the pellet for future extraction.

