

# Culturing Euplotes crassus to high densities using E. coli as the only food source Version 5

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## Abstract

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## Protocol

### Step 1.

Grow 1 L culture of E.coli in Luria broth to saturation overnight (usually we dilute previous bacterial culture 1:100).

### NOTES

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We have been using strain HT115, but any strain of E. coli will likely do. Do not use antibiotics.

### Step 2.

For 1 L Euplotes crassus culture, pellet E. coli from 200 ml of culture (4000 rcf for 10 minutes). The remaining bacteria can be stored in their 1 L flask at 4 °C for at least a month and used to feed Euplotes crassus as necessary.

### Step 3.

Wash the pellet once with ddH<sub>2</sub>O and pellet again at 4000 rcf for 10 minutes.

### Step 4.

After discarding most of the excess water, resuspend the bacteria (e.g. with a micropipette using a 1 ml tip) before adding them to the Euplotes crassus culture.

### Step 5.

Euplotes crassus cells typically consume all the bacteria after 2 or 3 days at 24 °C with aeration system, reaching a density of 3000 cells/ml.