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Version 1

Schistosoma mansoni cercariae transformation (without needle) V.1

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Schistosoma mansoni



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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working

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Abstract

Free-living aquatic *S. mansoni* cercariae transform into the first intramammalian stage, called schistosomula or somules, by burrowing in the host skin. Upon contact, cercariae begin to enter the skin and lose their tails, becoming schistosomula. Somules migrate through the epidermis to the dermis to find a small venule or lymphatic vessel to enter the vasculature.

Transformation of cercariae to schistosomula can be mimicked in the laboratory by centrifuging cercariae to remove tails and then culturing the somules in somule media. This method is particularly useful when the number of cercariae is low (i.e. clonal cercariae from an individual snail).

Somules can be cultured for several weeks with regular media changes.

Image Attribution

Images of somules taken by Dr. Gabriel Rinaldi

Guidelines

Media changes and opening of transformed somules to take place in tissue culture hood using sterile techniques



Materials

- ☒ DMEM high glucose GlutaMAX **Gibco - Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #31966021**
- ☒ Lactalbumin Hydrolysate, powder (extra soluble) **Thermo Fisher Catalog #11800042**
- ☒ Hypoxanthine **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #H9636-1G**
- ☒ Serotonin Hydrochloride **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #H9523-25MG**
- ☒ Insulin solution from bovine pancreas **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #I0516-5ML**
- ☒ 33'5-Triiodo-L-thyronine sodium salt **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #T6397**
- ☒ MEM Vitamin Solution (100×) **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #M6895**
- ☒ Schneiders Insect Medium **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #S0146**
- ☒ HEPES solution **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #H0887**
- ☒ Fetal Bovine Serum **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #F4135**
- ☒ Antibiotic-Antimycotic (100X) **Thermo Fisher Scientific Catalog #15240062**
- ☒ Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline 10X **Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #D1283**
- ☒ MilliQ water
- ☒ Sterile Graduated Transfer Pipets **Fisher Scientific Catalog #13479108**
- ☒ Falcon 15 mL Conical Centrifuge Tubes **Fisher Scientific Catalog #10773501**
- ☒ Nun Non-Treated 6-well plate **Thermo Scientific Catalog #10396482**
- ☒ 1000 mL Vacuum Filter/Storage Bottle System 0.22 µm Pore 54.5cm² PES Membrane Sterile 12 **Corning Catalog #431098**

Lamp or other light source

Chilling benchtop centrifuge with 15ml swing bucket rotor

Incubator at 37°C and 5% CO₂

Reciprocating water bath

Class 2 Microbiological Safety Cabinet

1X DPBS + 2% ANTI-ANTI

50ml 10x DPBS

10ml 100x Antibiotic-Antimycotic (-20°C)

Fill to 500ml in vacuum filter unit with MilliQ water

Sterilise media with vacuum filter unit and store at 4°C. Use within 2 weeks.

SOMULE MEDIUM – BASCH MODIFIED MEDIUM (BMM)

1. Mix the following reagents:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Reagent	1L	500ml	250ml	[working]	Storage
	1x DMEM high glucose	810.5 ml	405.25 ml	202.62 5ml	1x	4°C
	1g/L Lactalbumin hydrolysate	1g	0.5g	0.25g	1g/L	4°C
	1mM Hypoxanthine	500µl	250µl	125µl	0.5µM	-20°C
	1mM Serotonin	1ml	500µl	250µl	1µM	-20°C
	Insulin	1ml	500µl	250µl	8 µg/ml	4°C
	1mM Hydrocortisone	1ml	500µl	250µl	1 µM	-20°C
	0.2mM Triiodo-L-thyronine	1ml	500µl	250µl	0.2 µM	-20°C
	100x MEM Vitamins	5ml	2.5ml	1.25ml	1x	4°C
	1x Schneider's medium	50ml	25ml	12.5ml	5%	4°C
	1M HEPES	10ml	5ml	2.5ml	10mM	4°C
	1x Fetal calf serum inactivated	100ml	50ml	25ml	10%	-20°C
	100x PSF (add just before use)	20ml	10ml	5ml	2%	-20°C

2. Sterilise media with vacuum filter unit and store at 4°C. Use within 2 weeks.

SEROTONIN STOCK 80mM (17mg/ml)

25mg serotonin hydrochloride (Sigma H9523-25MG) (4°C)

1.47ml H₂O

Vortex well and store at -20°C in 350µl aliquots

1mM SEROTONIN

312.5µl of 80mM stock solution

24.6875ml NFW

Filter sterilize and store at -20°C in 1ml aliquots

3,3',5'-TRIIODO-L-THYRONINE STOCK 10mM

100mg T₃ (Sigma T6397-100MG)

14.86ml 0.2N NaOH

Vortex well and store at -20°C in 2ml aliquots



0.2mM 3,3',5-TRIODO-L-THYRONINE

5ml of 10mM stock solution

20ml NFW

Filter sterilize and store at -20°C in 1ml aliquots

HYPOXANTHINE STOCK 368mM (50mg/ml)

1g hypoxanthine (Sigma H9636-1G)

20ml 2:1 formic acid:H₂O

Vortex well and store at -20°C in 1ml aliquots

1mM HYPOXANTHINE

34µl of 368mM stock solution

12.466ml sterile medium

Filter sterilize and store at -20°C in 500µl aliquots

HYDROCORTISONE STOCK 2.75mM (50µg/ml)

1mg hydrocortisone (H0135-1MG) (RT)

1ml absolute ethanol

Gently swirl to dissolve

19ml sterile medium

Swirl to mix and store in 9.5ml aliquots at -20°C

1mM HYDROCORTISONE

9.058ml of 2.76mM stock solution

15.942ml sterile medium

Filter sterilize and store at -20°C in 1ml aliquots

Troubleshooting

Safety warnings

 Schistosomula in suspension are not a risk to humans UNLESS they are injected directly into the blood stream.

