

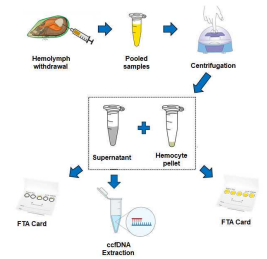


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Version 2

## Liquid biopsy in sentinel mussels V.2

DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.81wgb6z9olpk/v2>Sophia Ferchiou<sup>1</sup>, France Caza<sup>1</sup>, Yves St-Pierre<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Université du Québec

Sophia Ferchiou

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**Protocol status:** Working

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

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## Abstract

This protocol has been optimized for sampling hemolymph in sentinel mussels in remote areas, such as polar regions. A detailed protocol can be found in **[Caza et al. \(2019\)](#)**.

## Materials

### A. Sampling Section

- 1) Syringe (from 3 to 5 cc)
- 2) 25 gauge needle
- 3) Sterile 1.5 mL Eppendorf tubes
- 4) Multi Spin Battery-Powered Mini-Centrifuge (3000 x *g*) or equivalent.
- 5) Whatman 903™ FTA cards
- 6) Plastic ziplock bags
- 7) Silica gel desiccants (1gr/bag)
- 8) Pipette P200
- 9) Sterilized filter tips
- 10) Knife
- 11) Ethanol 70%

### B. Extraction of circulating cell-free DNA Section

- 1) QIAamp DNA Investigator Kit (Qiagen - Cat #56504)
- 2) Ethanol 100%
- 3) Sterile 1.5 mL Eppendorf tubes
- 4) Pipettes (P1000, P100, P20, P2)
- 5) Sterilized filter tips



## Before start

### **A. Sampling Section (Protocol optimized for freshly collected mussels)**

Be sure to gather all materials before collecting mussels.

### **B. Extraction of circulating cell-free DNA Section**

- 1) Equilibrate samples to room temperature (15–25°C).
- 2) Equilibrate Buffer ATE to room temperature.
- 3) Set a thermomixer or heated orbital incubator to 56°C for use in step #13.
- 4) Ensure that buffers AW1 and AW2 have been prepared :
  - a) Add 25 mL ethanol (100%) to the bottle containing 19 mL Buffer AW1 concentrate.
  - b) Add 30 mL ethanol (100%) to the bottle containing 13 mL Buffer AW2 concentrate.
- 5) If Buffer AL or Buffer ATL contains precipitates, dissolve by heating to 70°C with gentle agitation.
- 6) Reconstitute carrier RNA by adding 310 µL of buffer ATE.

## Sampling

50m

- 1 Collect mussels (*Mytilus spp.*) with a shell length range between 50 to 70 mm. 10m
- 2 Remove intervalvar liquid by opening gently the valves with the tip of a knife. 5m
- 3 Withdraw hemolymph from the adductor muscle using a syringe fitted with a 25G needle. 10m
- 4 Transfer immediately the hemolymph to a sterile 1.5 mL Eppendorf tube (Optional: You can pool 3 or 4 hemolymph samples to obtain a total volume of 1.5 mL per tube). 1m
- 5 Centrifuge for 3 minutes at maximum speed (approx. 3000 xg) at room temperature using a battery-powered mini-centrifuge (TOMY, Japan) or equivalent. 3m
- 6 After centrifugation, transfer the supernatant (clear solution above pellet at bottom of tube) in a new 1.5 mL Eppendorf tube and gently resuspend the pellet. The pellets can be frozen (-20°C) or spotted on FTA cards until used. Supernatants can also be frozen (-20°C) or spotted on FTA cards (using 70 µL aliquots) until use. We routinely use Whatman 903™ FTA cards with 13 mm discs to spot pellets or supernatants.  
  
**Note :** Once spotted, FTA cards are dried for 15 minutes at room temperature and stored individually in small ziplock plastic bags containing one silica gel desiccant moisture absorber.  
  
**Note :** Unless otherwise indicated, hemolymph should be collected and processed within one hour after sampling.
- 7 Bring the mussels back to their respective mussel bed. 5m

## Extraction of circulating cell-free DNA

1h 13m

- 8 Unless otherwise indicated, you can use the [QIAamp DNA Investigator Kit](#) (Qiagen) for extraction of the hemolymphatic circulating cell-free DNA.
- 9 First, thaw frozen supernatants at room temperature and clarify by centrifugation for 10 minutes at 4500 xg at room temperature. 10m



- 10 Transfer 70  $\mu\text{L}$  of the clarified supernatant into a new sterile 1.5 mL Eppendorf tube. 2m
- 11 Add 30  $\mu\text{L}$  of buffer ATL and 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of proteinase K ( $>600 \text{ mAU/mL}$ ) to the sample. 5m
- 12 Add 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of buffer AL and 1  $\mu\text{L}$  of reconstituted RNA Carrier ( $1\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{L}$ ). Mix by pulse-vortexing for 15 seconds or until it is a homogeneous solution. 2m
- 13 Incubate at  $56^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 10 minutes on a lab orbital shaker set at 900 rpm. 10m
- 14 Add 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of ethanol (100%) and mix thoroughly by pulse-vortexing for 15 seconds. Then, incubate for 3 minutes at room temperature. 5m
- 15 Transfer the entire lysate from step #14 to the QIAamp MinElute column. 5m
- 16 Centrifuge at  $6000 \times g$  for 1 minute. Place the QIAamp MinElute column in a clean 2 mL collection tube and discard the collection tube containing the flow-through. 1m
- 17 Add 500  $\mu\text{L}$  of buffer AW1 to the QIAamp MinElute column. 1m
- 18 Repeat Step #16. 1m
- 19 Add 700  $\mu\text{L}$  of buffer AW2 to the QIAamp MinElute column. 1m
- 20 Repeat Step #16. 1m
- 21 Add 700  $\mu\text{L}$  of ethanol (100%) to the QIAamp MinElute column. 1m
- 22 Repeat Step #16. 1m



- 23 Centrifuge at full speed (20,000 x *g*) for 3 minutes at room temperature. 3m
- 24 Place the QIAamp MinElute column in a clean 1.5 mL Eppendorf tube and discard the collection tube containing the flow-through. 1m
- 25 Open the lid and incubate at room temperature for 10 minutes. 10m
- 26 Apply 60  $\mu$ L of buffer ATE to the center of the membrane. 1m
- 27 Close the lid and incubate at room temperature for 10 minutes. 10m
- 28 Centrifuge at full speed (20,000 x *g*) for 1 minute. 1m
- 29 Discard the QIAamp MinElute column and keep the eluate. 1m