





# Total RNA and DNA in Microalgae V.6

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Nov 29, 2021 protocol

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Here we describe a protocol for extracting and quantifying bulk RNA and DNA from microalgae, which is adapted from Berdalet E. et al. (2005).

RNA and DNA are extracted from microalgae samples and then quantified by fluorochrome SYBR Green II.

Berdalet E, Roldán C, Olivar MP, Lysnes K. Quantifying RNA and DNA in planktonic organisms with SYBR Green II and nucleases. Part A. Optimisation of the assay. Scientia Marina.

https://doi.org/10.3989/scimar.2005.69n11

Berdalet E, Roldán C, Olivar MP. Quantifying RNA and DNA in planktonic organisms with SYBR Green II and nucleases. Part B. Quantification in natural samples. Scientia Marina. https://doi.org/10.3989/scimar.2005.69n117

Yingyu Hu, Zoe V Finkel 2021. Total RNA and DNA in Microalgae. **protocols.io** https://protocols.io/view/total-rna-and-dna-in-microalgae-b2e8qbhw Yingyu Hu

RNA, DNA, SYBR Green II, DNase, RNase, microalgae, fluorescence

\_\_\_\_\_ protocol,

Nov 29, 2021

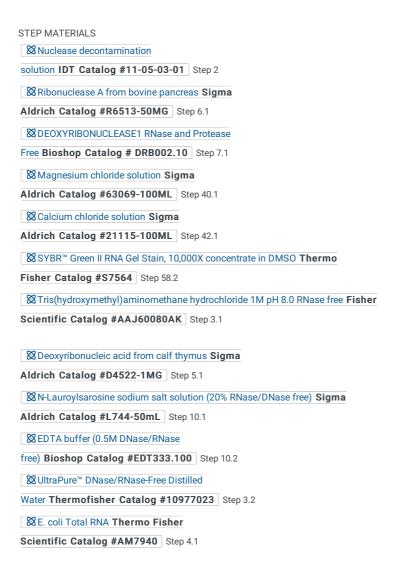
Nov 29, 2021

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The optimized linear range in this assay for DNA is  $0\sim100$  ng/mL and RNA is  $0\sim300$  ng/mL in the microplate, respectively. Samples are diluted to 1/40 in the assay, therefore, maximum DNA and RNA required in the assay is around 4 ug and 12 ug per sample. Assuming total DNA and RNA is 1% and 5.7% of total biomass at replete condition, carbon per sample required in this assay is about 80 ug.

Microalgae samples are collected on polycarbonate filter and kept frozen under -80 °C.



# Day 1: Freeze-dry samples

- 1 Freeze dry samples and blank filters. Freeze at 8-80 °C until processed.
  - 1. Freeze-drying should be as short as possible to reduce sample degradation.
  - 2. The exact duration of freeze-drying depends on size of filter, quantity of sample and the size of container.

FreeZone® 2.5 L Benchtop Freeze Dryers
Labconco® 700202000



## Day 1: Prepare primary solutions

2 Turn on UV light in biosafety cabinet for © 00:15:00 and clean working surface with decontamination solution.

⊗ Nuclease decontamination

solution IDT Catalog #11-05-03-01

- 3 Prepare Tris buffer [M]5 mM pH8.0
  - 3.1 Pour [M] 1 M p+8.0 Tris into an RNase free 15 mL Falcon tube

⊠Tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane hydrochloride 1M pH 8.0 RNase free Fisher

Scientific Catalog #AAJ60080AK

Falcon® Centrifuge Tubes Polypropylene, Sterile, 15 mL Corning® 352096

3.2 Directly add  $\blacksquare$ 2.5 mL [M]1 M pH8.0 Tris into 500 mL RNase free water in its original package.

**⊠**UltraPure<sup>™</sup> DNase/RNase-Free Distilled

Water Thermofisher Catalog #10977023

BT Barrier Pipet Tips Pre-Sterile

Neptune® BT1250, BT100, BT10

- 4 RNA primary standard solution ([M]200 ug/ml)
  - 4.1 In the original package, the E. Coli Total RNA is of 1 mg/mL, in which total RNA is 200 ug.

