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OT-2 Counter-Selection

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1 Works for me



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dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.5qpvor5xdv4o/v1

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ABSTRACT

This protocol is meant to select the samples from 1 source plate that has been growing in different conditions and has different values for these different conditions, one condition gives higher values and the other lower values. From this selected samples this protocol create final plates with 2 types of reactivities

The instructions for running this protocol are a python script for an Opentrons 2 robot and need a csv file with several variables setted making the protocol modular to reactivities, volumes of transfer, type of plates, etc.

In our lab we are selecting samples by their after night OD in 2 different antibiotics and create PCR plates (with water) and stock plates (with glycerol), but it can be used with other selection characteristics as expression of GFP and with other types of reactivities.

DOI

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OWNERSHIP HISTORY

Sep 20, 2022  Lorea Alejandre

Oct 27, 2022  biocomp.cbgp

PROTOCOL INTEGER ID

70288

PARENT PROTOCOLS

In steps of

[High-throughput workflow for the genotypic characterization of transposon library variants](#)

GUIDELINES

This protocol was developed with python 3.9.7, OT App Software Version 6.1.0 and API level version 2.13. It has been tested with cultures from *Pseudomonas putida* KT2440 as part of counter-selection step in the High-throughput workflow for the genotypic characterization of transposon library variants. 30% glycerol and water have been successfully dispensed using this protocol.

The maximum number of 96-well plates per run is 1 source plates to 7 final plates (using 2 tip racks per pipette and 1 tube rack for falcons tubes).

MATERIALS TEXT

Software:

- python 3.9.6
- python packages: pandas, logging, math, copy, opentrons
- OT-App
- Excel

OT-2 Labware

- Opentrons Tipracks

Opentrons 96 Tip Rack 300 µL
Tip rack

Opentrons - [Link](#)

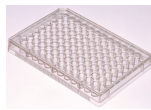
Opentrons 96 Filter Tip Rack 20 µL
Tip rack

Opentrons - [Link](#)

- 96- well plates

96-well plates, flat bottom, non treated
Cell culture plates

VWR 734-2781 [Link](#)



- Opentrons Falcon tub rack

Opentrons 15 Tube Rack with Falcon 15
mL Conical
OT Tube Rack

Opentrons - [Link](#)



- 15mL Falcon tubes

Falcon® Conical Centrifuge Tubes 15mL
Falcon Tube

Falcon 352096 [↗](#)

Equipment:

OT-2
Liquid handler

Opentrons OT-2

HEPA Module

Opentrons OT-2-HEPA [↗](#)

Single Channel Electronic Pipette (GEN2)

300uL

Opentrons Pipette

Opentrons - [↗](#)

SAFETY WARNINGS

It is important to use HEPA module to work in sterility

BEFORE STARTING

Note that this protocol can be done for one 96-well source plate at a time. In addition, it can only be performed with two selection variables (2 files with 1 condition per file in which one

should be higher than a value and the other lower than this same value).

Files Preparation

1 Preparing Customized Template

Preparing the template (a .csv) with the specific variables for each experiment.

Here we attach one excel with several sheets:

1. Template to use in protocol
2. Explanation of each variable
3. Example

 **Template_ColonieScreening.xlsx**

1.1 Fill the template with the corresponding values

1.2 Store it as a comma-separated values file (csv) with the name *Variables-ColonieScreening-OT.csv*



The file should be spelled exactly *Variables-ColonieScreening-OT.csv* or the python script won't work.

Make sure that the final csv is separated by commas, not by semicolons and that the variables have 2 quotation marks and not 6, in case they need quotation marks (these are added when going from excel to csv)

In Windows 10 to change excel separator from ";" to "," you should go to **Region Settings > Change date, time, or number formats > Additional settings > change List separator from ; to ,**

Alternatively open the exported .csv file in an editor and replace all ; to , and remove the extra quotation marks

2 Transferring csv to Robot

Transfer the *Variables-ColonieScreening-OT.csv* to the directory */data/user_storage* of the OT system that we are going to use to perform the protocol.



Previous to transferring any file to the OT, we need to know the IP of the robot.

This can be obtained in the Networking section of the Device that we are going to use
(In the OT-App > Devices > (three dots) Networking)

Here we present a summary of how to transfer the files in 3 OS: *Windows, Mac and Ubuntu*
(applicable to most Linux)

Mac/Linux

We will use the command line with scp to transfer the file *Variables-ColonieScreening-OT.csv* to the OT system.

We need to perform the following line:

