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RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue

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Protocol status: Working
These protocols were used for RNA extraction from plant tissues in order to support the One Thousand Plants initiative's work to produce RNA-Seq transcriptomes from a diverse collection of plant samples.

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ABSTRACT

Methods for RNA isolation

These methods were originally included in Appendix S1 of "Evaluating Methods for Isolating Total RNA and Predicting the Success of Sequencing Phylogenetically Diverse Plant Transcriptomes" Marc T. J. Johnson et al. PLOS ONE, November 21, 2012. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0050226>

Many of the protocols share elements or combine components from several methods. For each method, we describe the reagents and procedures used, and identify the researchers or institute that implemented the protocol.

Due to the potential for contamination and degradation by RNase enzymes, as well as health concerns in handling some substances and chemicals, best practices in aseptic wet lab techniques must be practiced at all times during RNA isolation. Chief among these are the critical need to avoid contamination of samples by using extreme care when moving liquids and opening and closing tubes to avoid aerosols. Because of the risk of degradation by RNase enzymes, it is essential to use sterile RNase-free equipment, disposable plastics and solutions.

RNase degradation and contamination can be avoided by keeping samples constantly frozen at low temperature (< -80 °C) prior to adding buffers that denature or immobilize RNase. Treating equipment with RNase denaturants (e.g. RNase Zap, Ambion, Austin, TX) and solutions with diethylpyrocarbonate (DEPC) can also prevent contamination and/or degradation of samples, but it can have some negative effects on samples¹. Many additional helpful tips for successful RNA isolation are available in Sambrook and Russell¹ and in Appendix A of [Qiagen's RNeasy Mini Handbook](#) downloadable from www.qiagen.com.

¹ Sambrook, J. & Russell, D.W. Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 3rd ed. (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 2001).

ATTACHMENTS

[journal.pone.0050226.s01](#)
1.PDF

MATERIALS

Standard equipment used

Although the reagents vary among protocols, most methods used the same basic equipment, which include:

- Ceramic or porcelain mortar and pestle for tissue homogenization, or some other equipment that can homogenize frozen tissue (e.g. bead mill)
- Water bath or heating block, capable of holding temperatures up to 70°C
- Non-refrigerated microcentrifuge (with rotor for 2 ml tubes)
- Refrigerated microcentrifuge (with rotor for 2 ml tubes) – only for protocols where noted
- Liquid nitrogen (and associated thermos or dewer)
- Sterile, RNase-free disposable tips with filter barriers
- Sterile, RNase-free disposable microcentrifuge tubes (2 ml and 15 ml were most commonly used, but sizes vary among protocols)
- Pipettors – (capable of pipetting various volumes between 0.1–1000µl)
- Stainless steel spatulas
- RNase-free water
- Sterile razor blades
- Analytical balance
- Glass beakers, flasks and graduated cylinders

SAFETY WARNINGS

Please see SDS (Safety Data Sheet) for hazards and safety warnings.

ATTACHMENTS

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FILES

Protocol

NAME

RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 1: Qiagen RNeasy Plant Mini Kit

VERSION 1

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NAME

#2

RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 2: McKenzie et al's Qiagen hybrid method

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#3

RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 3: CTAB-PVP Method

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NAME

#4

RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 4: CTAB-PVP-TRIzol Method

VERSION 1

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Protocol

NAME

#5

RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 5: pBIOZOL Method

VERSION 1

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NAME

#6 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 6: pBIOZOL and Qiagen RNeasy Plant Mini Kit Method

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#7 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 7: pBIOZOL-LiCl Method

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#8 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 8: CTAB/Acid Phenol/Silica Membrane Method

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#9 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 9: CTAB/Acid Phenol/Silica Membrane Method

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#10 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 10: TRIzol LS Reagent Method

VERSION 1

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NAME

#11 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 11: Tri Reagent Method

VERSION 1

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Protocol

NAME

#12 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 12: Hot Acid Phenol Method for Angiosperms

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#13 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 13: Trizol/RNAqueous Midi-Kit

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#14 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 14: Ambion Trizol RNA Extraction in Microcentrifuge Tubes with Turbo DNasefree Digestion

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NAME

#15 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 15: Hot Acid Phenol Method for Algae

VERSION 1

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[OPEN](#) →

Protocol

NAME

#16 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 16: CTAB-Hot Acid Phenol Method for Algae

VERSION 1

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Protocol

NAME

#17 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 17: Invitrogen PureLink-Qiagen RNeasy Hybrid

VERSION 1

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#18 RNA Isolation from Plant Tissue Protocol 18: innuPREP Plant RNA Kit

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