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Purification of
Human K560-GFP
molecular motor

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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

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Abstract

K560-GFP purification protocol from the Reck-Peterson Lab based on protocol from Nicholas et al. 2014. Edited for protocols.io by Andrea Dickey and Mariusz Matyszewski.

Guidelines

All protein purification steps should be performed at  4 °C unless noted otherwise.



Materials

Materials:

cOmplete EDTA-free protease inhibitor cocktail tablets

lysozyme

PMSF

Buffers:

Lysis buffer:

- [M] 50 millimolar (mM) Tris pH 7.5
- [M] 300 millimolar (mM) NaCl
- [M] 5 millimolar (mM) MgCl₂
- [M] 0.2 Mass Percent sucrose
- [M] 1 millimolar (mM) DTT
- [M] 0.1 millimolar (mM) Mg-ATP
- [M] 0.5 millimolar (mM) Pefabloc

Wash buffer:

- [M] 50 millimolar (mM) Tris pH 7.5
- [M] 300 millimolar (mM) NaCl
- [M] 5 millimolar (mM) MgCl₂
- [M] 0.2 Mass Percent sucrose
- [M] 10 millimolar (mM) imidazole
- [M] 1 millimolar (mM) DTT
- [M] 0.1 millimolar (mM) Mg-ATP
- [M] 0.5 millimolar (mM) Pefabloc

Elution buffer:

- [M] 50 millimolar (mM) Tris pH 8.0
- [M] 300 millimolar (mM) NaCl
- [M] 5 millimolar (mM) MgCl₂
- [M] 0.2 Mass Percent sucrose
- [M] 250 millimolar (mM) imidazole
- [M] 5 millimolar (mM) bME
- [M] 0.1 millimolar (mM) Mg-ATP



Storage buffer:

- [M] 80 millimolar (mM) PIPES pH 7.0
- [M] 2 millimolar (mM) MgCl₂
- [M] 1 millimolar (mM) EGTA
- [M] 0.2 Mass Percent sucrose
- [M] 1 millimolar (mM) DTT
- [M] 0.1 millimolar (mM) Mg-ATP

Glycerol cushion:

- [M] 80 millimolar (mM) PIPES pH 7.0
- [M] 2 millimolar (mM) MgCl₂
- [M] 1 millimolar (mM) EGTA
- [M] 60 % volume glycerol
- [M] 20 micromolar (μM) Taxol
- [M] 1 millimolar (mM) DTT

BRB80:

- [M] 80 millimolar (mM) PIPES pH 7.0
- [M] 2 millimolar (mM) MgCl₂
- [M] 1 millimolar (mM) EGTA
- [M] 300 millimolar (mM) KCl
- [M] 7.5 millimolar (mM) Mg-ATP



Expression

- 1 pET17b-Kif5b(1-560)-GFP-His should be transformed into BL21(DE3)RIPL cells.
- 2 Make enough LB for at least  7.5 L of culture.
- 3 Grow an overnight starter culture.
- 4 Transfer starter culture into LB. Make sure to add proper antibiotics (Ampicillin for the plasmid, and Chloramphenicol for the cells we used).
Allow it to grow at  200 rpm, 37°C until OD600 reaches 0.6-0.8.
- 5 Chill cells and incubator to  18 °C
- 6 Add  0.5 millimolar (mM) IPTG and allow it to grow at  200 rpm, 18°C, 18:00:00
- 7 Harvest and freeze cell pellets.

Purification

2h 35m

- 8 Resuspend  7.5 L worth of pellets in  120 mL Lysis buffer supplemented with 1 cOmplete EDTA-free protease inhibitor cocktail tablet (Roche) per  50 mL of Lysis buffer . Also add  1 mg/mL lysozyme .
Incubate  On ice for  00:30:00 .
- 9 Lyse the resuspension by sonication.
- 10 Add  0.5 millimolar (mM) PMSF to the sonicate, and clarify by centrifugation  40000 rcf, 4°C, 01:00:00 in Type 70 Ti rotor (Beckman).

30m

1h



11 Incubate the supernatant with Ni-NTA agarose beads incubated with the **Wash buffer**.
Nutate for 🕒 01:00:00

1h

12 Apply to gravity column and wash with 🧪 100 mL Wash buffer .

13 Resuspend the beads in elution buffer, incubate for 🕒 00:05:00 and elute in
🧪 0.5 mL increments.

5m

14 Combine peak fractions and buffer exchange on PD-10 desalting column equilibrated with **Storage buffer**.

15 Peak fractions of the motor solution were either flash-frozen at 🌡️ -80 °C until further use or immediately subjected to microtubule bind and release purification (see next steps).

Microtubule bind and release purification

44m

16 A total of 🧪 1 mL of motor solution from previous steps is used. Incubate with
[M] 1 millimolar (mM) AMP-PNP and [M] 20 micromolar (μM) Taxol 🌡️ On ice in the
dark for 🕒 00:05:00 and subsequently warm to 🌡️ Room temperature .

5m

17 Polymerize bovine brain tubulin (about 🕒 00:30:00 at 🌡️ 37 °C) and centrifuge
(TLA120.2 rotor at 🌀 80000 rpm, 00:12:00 at 🌡️ Room temperature) through a
glycerol cushion. Resuspend the pellet.

42m

18 Incubate the microtubule solution with the resuspended microtubules in the **dark** for
🕒 00:15:00 at 🌡️ Room temperature .

15m

19 Put the incubated solution on top of **glycerol cushion** and centrifuge in a TLA120.2 rotor
at 🌀 80000 rpm, 00:12:00
at 🌡️ Room temperature .

12m



- 20 Wash the final pellet with **BRB80** and incubate in  100 μ L of release buffer for  00:05:00 at  Room temperature . 5m
- 21 Centrifuge the kinesin solution  72000 rpm, 00:07:00 in TLA100 rotor at  Room temperature . 7m
- 22 Collect the supernatant and supplement with  660 millimolar (mM) sucrose and flash freeze.

Note

A typical kinesin prep in the lab yielded  0.5 micromolar (μ M) to  1.5 micromolar (μ M) K560-GFP dimer.