Passing Files to OT

scp -i [ot_key] [file] root@[IP_OT]:/data/user_storage

File passing from linux (our computer) to linux (OT raspberry)
Ubuntu



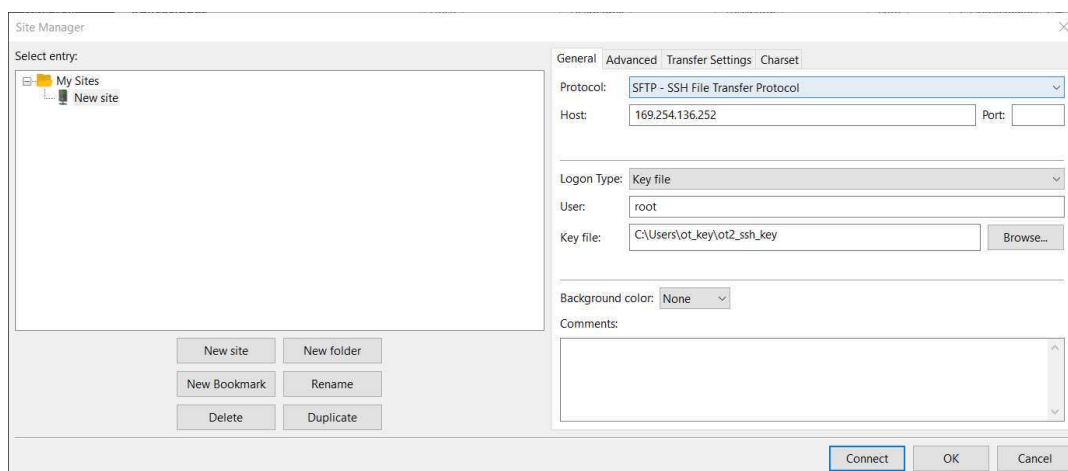
The ot key should have been previously generated, for more info visit
<https://support.opentrons.com/s/article/Setting-up-SSH-access-to-your-OT-2>

Windows

There are several ways to pass files from a windows to a linux (for example with a virtual machine).

Here we will use FileZilla (<https://filezilla-project.org/download.php?type=client>).

Go to **File > Site Manager > New Site > Change Protocol to SFTP**. Then introduce in Host the OT IP, change the Logon Type to key file, change the user name to root and give the directory were the ot key is. Should look something like this



Example of setting the FileZilla to transfer files from windows (our computer) to linux (OT)

Then press connect and we will have a connection between our computer and the robot.

After this connection, we should be able to move out *Variables-ColonieScreening-OT.csv* (in our computer) to the directory */data/user_storage* in the robot.

Take in account that the IP of the robot could change, so it is possible that from time to time it will be needed to change the host in these connections.

The method described for the Windows system can be done as well in Ubuntu and Mac

3

Adding the custom labware

There is only a need to do this step when a labware that you are using is not OT official or your labware is not in the OT directory
/data/labware/v2/custom_definitions/custom_labware



This process/step is needed in the version 6.0.1 or below (when this protocol was developed).

According to their guide, this protocol should be possible only loading the labware in the OT-App (<https://support.opentrons.com/s/article/Using-labware-in-your-protocols>).

This bug has been reported and, hopefully, will be resolved as soon as possible. It is possible that you do not need to do this step if this error does not occur to you.

3.1 Creation of .json file

The description file can be obtained by describing the labware dimensions in <https://labware.opentrons.com/create/>

3.2 Creating description folder

We need to create for our custom labware a folder with the API name containing the description file (.json) called *1.json*

3.3 Transfer the description folder to the OT robot

We need to transfer the directory or directories created in Step 3.2

For that we need to introduce the following command (in Linux), for Windows process [↪ go to step #2](#)

Transferring directory to OT

```
scp -i [ot_key] -r [directory_custom_labware]  
root@[IP_OT]:/data/labware/v2/custom_definitions/custom_be
```

Transferring the custom labware to OT

Linux

We do not need to execute this part every time the protocol is used, only when that labware is not included in the OT official labware and these directories are not in the robot

4 Simulating and getting the output (user instructions)

For more information in how to setup the ssh visit the official OT support blog (<https://support.opentrons.com/s/article/Setting-up-SSH-access-to-your-OT-2>)

4.1 *Transferring python script*

To make sure that the protocol will work with the variables we have introduced we need to run the python script in the robot with the OT simulator.

The last script version can be found at <https://github.com/Biocomputation-CBGP/OT2/tree/main/ColonySelection> (name of this file is user's choice)

For that we can [go to step #2](#) but instead of passing the variables file, we pass the python script. In this case we can transfer it to the directory `/data/user_storage` or we can directly pass it to the directory `/root` (recommended)

You can do this step only once and use always the same python script

The only time that you need to change it is when there is an update in github, then you should download the new script version and do this step

4.2 *Simulating*

We should connect to the robot via ssh

Connect to Linux based OT via ssh

ssh -i [ot_key] root@[Robot_IP]

Simulate the protocol so we can know if the protocol is going to work with the given variables

Linux

Then we would move to the directory where the python script is with the **cd** command

Finally we are going to perform the simulation of the opentrons

Simulate OT protocol

```
opentrons_simulate -o nothing -e [name_script].py > [name_instruction_file].txt 2>&1
```

Simulate the protocol so we can know if the protocol is going to work with the given variables

Linux

Do not worry if it takes a little bit of time

4.3 In case that you want to see the instruction file before the next step, you can see the instruction file with cat

Show content file cmd

```
cat [name_instruction_file].txt
```

Show in the command line the instruction file content

Linux

4.4 Retrieving output file (user instructions)

To retrieve the output from the OT system you can [go to step #2](#), replicate it but transferring the file from the OT to your computer

In this file we have 3 or more sections:

1. (Optional) **Warnings**
2. **General Information:** pieces of information that are extracted from variables in the variables file and are only remainders
3. **Deck Labware Position:** this information will be provided by the OT as well
4. **15mL Tuberack Reactive Positions:** for each tuberack that is needed (with 15 positions) we have a table with the reactives and their respective volumes

It is recommended to have at least 10uL more of each reactive in each tube

to make sure that the pipette does not take a bubble when aspirating

In the case that something went wrong, the variables are not consistent or there is not enough deck place to perform the experiments the instruction file will be shorter and will have a single section, **Errors**.

Running Protocol

5 Setting Labware

- 5.1 Wipe the surface of the deck with 70% ethanol to clean and disinfect the surfaces

For more information in how to clean the robot go to the following link
<https://support.opentrons.com/s/article/Cleaning-the-robot-s-surfaces>

- 5.2 Set the respective labwares in the slots as the OT App and the instruction file set



Make sure that the source and final A1 wells are at the left top (common mistake), and each labware fits properly.



