

Genotyping by sequencing protocol

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1 DNA extraction

The goal is to obtain at least 500 ng of high quality DNA from single individuals.

1.1 First session

You need a DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (Qiagen), and RNase A. Have some liquid nitrogen ready in a container, clean plastic pestles and an electric screw driver. Buffer ATL may form precipitate upon storage. If necessary, warm to 56°C until precipitates fully dissolve.

1. Put one fly in a 1.5 ml tube and immediately, on ice. Add a small amount of autoclaved sea sand. Keep the tube open and deep the bottom of it in the liquid nitrogen to freeze the sample, with care not to freeze your fingertips. Use the screw driver with a pestle fitted on it to grind the fly. Press hard the pestle against the tube. Alternate between grinding and cooling the tube down in the liquid nitrogen.
2. When the fly is powdered, let the tube recover a temperature $>0^{\circ}\text{C}$. Add 180 μl of buffer ATL and remove the pestle with care of leaving the liquid in the tube. Then, add 20 μl of proteinase K, vortex, and incubate at 56°C overnight on a rocking platform. Make sure to seal the tubes with parafilm to reduce evaporation.

1.2 Second session

1. Just like the ATL buffer, buffer AL may also form precipitates. Warm it up if necessary to dissolve them. Make sure that buffers AW1 and AW2 have the ethanol added.

2. After the incubation, bring samples to room temperature. Centrifuge for 2 min at $8000 \times g$ (10000 rpm?), at 20°C. Transfer supernatant to a new tube. This removes the sand.
3. Add 4 μl RNase A (100 mg/ml), mix by vortexing, and incubate for 2 min at room temperature.
4. Vortex for 15 s. Add 200 μl buffer AL to the sample, and mix thoroughly by vortexing. Then add 200 μl ethanol (96-100%), and mix again thoroughly by vortexing. It is essential that the sample, buffer AL, and ethanol are mixed immediately and thoroughly by vortexing or pipetting to yield a homogeneous solution. Buffer AL and ethanol can be premixed and added together in one step to save time when processing multiple samples.
5. Pipet the mixture from the previous step (including any precipitate) into the DNeasy Mini spin column placed in a 2 ml collection tube. Centrifuge at $\geq 6000 \times g$ (8000 rpm) for 1 min. Discard flow-through and collection tube.
6. Place the DNeasy Mini spin column in a new 2 ml collection tube, add 500 μl buffer AW1, and centrifuge for 1 min at $\geq 6000 \times g$ (8000 rpm). Discard flow-through and collection tube.
7. Place the DNeasy Mini spin column in a new 2 ml collection tube, add 500 μl buffer AW2, and centrifuge for 3 min at $20000 \geq \times g$ (14000 rpm) to dry the DNeasy membrane. Discard flow-through and collection tube. It is important to dry the membrane, since residual ethanol may interfere with subsequent reactions. This centrifugation step ensures that no residual ethanol will be carried over during the following elution. Following the centrifugation step, remove the DNeasy Mini spin column carefully so that the column does not come into contact with the flow-through, since this will result in carryover ethanol. If carryover of ethanol occurs, empty the collection tube, then reuse it in another centrifugation for 1 min at $20000 \times g$ (14000 rpm).
8. Place the DNeasy Mini spin column in a clean 1.5 ml or 2 ml microcentrifuge tube (not provided in the DNeasy kit), and pipet 200 μl buffer AE directly onto the DNeasy membrane. Incubate at room temperature for 1 min, and then centrifuge for 1 min at $\geq 6000 \times g$ (8000 rpm) to elute. Elution with 100 μl (instead of 200 μl) increases the final DNA concentration in the eluate, but also decreases the overall DNA yield. For maximum DNA yield, repeat elution once more. Do

Table 1: Typical restriction digest.

Restriction enzyme	10 units is sufficient, generally $1\mu\text{l}$ is used.
DNA	$x\mu\text{l}$ ($\sim 1\mu\text{g}$)
$10\times$ NEBuffer	$0.4x\mu\text{l}$.
Total reaction volume	$4x\mu\text{l}$.
H ₂ O	$2.6x - 1\mu\text{l}$
Incubation time	1 hour (I don't think it hurts if more).
Incubation temperature	37°C for most enzymes.

not elute more than $200\mu\text{l}$ into a 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tube because the DNeasy Mini spin column will come into contact with the eluate.

