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## Recipe for standard BG-11 media

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**Protocol status:** Working

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

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## Abstract

Stanier RY, Deruelles J, Rippka R, Herdman M, Waterbury JB: **Generic Assignments, Strain Histories and Properties of Pure Cultures of Cyanobacteria**. Microbiology 1979, 111:1–61.

Recipes for standard and alternative BG11 for culturing freshwater cyanobacteria, such as *Synechocystis* sp. PCC 6803, as described.

Media is usually not suitable for marine cyanobacteria.


Final Concentration of Medium.

CaCl <sub>2</sub> *2 H <sub>2</sub> O	0.036 g/L
Citric acid	0.006 g/L
NaNO <sub>3</sub>	1.4958 g/L
MgSO <sub>4</sub> * 7 H <sub>2</sub> O	0.0749 g/L
0.25M Na <sub>2</sub> EDTA (pH 8)	0.0056 mL/L
Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	20 µg/ml
Fe(III) Ammonium citrate	6 µg/ml
K <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub> * 3H <sub>2</sub> O	30 µg/ml
TES Buffer (pH 8)	10 mM
H <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub>	2.86 mg/L
MnCl <sub>2</sub> * 4 H <sub>2</sub> O	1.81 mg/L
ZnSO <sub>4</sub> * 7 H <sub>2</sub> O	0.222 mg/L
Na <sub>2</sub> MoO <sub>4</sub> * 2 H <sub>2</sub> O	0.390 mg/L
Co(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> *6 H <sub>2</sub> O	0.049 mg/L
(CuSO <sub>4</sub> * 5 H <sub>2</sub> O	0.079 mg/L if required)

## Guidelines

Always work under sterile conditions when handling sterile media or stocks. Work under the clean bench.

## Safety warnings

-  Wear gloves when preparing stocks!  
Heavy metals are toxic for the environment and need to be discarded accordingly.

## Before start

For plates:

Thaw antibiotic stocks before pouring plates.



## 100 x BG11 stock:

- 1
  - $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $3.6 \text{ g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ )
  - Citric acid ( $0.6 \text{ g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ )
  - $\text{NaNO}_3$  ( $149.58 \text{ g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ )
  - $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$  ( $7.49 \text{ g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ )
  - 0.25 M  $\text{Na}_2$ -EDTA, pH 8.0 ( $0.56 \text{ ml} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ )

1.1 For BG11-N prepare a 50 X stock solution without  $\text{NaNO}_3$ :

- $\text{CaCl}_2 \times 2 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ : 1.8 g/L
- Citric acid: 0.3 g/L
- $\text{MgSO}_4 \times 7 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ : 3.75 g/L
- 0.25 M  $\text{Na}_2$ -EDTA, pH8.0: 0.28 ml/L

## Supplemental stocks for standard media:

- 2
  - 1000x  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ :  $20 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$
  - 100x TES-buffer, pH 8.0 (1M), adjust with KOH
  - 1000x  $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4 \times 3 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ :  $30 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{mL}^{-1}$
  - 1000x Fe(III) ammonium citrate ( $6 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{mL}^{-1}$ )
  - 5000x  $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$  ( $395 \text{ ng} \cdot \text{mL}^{-1}$ ) (sterilize using a filter)

## Trace metal mix:

- 3 1000x concentration:
  - $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$  ( $2.86 \text{ g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ )
  - $\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$  ( $1.81 \text{ g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ )
  - $\text{ZnSO}_4 \cdot 7 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$  ( $0.222 \text{ g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ )
  - $\text{Na}_2\text{MoO}_4 \cdot 2 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$  ( $0.390 \text{ g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ )
  - $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$  ( $0.049 \text{ g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ )

For BG11 lacking certain metals (e.g. for working with metal inducible promoters  $P_{petE}$ ,  $P_{coaT}$ ,  $P_{ziaA}$  etc., trace metal mix can be prepared lacking these chemicals and used instead of standard trace metal mix.

## Standard 1x BG11

4 Fill 1 L bottle with 500 mL ultra pure water. Add stock solutions as shown below.

Stock solution	Volume
100x BG11 Stock	10 mL
1000x Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	1 mL
1000x K <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub> x 3 H <sub>2</sub> O	1 mL
100x TES-buffer	10 mL
1000x Trace Metal Mix	1 mL

Add ultra pure water to 1 L.

Autoclave.

After autoclaving, add 1 mL 1000x Fe(III) ammonium citrate.

Optional: After autoclaving, add 200 µL 5000x CuSO<sub>4</sub>

## Standard 1x BG11 -N

5 Fill 1 L bottle with 500 mL ultra pure water. Add stock solutions as shown below.

A	B
Stock solution	Volume
50x BG11 Stock -N	20 mL
1000x Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	1 mL
1000x K <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub> x 3 H <sub>2</sub> O	1 mL
100x TES-buffer	10 mL
1000x Trace Metal Mix	1 mL

Add ultra pure water to 1 L.

Autoclave.

After autoclaving, add 1 mL sterile 1000x Fe(III) ammonium citrate.

Optional: After autoclaving, add 200 µL sterile 5000x CuSO<sub>4</sub>

## Standard 2x BG11 for agar plates

6 Fill 500 mL bottle with 250 mL ultra pure water. Add stock solutions as shown below.

<b>Stock solution</b>	<b>Volume</b>
100x BG11 Stock -N	10 mL
1000x Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	1 mL
1000x K <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub> x 3 H <sub>2</sub> O	1 mL
100x TES-buffer, pH = 8.0	10 mL
1000x Trace Metal Mix	1 mL

Add ultra pure water to 500 mL.

Autoclave.

After autoclaving, add 1 mL sterile 1000x Fe(III) ammonium citrate.

Optional: After autoclaving, add 200 µL sterile 5000x CuSO<sub>4</sub>

## BG11 plates

7 Prepare 1.5 % agar: Weigh 4.5 g Bacto Agar. Fill up to 300 mL. Autoclave.

Microwave agar until liquid. Let cool.

8 In a 50 mL Falcon, add 1 vol 2x BG11 and 1 vol liquid 1.5 % agar. (Note: Usually, one plate requires 30-40 mL total volume.)

9 When mixture is hand warm, add appropriate antibiotics, if required. Quickly pour plate, avoiding air bubbles.