Apr 17, 2023

Isolation of Schistosoma mansoni eggs, miracidia, and sporocysts for in vitro cultivation

DOI
https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.81wgbye5yvpk/v1

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Schistosoma mansoni

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Protocol Citation: Sarah Buddenborg, Geetha Sankaranarayanan, Magda E Lotkowska, Catherine McCarthy, Gabriel Rinaldi, Lisa Seymour, Matt Berriman 2023. Isolation of Schistosoma mansoni eggs, miracidia, and sporocysts for in vitro cultivation. **protocols.io** https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.81wgbye5yvpk/v1

Protocol status: Working
We use this protocol and it's working

Created: April 11, 2023

Last Modified: April 17, 2023

Protocol Integer ID: 80333

Keywords: helminths, in vitro sporocysts, schistosoma mansoni, isolation of schistosoma, schistosoma mansoni, schistosoma, mansoni egg, eggs from liver, sterile prep of egg, culture of sporocyst, culture of egg, sterile prep, snail infection, sporocyst, liver, egg, infection

Funders Acknowledgements:
Wellcome Trust
Grant ID: 098051
Wellcome Trust
Grant ID: 206194

Abstract

The purpose of this procedure is to isolate eggs from livers collected from mice infected with *Schistosoma mansoni*. This protocol ensures a sterile prep of eggs to be used for culture of eggs and/or collection and culture of sporocysts, and snail infection.

Guidelines

Livers should be placed on ice, following mouse perfusion. This protocol is for up to 5 livers only. (i.e. for 20 livers 4 tubes containing 5 processed livers are used, and for 18 livers 2 tubes containing 5 livers each plus 2 tubes containing 4 livers each are used).

All steps should be performed in a sterile, cleaned tissue culture hood.

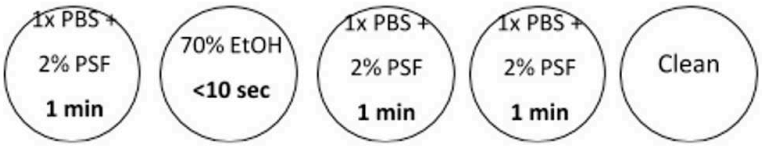
Materials

BIOMAT 2 Class 2 Microbiological Safety Cabinet
Rocking incubator at 37°C
Lamp or other light source
Pipette boy
Tweezers
Parafilm
2ml aspirating pipettes
50ml stripettes
25ml stripettes
250um sterile sieve
150µm sterile sieve
1L sterile beakers (x2)

- Fetal Bovine Serum **Gibco - Thermo Fisher Scientific** **Catalog #**10270106
- DMEM, high glucose, GlutaMAX™ Supplement **Thermo Fisher** **Catalog #**10566032
- 50ml Falcon tubes **Corning** **Catalog #**352070
- Falcon™ 15mL Conical Centrifuge Tubes **Fisher Scientific** **Catalog #**14-959-53A
- 70% Ethanol
- 1x DPBS **Gibco - Thermo Fisher Scientific** **Catalog #**14190144
- Collagenase **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich)** **Catalog #**C5138
- MilliQ water
- Sucrose **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich)** **Catalog #**S7903
- Percoll **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich)** **Catalog #**P1644-500ML
- Petri dishes sterile **VWR International (Avantor)** **Catalog #**516-8029
- Swann-Morton Stainless Steel Surgical Scalpels # 21 **Fisher Scientific** **Catalog #**11748353
- Antibiotic-Antimycotic 9100×0 [Anti-Anti] **Thermo Fisher Scientific** **Catalog #**15240062

Liver washing

1 In tissue culture hood, prepare three petri dishes with 1x DPBS+2% anti-anti, one with 70% ethanol, and one clean petri dish arranged in the following order:



2 Decant the livers into the first petri dish using ethanol-cleaned tweezers to submerge and continuously move them for 1 minute to ensure complete saturation of the tissue

3 Repeat step 3 for each petri dish with the exception of the 70% ethanol dish which should be submerged and rinsed for less than 10 seconds

Liver dissociation

4 Place all livers into a clean petri dish and using a sterile scalpel finely mince them

5 Transfer the minced livers to a 50ml falcon tube, re-suspend in 40ml of 1x DPBS + 2% anti-anti and label with necessary identifying information

6 Weigh out 0.05g of collagenase into a labelled 15ml falcon tube and add 10ml of dH_20.
Mix well (The amount of collagenase to prepare depends on the number of livers to be processed – collagenase is always prepared fresh)