2 Digestion

I digest the DNA with only one enzyme. Table 1 shows the composition of a typical digestion reaction. The DNA volume varies among samples. When deciding the final volume, it is important to keep in mind the following advice:

1. If DNA is in a buffer with some salt (such as TE), then the DNA volume should **not** be more than 25% of the reaction volume. Otherwise, the salt in the buffer can inhibit the enzyme.
2. If DNA is very diluted and the DNA volume is higher than $100\mu\text{l}$, it may be a good idea to concentrate the DNA first. However, a highly diluted DNA is apparently the last of the concerns in restriction reactions (mental note: I wonder if it can be compensated to some extent with longer incubation time).
3. As a rule of thumb: use $1\mu\text{l}$ of enzyme (10000 units/ml) per $1\mu\text{g}$ of DNA.
4. Enzymes are in 50% glycerol (to avoid freezing). Always keep the total concentration of glycerol in the reaction below 5%.
5. DNA concentration in the reaction should be at 20-100 ng/ μl .

Peterson et al. [4] recommend not to stop the digestion by heat-inactivation, to prevent a bias against shorter and AT-rich fragments, which would denaturalize during heating and then lose the chance to ligate the adapters.

Instead, we are supposed to use a Spin Column or magnetic beads (see below) to clean the reaction product and concentrate the DNA. Note, however, that similar protocols do not hesitate to use heat inactivation [1, 3].

Sibelle Vilaça (personal communication) recommended to run the digestion and the ligation in the same step. That is, all the enzymes were together in the tube, first giving them the chance to digest, and then to ligate, without any clean up step in between. She reported lower levels of chimeras when doing this. It may also improve the yield, since we save a clean up step. I understand now that to combine digestion and ligation in one reaction, it may be crucial to have adapters that do not reproduce the recognition site when ligated. This is possible as long as the overhang does not include the whole recognition site.

2.1 Clean up with magnetic beads

You can consider skipping this step (see above).

1. Prepare twice as much 80% ethanol as total DNA volume you have among all the tubes, or a bit more. Prepare at least 400 μl of 80% ethanol per sample. If ethanol is 80%, it does not need to be freshly prepared [2].
2. Vortex High Prep PCR beads thoroughly.
3. Add beads in a 1.2:1 ratio¹ to the restriction (or PCR) reaction and vortex well (30 s; or pipette mixing).
4. Incubate at room temperature for 5 min (or more; this is an important step) without shaking.
5. Place tube on magnetic rack for 3 min, or until the solution is clear (the time depends on the volume of the solution).
6. Remove supernatant carefully without disturbing the beads. Make sure you have NO beads in the pipet.
7. Add the same amount of freshly prepared ethanol as supernatant you removed (at least 200 μl), so that the alcohol covers all the beads.
8. Let stand for a minute.

¹1.5 ratio would allow binding of short fragments as well. Last time, I used a 1:1 ratio, and I noticed absence of fragments below 200 bp, and a likely depletion of fragments below 1000 bp.

9. Remove supernatant.
10. Add the same amount of 80% ethanol again.
11. Let stand for another minute.
12. Remove the supernatant.
13. Air dry pellet 5 minutes at room temperature. You may see a crack in the pellet. If you over-dry the beads, you will see many cracks. If you under-dry the beads, the DNA recovery rate will be lower, due to the remaining ethanol.
14. Add $1\times$ TE buffer, or water.
15. Vortex for 30 s or pipette mix 10 times. The liquid level should be high enough to contact the magnetic beads. If not, extra vortexing is required, and may not be sufficient to fully elute all the DNA.
16. Incubate 2 min at room temperature.
17. Place tube on magnetic rack for 2 min, or until the solution is clear.
18. Transfer supernatant to a fresh tube.

About the final volume to elute the DNA, I have been successful with very low amounts (10-20 μl), if the pellet was not too dry. It's easier with more. After the digestion reaction, I recover the samples with the amount of TE that would give me the same concentration in all samples, in the order of 10 ng/ μl , assuming that all the original amount of DNA is recovered.

2.2 Estimate distribution of fragment sizes with Agilent BioAnalyzer

This is a tricky machine. Before using it, it is convenient to clean the electrodes: just put 450 μl H_2O in a cleaning chip, place it in the machine (with lid closed), and let it sit for a little while. After removing the water chip, leave the lid of the machine open for a couple of minutes to dry de electrodes. The machine does not have to be turned on for this. You can rinse the chip with distilled water and re-use it later.