**⊠**E. coli Total RNA **Thermo Fisher** 

Scientific Catalog #AM7940

https://assets.thermofisher.com/TFS-Assets/LSG/manuals/sp\_7940.pdf

4.2 Uncap the original package of E. Coli Total RNA and directly add  $\blacksquare 800~\mu L$  Tris buffer (IMJ5 mM, pF8.0).

Cap the package and vortex for a thorough mix.

4.3 Aliquot 30 uL by stepper with sterile tip to 600 uL RNase free microtubes. Keep frozen at 8-80 °C.

Finnpipette Stepper Pipette
Thermo Scientific™ 4540000

Finntip stepper pipette tips 500 ul (sterile)

Thermo Scientific™ Scientific 9404173

Microcentrifuge Tubes 1.7 mL/0.6 mL Axygen Scientific MCT-175-C/MCT-060-L-C

- 5 DNA primary standard solution (≈ [M]500 ug/ml)
  - 5.1 Uncap the original package of Deoxyribonucleic acid from calf thymus and add 2 mL Tris buffer (M)5 mM , PH8.0).

⊠ Deoxyribonucleic acid from calf thymus Sigma

Aldrich Catalog #D4522-1MG

https://www.sigmaaldrich.com/content/dam/sigmaaldrich/docs/Sigma/Product\_Information\_Sheet/d4522pis.pdf

- 5.2 Cap the package. Do not vortex or sonicate.
- 5.3 Keep the solution at & 0 °C  $\sim \& 4$  °C overnight to completely solubilize the DNA. Gentle reversion is recommended.
- 5.4 Aliquot 10 uL by stepper with sterile tip to 600 uL RNase free microtubes. Keep frozen at 8-80 °C.

Finntip stepper pipette tips

500 ul (sterile)

Thermo Scientific™

Scientific 9404173

5.5 Dilute 5 ul primary DNA standard solution with 95 ul Tris buffer ([M]5 mM , pF8.0) in a microtube (600 ul).

Measure DNA concentration by using  $\mu drop$  plate (sample volume: 4 ul)

Use Tris buffer ([M]5 mM, p+8.0) as blank.

µDrop™ Plates

Thermo Scientific N12391

Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate

Reader

Thermo Fisher VL0L00D0

The dilution is to avoid saturated observation at 260 nm.

5.6 DNA concentration ( $\mu$ g/ml) = ( $Abs_{260}$ - $Abs_{260}$  (blank))x 50  $\mu$ g/ml x (10mm/0.5 mm) X DF Where, DF=20.

If the measured DNA concentration is not close to [M]500 ug/ml, check reverse pipetting technique.

- 6 RNase primary stock solution ([M]10 mg/ml)
  - 6.1 Uncap the original package of Ribonuclease A from bovin pancreas and add ☐5 mL Tris buffer ( [M]5 mM , [p+8.0]).

Cap the package and vortex for a thorough mix.

Aldrich Catalog #R6513-50MG

6.2 Aliquot 30 uL by stepper with sterile tip to 600 uL RNase free microtubes. Keep frozen at  $\, 8\,$  -20 °C .

Finntip stepper pipette tips

500 ul (sterile)

Thermo Scientific™

Scientific 9404173

Finntip™ Stepper Pipette Tips

500 ul (Sterile)

Thermo Scientific 21-377-149

- 7 DNase primary stock solution ([M]5 mg/ml = 10,000 U/mL)
  - 7.1 Uncap the original package of Deoxyribonuclease1 and add 11 mL Tris buffer (1M15 mM , pH8.0)

Cap the package and vortex for a thorough mix.