Make sure that you are placing the source plate corresponding to the Antibiotic Transposition Genome File variable, i.e, the source plate where the colonies should grow (or the file where the value of the colonies that you want to select is higher than the variable *Grow OD* in the Template)

- 5.3 Set the different reagents in their respective coldblock positions, as stated in the instruction file



The protocol is going to aspirate from the falcon at a specific height which is set with the volume of the falcon, so make sure that you don't

have a falcon with more than 1mL more than the instruction file specific volume.

This way, the pipette will not end wet in the running of the protocol

6 Load script in OT-App

Now that we have made sure that the protocol is going to work we import the python script in the OT-App.



This whole step has been developed with version 6 of the OT-App

Indications may vary from version to version

6.1 Load the script

Protocols > Import > Drag the python script

The last script version can be found at <https://github.com/Biocomputation-CBGP/OT2/tree/main/ColonySelection> (name of this file is user's choice)



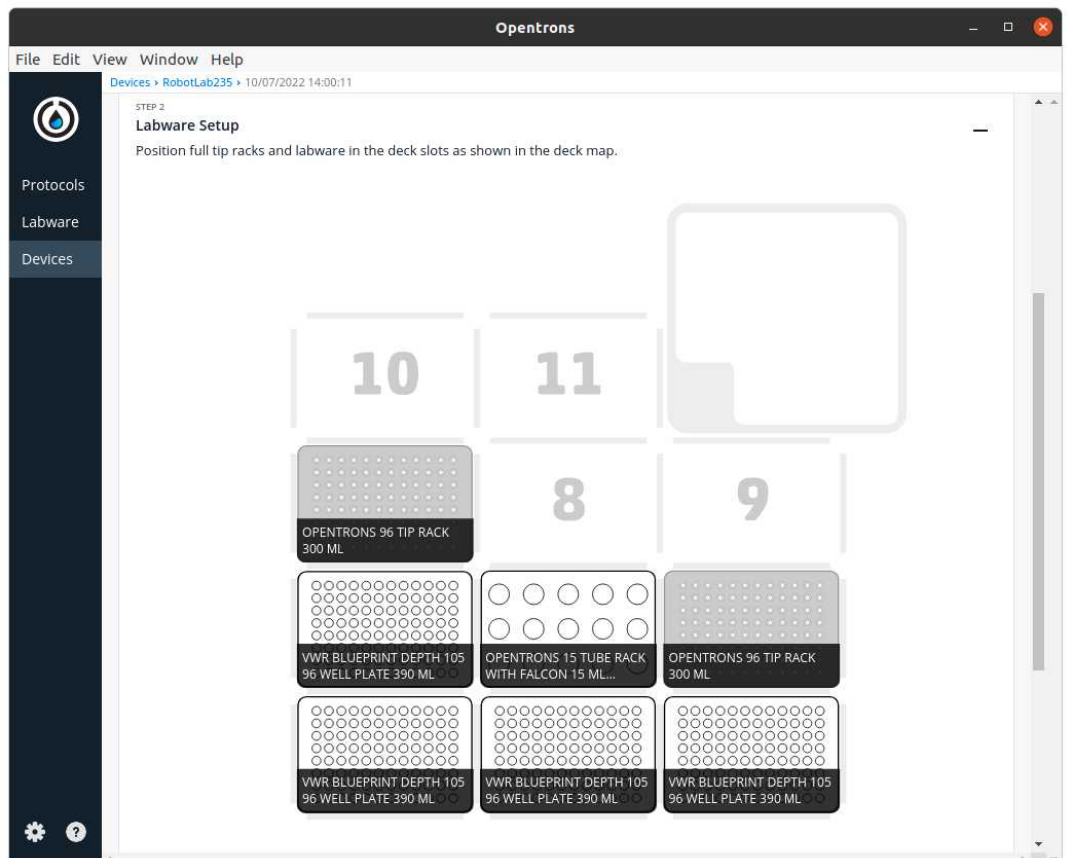
The App with version 6 analyzes your protocol before setting a robot to run, so the labware will not be shown before assigning the protocol to a specific robot.

6.2 Select Robot to Perform Script

Click in the protocol > Run Protocol > Choose the OT where the file *Variables-ColonieScreening-OT.csv* is > Proceed To Setup

After clicking in Proceed to Setup you should obtain the setup of the labware as instructed in the Deck Labware Positions section of the instructions file.

The Labware Setup tab should look similar to the following image



Example of a Labware Setup for a colonic counter selection protocol

It is recommended that you perform a labware position check.

You can do it with test plates before cleaning the surface, that way you reduce the probability of contamination (using the test plates and labware) and pipetting errors (position check).

7 Run Protocol in OT

7.1 Make sure the needed calibrations are done

7.2 Labware position check is performed (if needed)

7.3 Start Run

The procedure that the robot is going to do is mainly divided in 3 parts:

1. Select colonies that comply with the selected parameters
2. Distribute reactivities to respective plates
3. Distribute to all plates the selected culture samples
4. Generate identity maps (to be exported in following steps)



Several plates, with different reactivities but the same samples in the same order in addition to a map (csv file) that will give the position in these plates with their identifiers (location in the original source plate)



This protocol can be done only for one source plate at a time

For more plates, re-run the script. To re-run the protocol make sure that the filled template is in the OT system and [go to step #6.2](#)

After-Running

8 Retrieve labware from the OT

9 Importing maps from robot

This can be done if in Step 1 the variable Optional Map was set to True

There will be as many maps as source plates with the following structure of names:

VariableNameMap.csv

To retrieve we can [go to step #2](#) and reproduce it with transferring the files to the computer.

