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## Inhibitor removal from DNA extracts

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Dominik Buchner<sup>1</sup>, Marie Borowski<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Duisburg-Essen, Aquatic Ecosystem Research

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**Dominik Buchner**

University of Duisburg-Essen, Aquatic Ecosystem Research

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**Protocol status:** Working

**We use this protocol and it's working**

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**Last Modified:** January 07, 2025

**Protocol Integer ID:** 80902

**Keywords:** inhibitor removal from dna, inhibitor removal, extracted dna, inhibitor, inhibitory substances such as humic substance, humic substance, dna, inhibitory substance, protocol

## Abstract

This protocol describes how to remove inhibitory substances such as humic substances from DNA that has already been extracted. The protocol is formulated for an initial input of  100  $\mu\text{L}$  of extracted DNA however it can be adjusted to any other volume as well with minor changes. A lot of the buffers can be found in the following patent <https://patents.google.com/patent/US7459548B2/en>

## Guidelines

Follow general lab etiquette. Wear gloves to prevent contaminating the samples. Clean the workspace before starting with 80% EtOH.

## Materials

### Materials required:

Below all materials needed for the protocol are listed. Vendors and part numbers are listed but interchangeable depending on the supply situation.

### Chemicals:

Sodium phosphate dibasic

☒ Sodium phosphate dibasic **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #S0876-100G**

Guanidinium thiocyanate ☒ Guanidinium thiocyanate **Fisher Scientific Catalog #10503345**

Sodium phosphate monobasic Sodium phosphate monobasic

☒ Sodium phosphate monobasic **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #S0751-100G**

SDS ultrapure ☒ Sodium dodecyl sulfate **Diagonal Catalog #A1112.0500**

Sodium chloride ☒ Sodium chloride **Fisher Scientific Catalog #10616082**

Tris ultrapure 99.9% ☒ Tris ultrapure 99.9% **Diagonal Catalog #A1086.1000**

Hydrochloric acid fuming 37%

☒ Hydrochloric acid fuming 37% **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #1003171011**

Ammonium acetate ☒ Ammonium acetate **Carl Roth Catalog #7869.2**

Aluminium ammonium sulfate dodecahydrate

☒ Aluminium ammonium sulfate dodecahydrate **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #A2140-500G**

Guanidine hydrochloride ☒ Guanidine hydrochloride **Fisher Scientific Catalog #10543325**

Acetic acid ☒ Acetic acid **Carl Roth Catalog #7332.1**

Ethanol absolute ☒ Ethanol absolute 99.8% p.a. **Carl Roth Catalog #9065.1**

### Labware:

2 mL centrifuge tubes ☒ Reaction tube, 2 mL, PP **Sarstedt Catalog #72.691**

1.5 mL centrifuge tubes ☒ Reaction tube, 1.5 ml, PP **Sarstedt Catalog #72.690.001**

The EconoSpin® All-In-One DNA Only Mini Spin Column

☒ The EconoSpin® All-In-One DNA Only Mini Spin Column **Epoch Life Science Catalog #1920-250**

### Stock solutions:

🧴 1 L SDS stock solution [M] 10 Mass / % volume

▪ Add 🧴 100 g SDS ultrapure to a beaker

- Adjust volume to  1 L with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at  Room temperature

 1 L sodium chloride stock solution [M] 5 Mass Percent

- Add  292.2 g sodium chloride to a beaker
- Adjust volume to  1 L with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at  Room temperature

 1 L Tris stock solution [M] 1 Mass Percent  8

- Add  121.14 g Tris ultrapure 99.9% to a beaker
- Adjust volume to  800 mL with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Adjust pH to  8 with HCl
- Adjust volume to  1 L with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at  Room temperature

 500 mL sodium acetate stock solution [M] 3 Molarity (M)  5

- Add  123 g sodium acetate to a beaker
- Adjust volume to  400 mL with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Adjust pH to  5 with acetic acid
- Adjust volume to  500 mL with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at  Room temperature

 1 L Tris stock solution [M] 1 Molarity (M)  7.5

- Add  121.14 g Tris ultrapure 99.9% to a beaker
- Adjust volume to  800 mL with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Adjust pH to  7.5 with HCl
- Adjust volume to  1 L with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at  Room temperature

 1 L Tris stock solution [M] 1 Molarity (M)  8.5

- Add  121.14 g Tris ultrapure 99.9% to a beaker
- Adjust volume to  800 mL with ddH<sub>2</sub>O



- Adjust pH to  $\text{pH } 8.5$  with HCl
- Adjust volume to  $1 \text{ L}$  with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at  $\text{Room temperature}$

$1 \text{ L}$  wash buffer stock solution (  $50 \text{ millimolar (mM) Tris}$  )  $\text{pH } 7.5$

- Add  $50 \text{ mL Tris stock solution}$   $\text{pH } 7.5$  to a beaker
- Adjust volume to  $1 \text{ L}$  with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at  $\text{Room temperature}$

### Working solutions:

$500 \text{ mL bead-beating solution}$  (  $180 \text{ millimolar (mM) sodium phosphate}$  ,  $120 \text{ millimolar (mM) guanidinium thiocyanate}$  )  $\text{pH } 8$

- Add  $12.8 \text{ g sodium phosphate dibasic}$  to a beaker
- Add  $7.1 \text{ g guanidinium thiocyanate}$
- Adjust volume to  $490 \text{ mL}$  with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Adjust pH to  $\text{pH } 8$  by adding sodium phosphate monobasic
- Adjust volume to  $500 \text{ mL}$  with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at  $\text{Room temperature}$