**⊠DEOXYRIBONUCLEASE1** RNase and Protease

Free Bioshop Catalog # DRB002.10

7.2 Aliquot 100 uL by stepper with sterile tip to 600 uL RNase free microtubes. Keep frozen at  $\, 8\,$  -20  $^{\circ}$ C

Finntip stepper pipette tips

1250 ul (sterile)

Thermo Scientific™

Scientific 9404183

# Day 2: Exact RNA and DNA

- 8 Turn on UV light in biosafety cabinet for © 00:15:00 and clean working surface with decontamination solution.
- 9 Prepare falcon tubes and tube rack in biosafety cabinet

Α	В
Volume of tube (mL)	Contents
	in the
	tube
5	0.5 M
	EDTA
5	20%
	sarcosine
15	5 mM Tris
15	1% STEB

Falcon® Centrifuge Tubes Polypropylene, Sterile, 15 mL Corning® 352096

Falcon® Centrifuge Tubes Polypropylene, Sterile, 50 mL Corning® 352070

10 Prepare STEB ([M]1 %)

Use the following formula to determine the total volume of 1% STEB required:  $(\# \text{ samples} + \# \text{ blank filters}) \times (500 \text{ ul}) + (500 \text{ ul}) = \text{total volume of } 1\% \text{ STEB required}$ 

- 10.1 Pour sarcosine ([M]20 % ) into an RNase free 5 mL falcon tube.

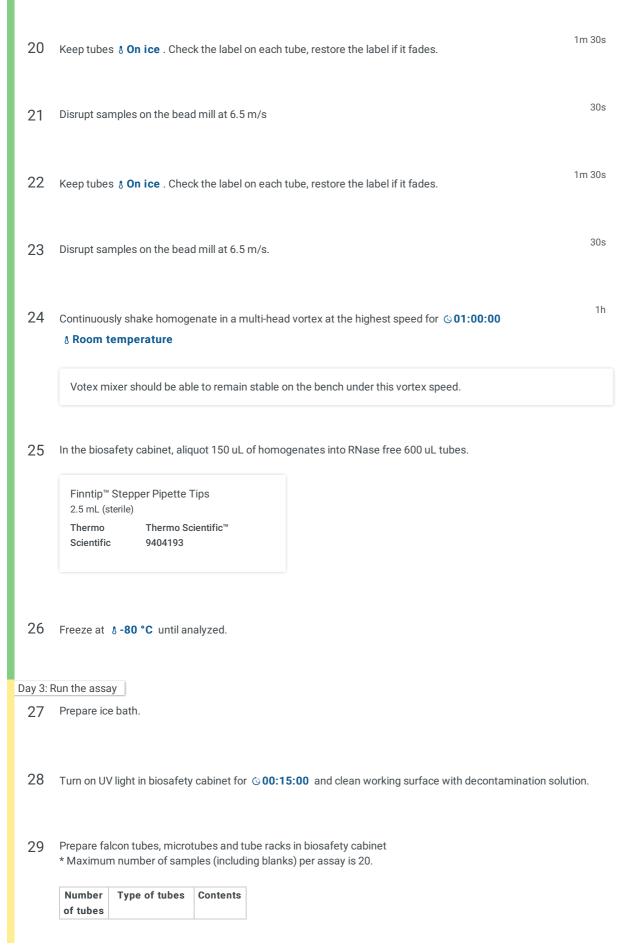
  SN-Lauroylsarosine sodium salt solution (20% RNase/DNase free) Sigma

  Aldrich Catalog #L744-50mL
- 10.2 Pour EDTA (  $\[M]$  0.5 M ) into an RNase free 5 mL falcon tube.  $\[M]$  8 EDTA buffer (0.5M DNase/RNase

free) Bioshop Catalog #EDT333.100

- 10.3 Pour Tris buffer ([M]5 mM , [p+8.0]) into an RNase free 15 mL falcon tube.
- 10.4 Mix  $\square 500 \, \mu L$  sarcosine ([M]20 % ),  $\square 10 \, \mu L$  EDTA ([M]0.5 M ) and  $\square 9 \, mL + \square 490 \, \mu L$  Tris buffer ([M]5 mM , [P+8.0]) to obtain STEB ([M]1 % ).
- 11 Prepare ice bath

