

Cleaning contaminated *C. elegans* stocks: egg prep in a drop

Overview

Aseptic techniques should always be followed when handling *C. elegans* in order to avoid contamination of the stocks. In the event that *C. elegans* stock plates get contaminated with bacteria or yeast, the following protocol can be used to clean the stock and continue to propagate the strain.

Materials

Worm bleach solution
Contaminated NGM plate with gravid adult worms
Clean NGM plates seeded with an *E. coli* OP50 lawn

Procedure

1. Drop 10uL of Worm bleach solution onto a clean NGM plate. Avoid dropping the solution in the OP50 lawn.
2. Pick ~5 gravid hermaphrodites from the contaminated plate and place them into the EPIAD drop. After ~2 minutes the gravid worms should dissolve, leaving the eggs intact. The solution will kill the contaminants and hermaphrodites but will soak into the plate before the embryos hatch.
3. One day later, check the plate for the presence of L1-L2 worms in the bacterial lawn. Transfer them to a clean NGM plate.

Worm bleach solution (10 ml)

4 mL bleach (5% hypochlorite)
2 mL 5M KOH
4 mL dH₂O

Cover the tube with foil wrap to avoid light exposure. This solution is good for 1 month.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

7.15 Experimental Molecular Genetics
Spring 2015

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.