Before the assay, you should also set up the computer: turn it on, open the software, choose the machine, select the type of assay, and name the samples.

Table 2: Annealing buffer (100 μ l, 10X).

Reagent	Amount to add	Final concentration
Tris-HCl, pH 8, 1 M	10 μ l	100 mM
EDTA, 0.5 M	2 μ l	10 mM
NaCl (58.44 g/mol)	2.92 mg	500 mM
H ₂ O	88 μ l	

The assay chip has 11 spots available for samples. When loading it, it is recommended not to press the pipette to the second stop, to avoid the introduction of air bubbles. Loading should be accurate and not too slow. Once the chip is ready, it should be used immediately. Every assay costs on the order of €50.00.

Follow the instructions in the original protocol.

3 Ligation

3.1 Prepare annealed adapters stock

This is a combination of three protocols [1, 3, 4]. Oligos are delivered dry, and need to be suspended in any desired volume or concentration. The delivery documentation suggests 100 pmol/ μ l (that is, 100 μ M).

1. Prepare the annealing buffer stock (10X): 100 mM Tris HCl (pH 8), 500 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA (see table 2).
2. Suspend the oligos in the volumes required to have them in 100 μ M (100 pmol/ μ l). Use TE buffer.
3. To produce 10 μ l of annealed stock from each adapter, at 15 μ M (15 pmol/ μ l), combine: 1.5 μ l of the top oligo (100 μ M), 1.5 μ l of the bottom oligo (100 μ M), 1 μ l 10 \times annealing buffer (table 2), and 6 μ l of H₂O.
4. In a thermocycler, incubate at 97.5 °C for 2.5 minutes, and then cool at a rate not greater than 3 °C per minute, until the solution reaches a temperature of 21 °C. Hold at 4 °C.
5. The final working strength concentration of annealed adapters is calculated for each sample to have 7 times more adapters than fragment

Table 3: Example of volumes of ligation reactions. All volumes are in μl . T4 ligase is at 2000000 U/ml.

Sample	DNA	10 \times Buffer	Adapter	1.5 M NaCl	T4	H ₂ O	Total
1	35	4.40	1.00	1.10	2.00	0.50	44.00
3	35	4.40	1.00	1.10	2.00	0.50	44.00
5	35	4.40	1.00	1.10	2.00	0.50	44.00
6	35	4.40	1.00	1.10	2.00	0.50	44.00

ends in the sample, in a volume of 1 or 2 μl . The required working concentration must be lower than the concentration of the annealed adapter stock (it can be lowered by increasing the volume added per reaction).

3.2 Adapter ligation

Following [3], I was planning to use NEB Buffer 2, supplemented with rATP, to run the ligation. The reason argued to suggest NEB buffer 2, instead of regular ligation buffer, is that it contains 50 mM NaCl, which is about the maximum that T4 DNA ligase can stand without being inhibited. The presence of some salt helps keep the DNA fragments annealed. When I didn't have NEB Buffer 2, I just supplemented the reaction with 50 mM NaCl.

1. Prepare a 1.5 M solution of NaCl in a 10 ml Falcon tube, using 10 ml H₂O and 0.87 g NaCl (molecular weight 58.44 g/mol).
2. Add to the DNA samples the corresponding amounts of 10 \times T4 ligase reaction buffer, working stock of adapters, 1.5 M NaCl, and T4 DNA ligase (2000000 U/ml), according to table 3. Be sure to add the adapters to the reaction before the ligase, to prevent religation of the genomic DNA.
3. Incubate the reaction at 16 °C overnight (or at least 2 hours).
4. Heat inactivate T4 DNA ligase for 10 min at 65 °C. Allow reactions to cool slowly down (2 °C per 90 s, or 0.02°C/s) to room temperature.

4 Second digestion

Taking advantage of a smart adapter design, suggested by Sibelle Torres Vilaça (IGB, Berlin), that avoids the regeneration of the cut site, a second

300 and 900 bp. The following protocol is mostly based on Machery-Nagel's [User's Manual](#) of NuceloMag[®] NGS clean-up and size select. Let's say that we depart from x μl of DNA sample.

