

May 28, 2018

Bloodstream-form culture

DOI

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.qhtdt6n

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DOI: dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.qhtdt6n

Protocol Citation: Sam Alsford 2018. Bloodstream-form culture. **protocols.io**
<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.qhtdt6n>

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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol in the Harry de Koning group and it is working

Created: May 28, 2018

Last Modified: May 28, 2018

Protocol Integer ID: 12563

Abstract

Protocol obtained from the Alsford Lab at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
(<https://blogs.lshtm.ac.uk/alsfordlab/protocols/bloodstream-form-culture/>)



Materials

MATERIALS

⊗ Fetal Bovine Serum, qualified **Life Technologies Catalog #10437-028**

⊗ Sodium bicarbonate **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #S6014**

⊗ β -mercaptoethanol **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #M3148**



- 1 Make up to 4.5 litres with distilled water, filter sterilise, store at 4°C in 450 ml volumes.
- 2 Prior to use, add 50 ml fetal bovine serum (FBS; Sigma), giving a final concentration of 10% FBS and store at 4°C for up to two months.
- 3 NB: Some early publications indicate that FBS should be heat inactivated at 56°C for 30 minutes prior to use in bloodstream-form *T. brucei* culture – this is not necessary; in fact our unpublished data suggests that using non-inactivated FBS leads to faster, more robust cell growth.
- 4 Cultures should be grown in 5% CO₂ incubator at 37°C, and should not exceed a density of 2.5×10^6 cells per ml.