Remove freeze-dried samples from -80°C freezer and place them § On ice. Add \$\sum 500 \mu L\$ Tris buffer ([M]5 mM , |p+8.0|) and \$\sum 500 \mu L\$ STEB ([M]1 % ) to the bead tube. Place tubes § On ice. LYSING TUBES MATRIX D 2 mL/15 mL MP BIOMEDICALS 116913500/116933050 Rinse forceps by [M]70 % volume ethanol and air dry. Filter forceps blunt end, stainless steel XX6200006P Millipore Transfer sample/blank filter into the bead tube by using clean forceps. 15 20s 16 Vortex immediately then put back § On ice. **VWR ANALOG VORTEX MIXER** VWR 10153-838 With tube insert 30s Disrupt samples on the bead mill at 6.5 m/s. 17 Fastprep-24 5G™ Sample Preparation Instrument MP Biomedicals 116005500 1m 30s Keep tubes & On ice. Check the label on each tube, restore the label if it fades. 30s Disrupt samples on the bead mill at 6.5 m/s.



6	5 mL falcon tubes	1 M MgCl2, 1 M CaCl2, Working solution A (WS-A), Working solution B (WS-B), Working solution C (WS-C), Sybr Green II working solution (SG-II WS)
2	15 mL falcon tubes	5 mM Tris buffer, 0.05% STEB
3	600 uL RNase free tubes	RNase working solution, 900 mM MgCl2, 900 mM CaCl2
2	1.7 mL RNase free tubes	Secondary RNA standard solution, Secondary DNA standard solution
33	1.7 mL RNase free tubes	RNA standard solutions for RNA standard curves, DNA standard soutions for DNA standard curves
N= total number of samples and blanks	1.7 mL RNase free tubes	Samples and blanks
3XN	1.7 mL RNase free tubes	Diluted samples and blanks

5	Microtube racks	Tubes of
		600 uL
		and 1.7
		mL
1	Tube racks	Falcon
		tubes

Screw-Cap Centrifuge Tube

5 mL

VWR 10002-738

30 Organize and label the tubes as shown below

#### Set 1:

In microtube rack, label 1.7 mL tubes for samples and blanks to be further diluted.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2447	Blank

### Set 2:

In microtube rack, label 1.7 mL tubes for RNA (marked in pink) and DNA (marked in blue) standard solutions to be used as standard curves.

Tubes A is for standard solutions treated with working solution A (WS-A)

Tubes B is for standard solutions treated with working solution B (WS-B)

Tubes C is for standard solutions treated with working solution C (WS-C)

Tubes A	R1A	R2A	R3A	R4A	R5A	R6A	D1A	D2A	D3A	D4A	D5A
Tubes B	R1B	R2B	R3B	R4B	R5B	R6B	D1B	D2B	D3B	D4B	D5B
Tubes C	R1C	R2C	R3C	R4C	R5C	R6C	D1C	D2C	D3C	D4C	D5C

### Set 3:

In microtube rack, label 1.7 mL tubes for diluted samples and blanks.

Tubes A is for diluted samples and blanks treated with working solution A (WS-A)

Tubes B is for diluted samples and blanks treated with working solution B (WS-B)

Tubes C is for diluted samples and blanks treated with working solution C (WS-C)

Tubes A	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A	 BlankA
Tubes B	1B	2B	3B	4B	5B	6B	7B	8B	9B	 BlankB
Tubes C	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	 BlankC

31 Label tubes for reagents as following.

Follow the sheet, add Tris buffer ([M]5 mM , pH8.0 ) to the reagent tubes:

Reagent	5 mM Tris (uL)
0.05% STEB	9X1000+500
RNase	190
900 mM MgCl <sub>2</sub>	20
900 mM CaCl <sub>2</sub>	20
WS-A	2X1000+820
WS-B	2X1000+820
WS-C	2X1000+940
RNA	990+495
DNA	998

- 32 Add  $\Box 900 \, \mu L$  Tris buffer ([M]5 mM , p+8.0) to each tube in Set 1
- Follow the sheet, add Tris buffer ([M]5 mM , pF8.0) to each tube in Set 2. The unit of volume is uL.