They will be in the directory */data/user_storage*



The maps contains the identity (position in original plate) of the samples selected in the places that they have been placed/distributed

Example

- 10 We want to select the samples that have an OD_{600nm} higher than 0.07 in the Antibiotic Transposition genome file (*ODvalues_ant_library1.csv*) and have an OD_{600nm} lower than 0.07 in the Antibiotic ampicillin plasmid file (*ODvalues_amp_library1.csv*). This corresponds to the example in the Template excel file in [go to step #1](#)

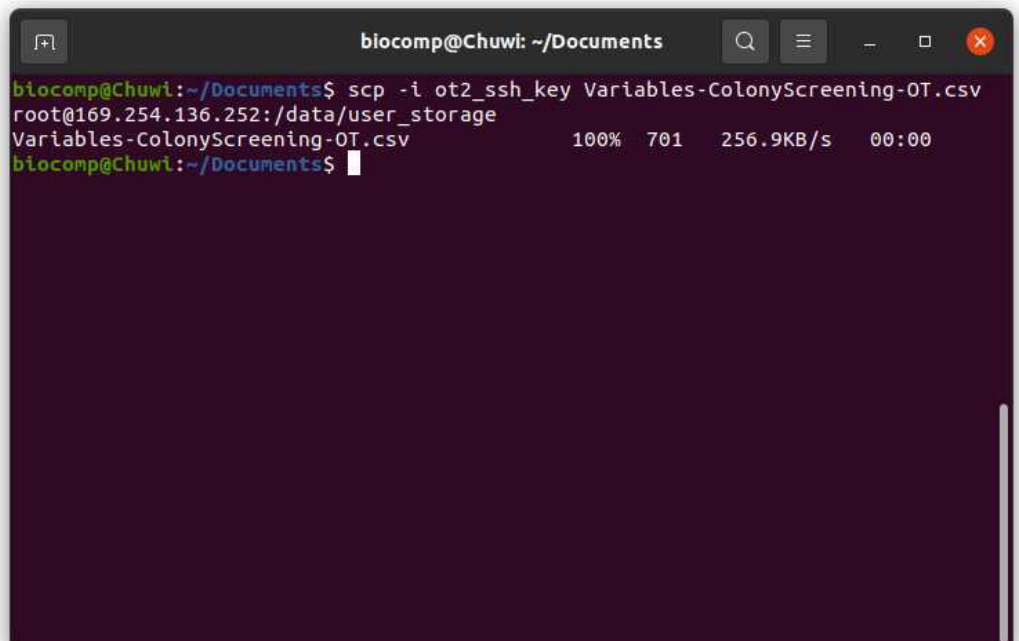
 [ODvalues_ant_library1.csv](#)

 [ODvalues_amp_library1.csv](#)

- 10.1 Excel temple filled and exported to csv with the name *Variables-ColonyScreening-OT.csv*

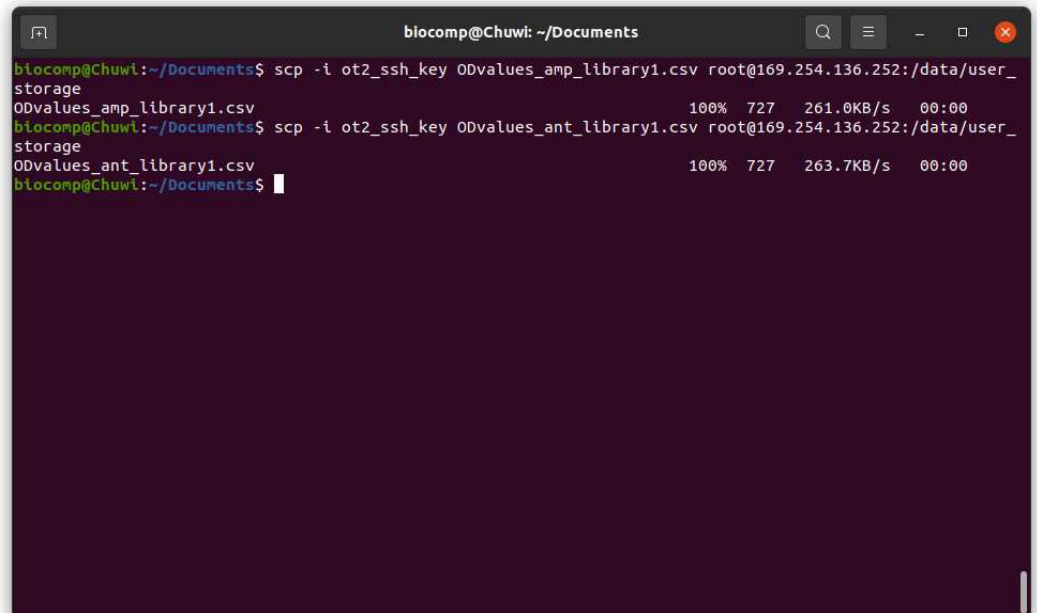
 [Variables-ColonyScreening-OT.csv](#)

- 10.2 Export the variables csv and the OD csv files to */data/user_storage*



```
biocomp@Chuwi: ~/Documents
biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$ scp -i ot2_ssh_key Variables-ColonyScreening-OT.csv
root@169.254.136.252: /data/user_storage
Variables-ColonyScreening-OT.csv          100% 701 256.9KB/s 00:00
biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$
```