Before start

Place 1 sterile 15ml falcon tube on ice per snail to be shed

Pre-chill benchtop centrifuge to 4°C

Prepare 1x DPBS+2% anti-anti and place in 37°C reciprocating water bath (see recipes in "MATERIALS" section)

Prepare somule media and place in 37°C reciprocating water bath (see recipes in "MATERIALS" section)



Cercariae collection

- 1 Shed cercariae from snails in a 6-well plate (see protocol "*Schistosoma mansoni* cercariae shedding"). The snails can be shed for up to 2 hrs by collecting cercariae and replacing with fresh water every 30 min
- 2 Using a sterile transfer pipette, dispense cercariae into sterile 15ml falcon tubes on ice
- 3 After collecting cercariae, adjust the volume in each 15ml falcon tube to 15ml with sterile water
- 4 Incubate tubes containing cercariae for  00:30:00  On ice 30m

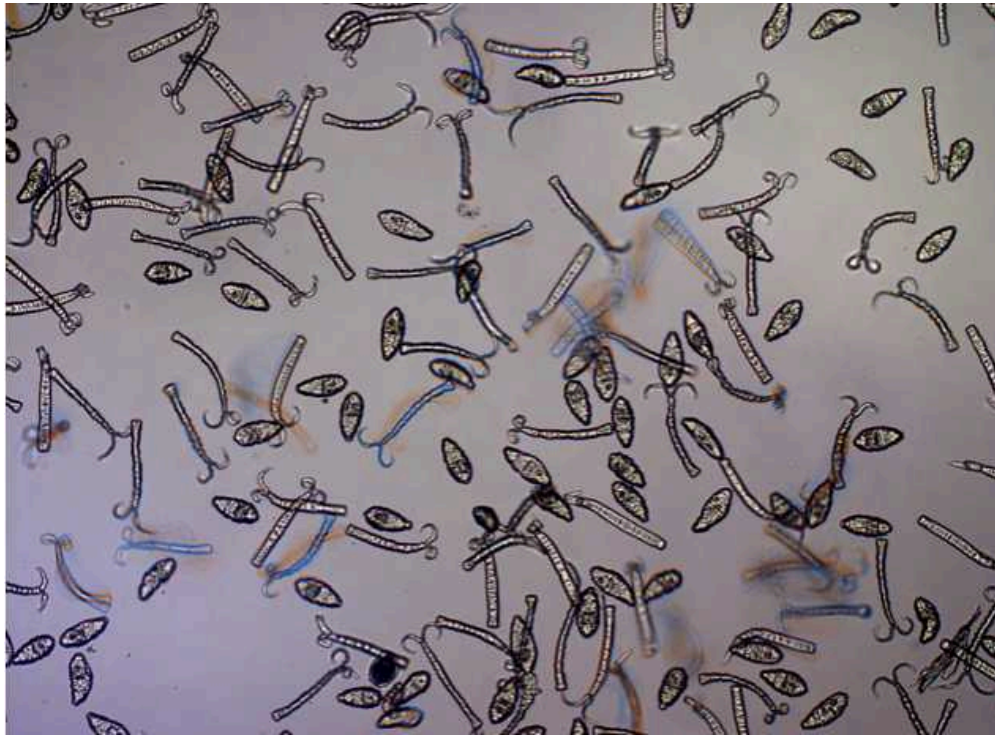
Cercariae tail removal

- 5 Centrifuge the cercariae  2200 rpm, 4°C, 00:30:00 , Eppendorf 5810R centrifuge 30m
- 6 Quickly remove the supernatant and resuspend the pellet in 10ml pre-warmed 1x PBS + 2% PSF (see "MATERIALS" section for recipes) by gently inverting the tube (do not use pipet to mix)
- 7 Centrifuge the cercariae  1500 rpm, 4°C, 00:10:00 , Eppendorf 5810R centrifuge 10m
- 8 Repeat steps 6 and 7 six more times

Somules in culture

30m

- 9 Resuspend pellet of somules in ~5ml pre-warmed  37 °C somule media (see "MATERIALS" section for recipes)
- 10 Place somules in a 6-well plate and top up each well with pre-warmed  37 °C somule media so each has a total of approximately 4ml media



Somules on same day of transformation (Image credit: Dr. Gabriel Rinaldi)

- 11 Incubate at  37 °C , 5% CO₂  Overnight 30m
- 12 Optional: the following day, remove tails with transfer pipet (the tails will have floated to the top of the water column in the wells)



Somules the day after transformation, after removing tails (Image credit: Dr. Gabriel Rinaldi)

Protocol references

Citation

Paul F. Basch (1981)
. Cultivation of *Schistosoma mansoni* In vitro. I. Establishment of Cultures from Cercariae and Development until Pairing.
The Journal of Parasitology.

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Citations

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