Tubes A	650	640	625	600	550	500	640	630	610	580	550
Tubes B	650	640	625	600	550	500	640	630	610	580	550
Tubes C	600	590	575	550	500	450	590	580	560	530	500

Follow the sheet, add Tris buffer ([M]5 mM , pF8.0) to each tube in Set 3. The unit of volume is uL.

Tubes A	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	 650
Tubes B	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	650	 650
Tubes C	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	 600

35 Prepare STEB ([M]0.05 %)

Add  $\blacksquare 500~\mu L$  STEB ([M]1 % ) to 0.05% STEB tube, and vortex.

- 36 Add  $250 \, \mu L$  STEB ([M]0.05 %) to each tube in Set 2.
- Place RNase and DNase primary stock solutions, RNA and DNA primary standard solutions and samples 8 On ice.
- 38 Turn on refrigerated centrifuge and set the temperature to  $\, 8\,4\,^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

CENTRIFUGE 5430 R
Eppendorf MP2231000510

Turn on shaker/incubator and set temperature to § 37 °C.

SHAKING INCUBATOR
71L
Corning® LSE™ 6753

- 40 Prepare [M]900 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>
  - 40.1 Pour M1 M MgCl<sub>2</sub> solution into 5 mL RNase free Falcon tube

    Magnesium chloride solution Sigma

    Aldrich Catalog #63069-100ML
  - 40.2 Transfer **180 μL** [M] **M** MgCl<sub>2</sub> solution into 900 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> tube
- 41 Add **G0 μL** [M]**900 mM** MgCl<sub>2</sub> to WS-A and WS-B
- 42 Prepare [M]900 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>

  - 42.2 Transfer **180 μL** [M] M CaCl<sub>2</sub> solution into 900 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> tube
- 43 Add **□60 μL** [M]**900 mM** CaCl<sub>2</sub> to WS-A and WS-B
- 44 Prepare RNase working solution [M10.5 mg/ml]

  Add □10 μL RNase primary stock solution ([M110 mg/ml]) to RNase tube
- 45 Add  $\bigcirc$  60  $\mu$ L [M]0.5 mg/ml RNase to WS-B and WS-C. Keep WS-B and WS-C & On ice .
- 46 Add  $\blacksquare$ 60  $\mu$ L DNase primary stock solution ( [M]5 mg/ml ) to WS-A. Keep WS-A  $\,$ 8 On ice .

47 Centrifuge extracted samples **10000** x g, 4°C, 00:04:00

48 Prepare RNA secondary standard solution [M]2 ug/ml

Add  $\blacksquare 15 \, \mu L$  RNA primary standard solution to RNA standard tube and vortex.

Keep & On ice .

49 Prepare DNA secondary standard solution [M]1 ug/ml

Add 22 µL DNA primary standard solution to DNA standard tube and vortex.

Keep & On ice.

- 50 Load **50** μL WS-A to Tubes A in **Set 2** and **Set 3**.
- 51 Load **3.** Load **4.** WS-A to Tubes C in **Set 2** and **Set 3**.
- 52 Load **3.** Load **50** μL WS-B to Tubes B in **Set 2** and **Set 3**.
- 53 Load **50 μL** WS-C to Tubes C in **Set 2** and **Set 3**.
- 54 Add  $\Box 100~\mu L$  centrifuged samples to its corresponding tubes in Set 1. Vortex each tube.
- From Set 1, transfer  $\blacksquare 250 \, \mu L$  of diluted samples to each corresponding tubes in Set 3.
- 56 Follow the sheet:

 ${\it Add RNA secondary standard to tubes (marked in pink) in Set \ 2.} \\ {\it Add DNA secondary standard to tubes (marked in blue) in Set \ 2.} \\$ 

The unit of volume is uL.