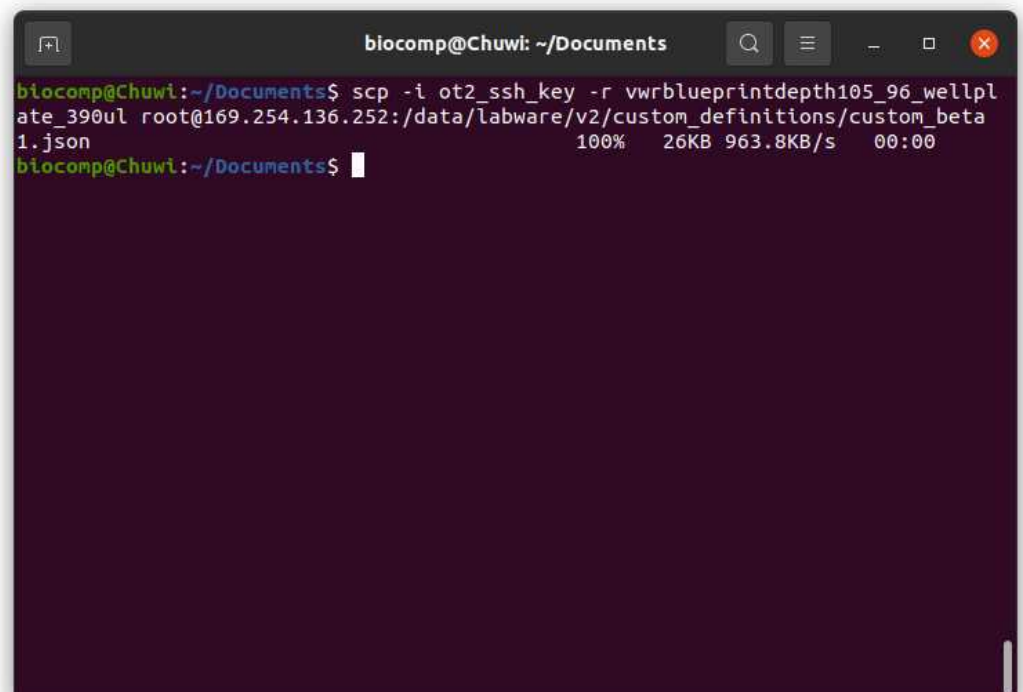
cmd window with scp commands to transfer the variables .csv from our computer to the OT



```
biocomp@Chuwi: ~/Documents
biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$ scp -i ot2_ssh_key ODvalues_amp_library1.csv root@169.254.136.252:/data/user_
storage
ODvalues_amp_library1.csv                                100% 727   261.0KB/s   00:00
biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$ scp -i ot2_ssh_key ODvalues_ant_library1.csv root@169.254.136.252:/data/user_
storage
ODvalues_ant_library1.csv                                100% 727   263.7KB/s   00:00
biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$
```

cmd window with scp commands to transfer the OD values .csv from our computer to the OT

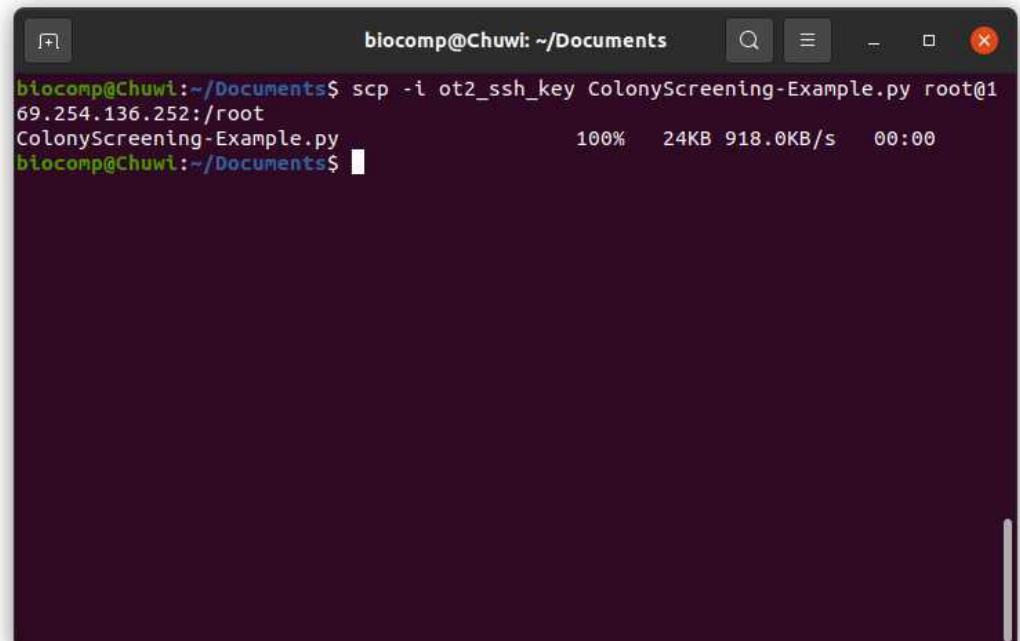
- 10.3 We have never used the labware vwrblueprintdepth105_96_wellplate_390ul, so we must pass the directory regarding this labware to the robot



```
biocomp@Chuwi: ~/Documents
biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$ scp -i ot2_ssh_key -r vwrblueprintdepth105_96_wellpl
ate_390ul root@169.254.136.252:/data/labware/v2/custom_definitions/custom_beta
1.json                                                    100% 26KB 963.8KB/s   00:00
biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$
```

cmd window with scp commands to transfer the custom labware directory from our computer to the OT

- 10.4 Pass the script that I have downloaded from <https://github.com/Biocomputation-CBGP/OT2/tree/main/ColonySelection> (I name it *ColonyScreening-Example.py*)

A terminal window titled 'biocomp@Chuwi: ~/Documents' with standard window controls. The terminal shows the execution of an scp command to transfer a file to a remote host. The command is: `biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$ scp -i ot2_ssh_key ColonyScreening-Example.py root@169.254.136.252:/root`. The output shows the file being transferred at 100% speed (24KB) in 00:00. The prompt returns to `biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$`.

