

# Recipe for sugar-agar food source for drosophila

katy monteith

## Abstract

This protocol describes the recipe for a standard sugar-agar food source for fruit flies

**Citation:** katy monteith Recipe for sugar-agar food source for drosophila. **protocols.io**

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.j6fcrbn

**Published:** 04 Jan 2018

## Guidelines

This protocol describes how to make enough sugar-agar solution for approximately 60 Drosophila storage vials (23ml; Sarstedt 58.490).

Once the sugar-agar food is decanted into vials, the vials should be left covered but not sealed, at room temperature until the food has set and cooled. The vials can then be sealed with cotton wool/bung and stored at 4°C for approximately 4 weeks before use.

Food vials should be brought to room temperature before flies are added.

## Materials

Agar ash 2.0-4.5% [A7002](#) by [Sigma Aldrich](#)

Methyl-4- hydroxybenzoate [H5501](#) by [Sigma Aldrich](#)

## Protocol

### Step 1.

Bring 1 litre of triple distilled H<sub>2</sub>O to boil in pan

### Step 2.

Add 20g of agar and 84g of light brown soft sugar and stir continuously for 5 minutes while mixture boils rapidly

### Step 3.

Allow mixture to cool to around 70°C and then stir in 7ml of tegosept anti-fungal solution (dissolve Methyl-4- hydroxybenzoate in 95% Ethanol at 150g/L)

### Step 4.

Dispense sugar-agar into vials.

## Warnings

1. Care should be taken when dispensing hot sugar-agar liquid. Decant liquid into smaller container before pouring into Drosophila storage vials/bottles to reduce the risk of spillage
2. Read SDS for Methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate prior to use.