7 Add 5ml of 0.5% collagenase solution to the liver suspension and mix well
- Optional: Add to the mix 500 ul of polymixin B (100K Units) (Sigma-Aldrich, P4932-1MU), a gram negative bactericidal antibiotic that reduce LPS contamination in the

egg prep, in particular when SEA will be prepared from eggs and immunological studies or co-culture with cells, will be performed

8 Wrap securely in parafilm and secure the tube horizontally in a 37°C rocker overnight

Egg isolation

9 The following day, centrifuge the liver suspension tube at 400g for 5 min (acceleration and deceleration 9)

10 Aspirate the supernatant and re-suspend in 50ml of 1x DPBS + 2% anti-anti.

11 Repeat steps 9-10 three more times

12 After the final aspiration, re-suspend the pellet in 25ml of 1x DPBS + 2% anti-anti

13 Using a 50ml stripette, pass the suspension through the 250uM sieve into a 1L sterile beaker

14 Pass this filtrate through the 150uM sieve into a second 1L sterile beaker

15 Wash the beaker with 5ml of 1x DPBS + 2% anti-anti to collect any remaining eggs and add this to the filtrate by passing through the 150uM sieve

16 Decant the filtrate into a 50ml falcon tube and centrifuge (400g, 5 minutes, acceleration and deceleration 9)

17 Aspirate the supernatant and resuspend in 10ml 1x DPBS + 2% anti-anti

18 Prepare a Percoll gradient (one percoll gradient per 5 livers):

18.1 Prepare a 0.25M sucrose solution (4.27g sucrose + 50ml diH_2O) and filter the solution through 0.22um syringe filter

18.2 In 50ml falcon tube mix 8ml Percoll and 32ml of the 0.25M sucrose solution. Invert 5 times

19 Very carefully pipette the resuspended eggs onto the surface of the Percoll gradient around the circumference to create a defined layer

20 Centrifuge the gradient at 800g for 10 minutes (acceleration 2 and deceleration 1)

21 Aspirate the supernatant and re-suspend in 10ml of 1x DPBS + 2% anti-anti. Transfer to a 15ml falcon tube

22 Centrifuge at 400g for 5 min (acceleration and deceleration 9)

23 Repeat steps 21-22 two more times

24 ***IMPORTANT. Check the eggs under microscope, if the prep is still 'dirty' or 'contaminated with liver debris' proceed with a second percoll gradient***

25 Resuspend the pellet in 10ml 1x DPBS + 2% anti-anti and count 12 aliquots of 5µl to estimate total number of collected eggs

Eggs in culture

26 Centrifuge eggs in falcon tube at 400g for 5 mins (acceleration and deceleration 9)

27 Resuspend eggs in adult media (DMEM + 10% FBS + 2% anti-anti) and transfer to 6 well plates (5-6ml of media per well)

28 Keep eggs in culture at 37°C and 5% CO_2

- *Eggs can be kept in culture for up to ~10 days and retain the 'hatchability' however, the hatching rate will drop over time*

Hatching eggs and collecting miracidia

29 Centrifuge eggs in falcon tube at 400g for 5 mins (acceleration and deceleration 9)

30 In the culture hood, aspirate supernatant and re-suspend in 6ml diH_2O

31 Aliquot 1ml each in a 24 well plate

- *It is important to use 24 well plate given the miracidia get more diluted in 12 or 6 well plate and more egg shells are picked up when collecting the miracidia)*

32 Rinse the original falcon tube with 6 ml of water and distribute 1 ml to each well containing 1ml of eggs (i.e. the eggs will be in 2ml of water)

33 Place under light for hatching

34 At 30-40 min intervals over ~3 hrs, gently remove the top 1ml of water containing the miracidia into a 50ml falcon tube and top up the wells with 1ml of diH_2O

35 Count miracidia and proceed with snail infections **dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.36wgqjkkxvk5/v1** or sporocyst transformation

Sporocyst transformation

36 Place the tube containing miracidia on ice for ~20 min

37 Centrifuge at 800g for 15min (acceleration and deceleration 9)

38 **Quickly** aspirate the water and resuspend the pellet of miracidia in complete sporocyst media

- Sporocysts can be kept in culture at 28°C with malaria gas (90-92% N, 5% CO_2, 3-5% O_2) in a sealed container changing the media once to twice a week
- **IMPORTANT.** To avoid contamination always replace the media with fresh complete media the day after transformation