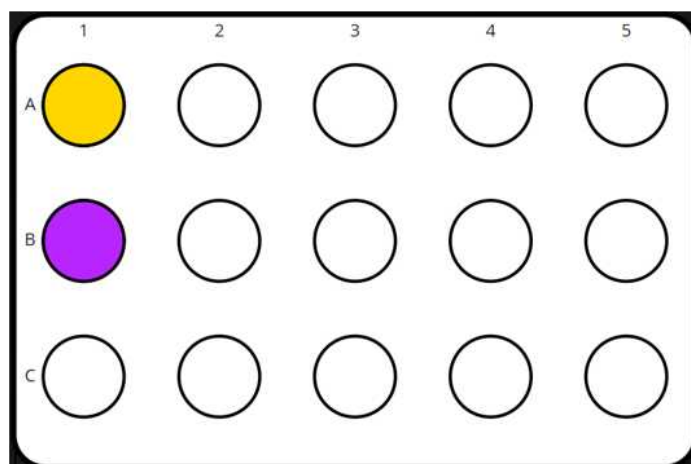
```
biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$ scp -i ot2_ssh_key ColonyScreening-Example.py root@169.254.136.252:/root
ColonyScreening-Example.py                                100%  24KB 918.0KB/s   00:00
biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$
```

cmd window with scp commands to transfer the python script from our computer to the OT

- 10.5 Connect to OT computer, simulate, exit OT system, store the output in *instructions_example_coloniescreening.txt* and importing it to the computer