1. If using 200 μl PCR tubes, prepare at least 400 μl of 80% ethanol per sample. If using 1.5 ml tubes, prepare at least twice as much 80% ethanol as total DNA volume. If ethanol is 80%, it does not need to be freshly prepared [2].
2. Let the magnetic beads reach room temperature for 30 minutes.
3. Vortex the bead suspension thoroughly until it appears homogeneous in colour.
4. Add exactly $0.600x$ μl of the well dispersed bead suspension to each tube.
5. Add exactly x μl of DNA sample to the tubes. The volume ratio of binding buffer and bead suspension to sample is 0.6. This is the lowest of the two ratios, and it is meant for 'right-selection', that is, to remove too large DNA fragments, which will stay attached to the beads. The lower this ratio, the higher the upper end of the selected size range. Adjust the pipette to $1.6x$ μl and mix by pipetting up and down 10 times.
6. Incubate the tubes at room temperature for 5 min.
7. Separate the magnetic beads against the side of the wells by placing the tubes on the magnetic separator. Wait at least 5 minutes until all the beads have been attracted to the magnets and the liquid appears clear.
8. Transfer the supernatant into new tubes and discard the beads that contain the unwanted large fragments. Make sure you have $1.6x$ μl of supernatant.
9. Vortex the bead suspension again well until it appears homogeneous in colour.
10. Add $0.045x$ μl of the well dispersed bead suspension to each tube. This amount of bead suspension adds up to the $0.600x$ μl already present in the supernatant, raising the ratio of beads to sample to 0.645. This is the left-side ratio, which controls the lower bound of the size range. Adjust the pipette $1.645x$ μl and mix by pipetting up and down 10 times.

11. Incubate the separation tubes at room temperature for 5 minutes.
12. Separate the magnetic beads against the side of the tubes by placing them on the magnetic separator. Wait at least 5 minutes until all the beads have been attracted to the magnets or the liquid appears clear.
13. Remove and discard supernatant by pipetting. Do not disturb the beads.
14. Without removing the tubes from the magnetic separator, add at least $1.645x$ μ l of 80% ethanol, to cover all the beads without disturbing the pellet.
15. Incubate for at least 30 s, and carefully remove and discard the supernatant by pipetting.
16. Add again the same amount of 80% ethanol without disturbing the pellet, and incubate at room temperature for at least 30 s. Then carefully remove and discard the supernatant by pipetting. Remove it completely, including residual droplets.
17. Leave the tubes on the magnetic separator and incubate at room temperature for 5 to 15 minutes in order to allow the remaining traces of alcohol to evaporate. Do not overdry the beads.
18. Remove the tubes from the magnetic separator and add 10–50 μ l elution buffer (it can be water), and resuspend the pellet by pipetting up and down 10 times or by shaking.
19. Incubate the tubes at room temperature for 2–5 minutes.
20. Separate the magnetic beads against the side of the wells by placing the tubes on the magnetic separator. Wait at least 5 minutes until all the beads have been attracted to the magnets or until the liquid appears clear.
21. Transfer the supernatant containing the purified DNA fragment library to a new tube.

6 Amplification PCR

The protocol for Phusion High-Fidelity PCR Master Mix with HF Buffer recommends amplification primers to be at $0.5 \mu\text{M}$ in PCR reactions of either

Table 4: PCR programme.

Step	Temp.(°C)	Time (s)	
Initial denaturation	98	30	
Denaturation	98	10	10×
Annealing	60	20	
Extension	72	15	
Final extension	72	600	
Hold	4	∞	

Table 5: PCR reactions in 25 μ l. 10 μ l of 10 μ M Primer Mix may be prepared with 1 μ l 100 μ M Primer 1 + 1 μ l 100 μ M Primer 2 + 8 μ l nuclease-free water.

Component	Volume (μ l)	Final conc.
H ₂ O	7.75	
5× HF buffer	5.00	1×
10 mM dNTPs	0.50	200 μ M each
10 μ M Primer Mix	1.25	0.5 μ M
Template DNA	10.00	
Phusion DNA Pol.	0.50	0.02 U/ μ l
Total	25.00	

20 or 50 μ l, which means that there should be either 10 or 25 pmols of each primer per reaction. About template DNA, the protocol only says that it should be less than 250 ng. However, the double digest protocol [4] suggests 2.0 μ M primers in 20 μ l of final volume; that is, 40 pmols of primers. And only 20 ng of DNA, which would be about 0.06 and 0.1 pmols of fragments, depending on their average size (500 or 200). I think the latter is closer to what I need. I run 5 PCR reactions like the one shown on table 5. No more than 12 cycles are recommended, to limit base misincorporation and size or sample bias.

7 Clean up with magnetic beads, and quantification

Before sequencing, another clean up is required. And quantification is mandatory, to make sure the sequencing will work.

References

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