$500 \text{ mL lysis solution}$  (  $150 \text{ millimolar (mM) sodium chloride}$  ,  $4 \text{ Mass / \% volume SDS}$  ,  $500 \text{ millimolar (mM) Tris}$  )  $\text{pH } 8$

- Add  $200 \text{ mL}$  of  $10 \text{ Mass / \% volume SDS stock solution}$  to a beaker
- Add  $15 \text{ mL}$  of  $5 \text{ Molarity (M) sodium chloride stock solution}$
- Add  $250 \text{ mL}$  of  $1 \text{ Molarity (M) Tris stock solution}$   $\text{pH } 8$
- Adjust volume to  $500 \text{ mL}$  with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at  $\text{Room temperature}$

$500 \text{ mL ammonium acetate buffer}$  (  $130 \text{ millimolar (mM) ammonium acetate}$  )

- Add  $5 \text{ g ammonium acetate}$  to a beaker
- Adjust volume to  $500 \text{ mL}$  with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at  $\text{Room temperature}$



🧪 500 mL inhibitor removal solution ( [M] 120 millimolar (mM) aluminum ammonium sulfate dodecahydrate )

- Add 🧪 27.2 g aluminium ammonium sulfate dodecahydrate to a beaker
- Adjust volume to 🧪 500 mL with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at 🌡 Room temperature

🧪 500 mL DNA binding buffer ( [M] 2.5 Molarity (M) Guanidine hydrochloride , [M] 80 % (v/v) ethanol , [M] 0.05 % (v/v) Tween 20 , [M] 120 millimolar (mM) sodium acetate ) 📏 pH 5

- Add 🧪 119.4 g guanidine hydrochloride to a beaker
- Fill up to 🧪 400 mL ethanol
- Add 🧪 20 mL [M] 3 Molarity (M) sodium acetate stock solution 📏 pH 5
- Adjust volume to 🧪 500 mL with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at 🌡 Room temperature

🧪 1 L wash buffer ( [M] 10 millimolar (mM) Tris , [M] 80 % (v/v) Ethanol ) 📏 pH 7.5

- Add 🧪 200 mL was buffer stock solution
- Adjust volume to 🧪 1 L with Ethanol absolute
- Sterilize by filtering and store at 🌡 Room temperature

🧪 1 L elution buffer ( [M] 10 millimolar (mM) Tris ) 📏 pH 8.5

- Add 🧪 10 mL Tris stock solution 📏 pH 8.5 to a beaker
- Adjust volume to 🧪 1 L with ddH<sub>2</sub>O
- Sterilize by filtering and store at 🌡 Room temperature

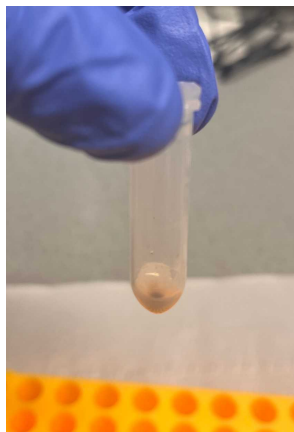
## Before start

Make sure all buffers are prepared before starting.

## Inhibitor removal from DNA extracts

31m

- 1 Prepare  100  $\mu\text{L}$  of sample in 2 mL tubes.



Sample contaminated with inhibitory substance (e.g. humic acids)

### Note

This protocol is designed for a sample volume of  100  $\mu\text{L}$  . Differing volumes can be used, however, all the following volumes have to be adjusted accordingly. For volumes smaller than  100  $\mu\text{L}$  we recommend to simply fill up the sample to  100  $\mu\text{L}$  with water and then proceed with the protocol. If a sample volume of  200  $\mu\text{L}$  is to be processed, all volumes have to be doubled.

- 2 Add  345  $\mu\text{L}$  bead-beating solution and  60  $\mu\text{L}$  lysis solution .  
Vortex shortly.
- 3  10000 x g, 20°C , 00:03:00 . Transfer all of the supernatant to a new tube.

10m

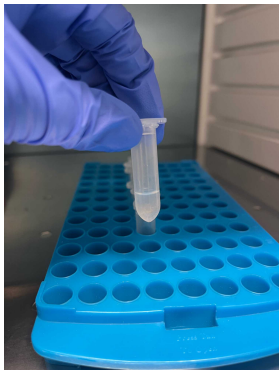
3m



Try to avoid the the pellet if any is formed.

- 4 Add  125  $\mu$ L ammonium acetat buffer , vortex shortly and incubate at  4 °C for  00:05:00 .

5m



- 5  10000 x g, 20°C, 00:01:00 . Transfer the supernatant to a new tube.

1m

- 6 Add  100  $\mu$ L of inhibitor removal buffer . A precipitate may form. Vortex shortly, incubate at  4 °C for  00:05:00

5m



7 10000 x g, 20°C, 00:01:00 . Transfer 600  $\mu\text{L}$  of the supernatant to a new tube.

1m

8 Add 1200  $\mu\text{L}$  DNA binding buffer . Vortex to mix.

9 Load 650  $\mu\text{L}$  of the mixture to a mini spin column (e.g. Epoch Life Science).



10 10000 x g, 20°C, 00:00:30 . Discard the flow-through. Repeat two times to bind the complete sample volume.

30s

11 Add 500  $\mu\text{L}$  wash buffer . 10000 x g, 20°C, 00:00:30 to wash the column. Discard the flow-through.

30s



- 12  10000 x g, 20°C, 00:01:00 to dry the column. Transfer the spin column to a clean 1.5mL microcentrifuge tube. 1m
- 13 Add  50 µL elution buffer . Incubate for  00:03:00 at  Room temperature . 3m
- 14  10000 x g, 20°C, 00:01:00 to eluate the DNA. DNA eluate should be completely colorless and ready to go for downstream analysis. 1m