WATER			^
Well	μL		
B1	7000 μL	x	

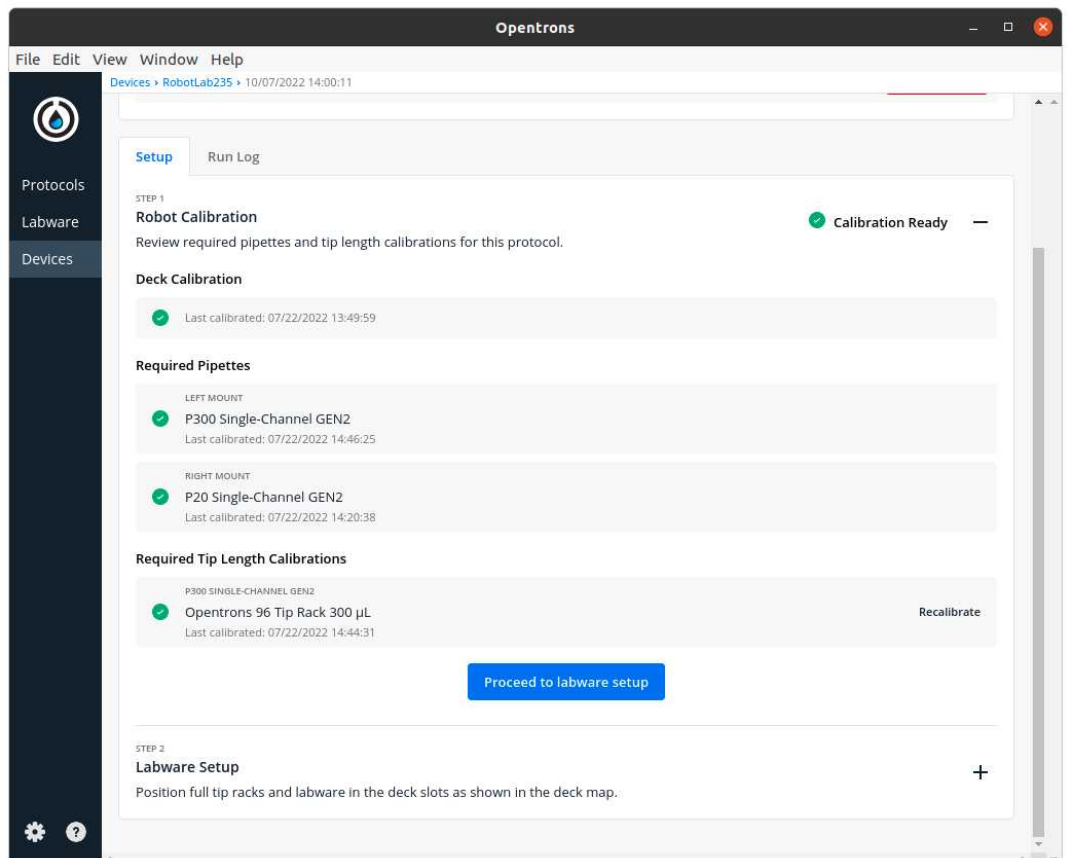
GLYCEROL			^
Well	μL		
A1	4800 μL	x	



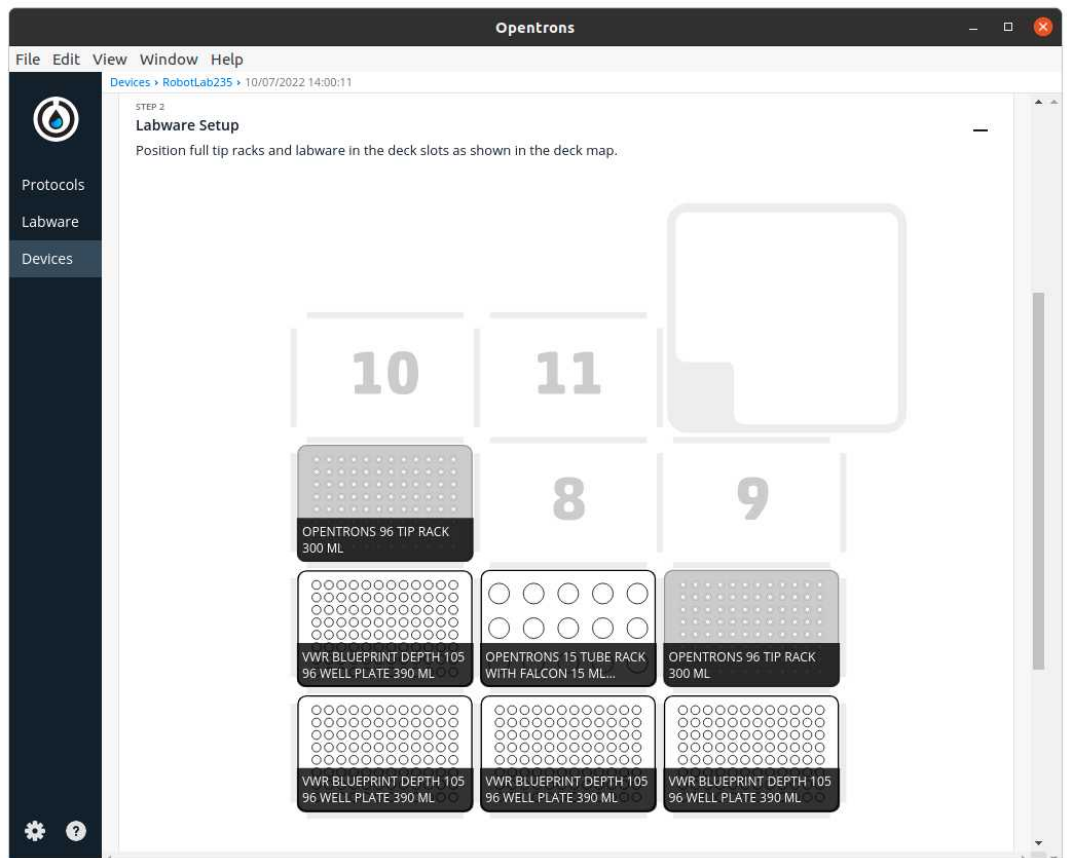
ColdBlock with reactives (positions and volumes)

- 10.7 Load to OT-App the ***ColonyScreening-Example.py*** > **Run** > **Select robot** in which we are going to run the protocol

The window and tabs of the OT-App should look like the following pictures



Calibration Tab OT with Example1 variables



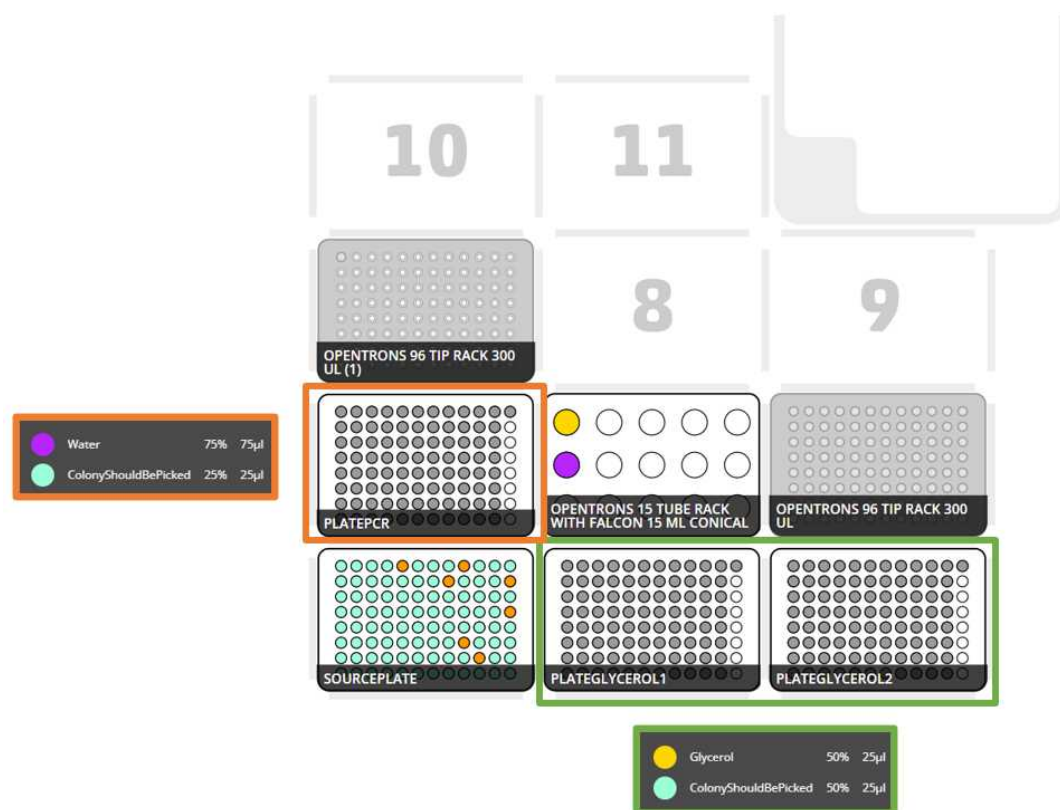
Labware Setup Tab OT with Example1 variables

