**Egg dissection protocol – updated 07/10/2022 by OC**

**Purpose:** separate yolk from albumin for use in yolk hormone assays

**Use:** High precision balance (to 0.001mg)

1. Make a small aluminum foil boat to mass egg. It should fit easily on the scale. Zero the scale to this boat.
2. Mass egg on high precision balance to 0.001 mg in small aluminum foil boat. This should be done quickly. The eggs rapidly lose moisture when uncovered which means that the measured mass will continually (and quickly) decrease when the egg is on the balance.
3. With egg on Kimwipe, make incision along the length of the egg with razor blade on the albumin side (if incision is made on yolk side most of the yolk will be lost). The albumin side can be identified by its more transparent nature compared to the yolk side. Also, the embryo will often be visible on the albumin side. Much of the albumin will leak out after the incision is made.
4. Using the dissection scissors, increase the incision so it spans the length of the egg.
5. Place forceps inside incision and open to exposure the yolk.
6. If any more albumin is present, use a rolled up Kimwipe to soak up the albumin.
7. With fingers, squeeze the egg so the incision gapes, then use a small spatula to scoop out yolk. It may work easiest to hold the egg in your fingers at this stage.
8. Using a pair of forceps, remove the embryo and on vessels from the yolk on the spatula.
9. Using a Kimwipe to dry any remaining albumin. Note: do not put Kimwipe directly on the yolk or it will stick to the wipe.
10. Mass egg yolk in balance in an Eppendorf tube.
11. Add1.0mL of ddH20
12. Vortex thoroughly (count to 30)
13. Label the tube (on top) with an individual sample ID; on a paper label, write the enclosure, clutch, and date. Tape paper label with sticky tape.
14. Store at -20°C until use.