10.8 Turn HEPA module on and wipe OT with 70% ethanol

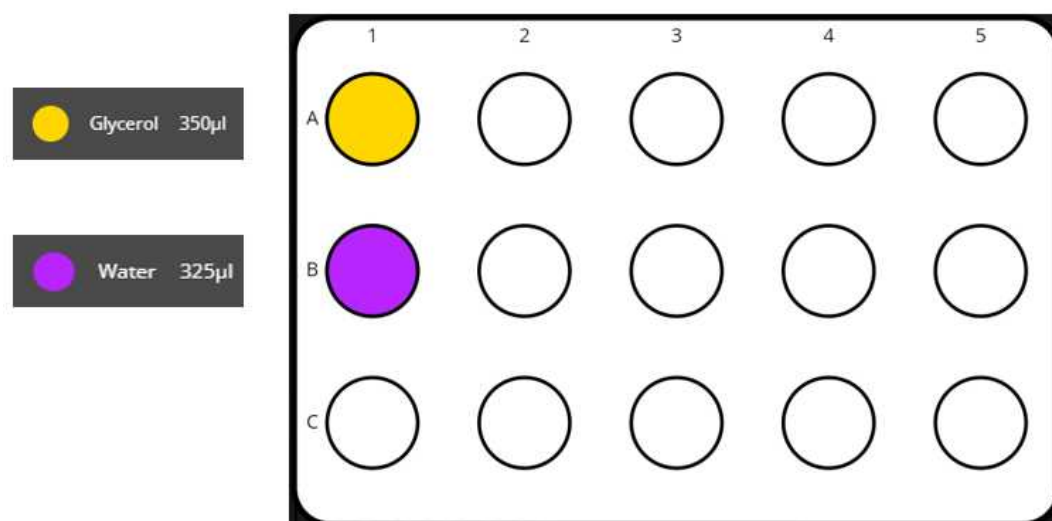
10.9 Load protocol labware as instructed in Step 10.6

10.10 Run protocol

The final results should look like the following pictures



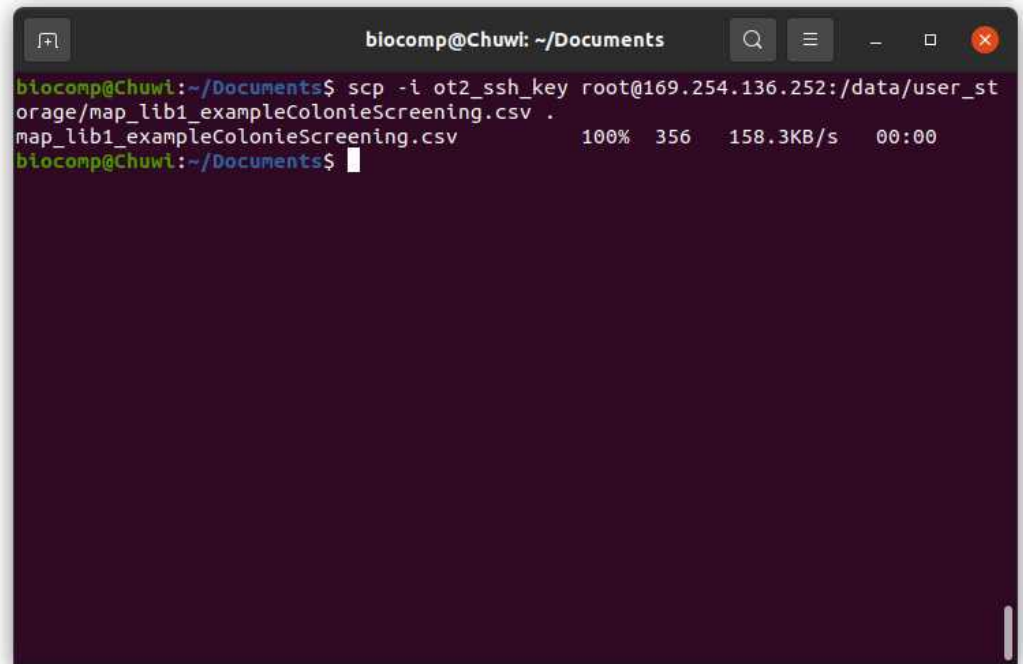
Final labware and final plates (PCRs plates) compositions



Falcon tube rack reactives and their respective volumes at the end of the running

10.11 Retrieve labwares from the OT

- 10.12 Retrieve the final map (in this case will be called *map_lib1_exampleColonieScreening.csv*) of the IDs of the samples that fulfilled the requisites



```
biocomp@Chuwi: ~/Documents
biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$ scp -i ot2_ssh_key root@169.254.136.252:/data/user_storage/map_lib1_exampleColonieScreening.csv .
map_lib1_exampleColonieScreening.csv 100% 356 158.3KB/s 00:00
biocomp@Chuwi:~/Documents$
```

cmd windows with the transfer of the samples map from the OT to our computer

 **map_lib1_exampleColonieScreening.csv**