Tubes A	0	10	25	50	100	150	10	20	40	70	100
Tubes B	0	10	25	50	100	150	10	20	40	70	100
Tubes C	0	10	25	50	100	150	10	20	40	70	100

Vortex each tube for © 00:00:02 and place all tubes into the shaker/incubator at § 37 °C, continuously shaking at 200 RPM for © 00:20:00.

Read fluorescence

58 Prepare SYBR Green II working solution (SG-II WS)

- 58.1 Each 96-well microplate requires 1 mL of SG-II WS.
- 58.2 Wrap 5 mL tube with foil, add  $\blacksquare$ 7  $\mu$ L SYBR Green II 10,000X concentrate to each one mL Tris buffer ([M]5 mM , pF8.0]) in biosafety cabinet.

SYBR™ Green II RNA Gel Stain, 10,000X concentrate in DMSO **Thermo** 

Fisher Catalog #S7564

58.3 Load  $\blacksquare$ 10  $\mu$ L SG-II WS to each well in the microplate with 0.5 mL tip of stepper.

Finntip™ Stepper Pipette Tips 500 uL

Thermo Scientific™ 9404170

96-Well Black Microplates

Polystyrene

Greiner Bio-One 655076

Wipe or dab the liquid drop on the outside of the tip, avoid wiping the tip open before dispensing the liquid.

58.4 Adhere black film on the top of a microplate lid and cover the plate with this lid.

Black Vinyl Films for Fluorescence and Photoprotection

VWR 89087-692

Microplate Lids Polystyrene

Greiner Bio-One 07000288

After incubation, vortex each tube for **©00:00:02** and then place into the fridge to stop the reaction.

Allow samples to reach & Room temperature for © 00:02:00 before loading the microplate.

61 Load  $\blacksquare 190 \, \mu L$  working sample to the microplate.

Standards must be included in each microplate.

Pink area: RNA standard solutions for RNA standard curves

Blue area: DNA standard solutions for DNA standard curves

Yellow area: Samples and blanks

	_ 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Α	R1A	R2A	R3A	R4A	R5A	R6A	1A	1A	1B	1B	1C	1C
В	R1B	R2B	R3B	R4B	R5B	R6B	2A	2A	2B	2B	2C	2C
С	R1C	R2C	R3C	R4C	R5C	R6C	3A	3A	3B	3B	3C	3C
D	D1A	D2A	D3A	D4A	D5A	8	4A	4A	4B	4B	4C	4C
Ε	D1B	D2B	D3B	D4B	D5B		5A	5A	5B	5B	5C	5C
E	D1C	D2C	D3C	D4C	D5C		6A	6A	6B	6B	6C	6C
G	9A	9A	9B	9B	9C	9C	7A	7A	7B	7B	7C	7C
н	Blank A	Blank A	Blank B	Blank B	Blank C	Blank C	8A	8A	8B	8B	8C	8C

Wipe or dab the liquid drop on the outside of the tip, avoid wiping the tip open before dispensing the liquid.

62 Shake black film covered microplate at 8 Room temperature for © 00:10:00

10m

45m

63 Setup microplate reader:

Plate: Greiner F bottom chimney well PP 96 well;

Shake: Continuous 5s at 600 rpm

Endpoint reading: Ex 490 nm/Em 520 nm;

Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate

Reader

Thermo Fisher VL0L00D0

Read fluorescence and export data to excel sheet.

Calculate

65 RNA standard curve

65.1 Concentrations of RNA standards in the microplate

Standard	2 ug/mL (uL)	Tris+WS (uL)	0.05% STEB (uL)	SG II WS (uL)	Final (ng/mL)
R1	0	700	250	50	0
R2	10	690	250	50	20
R3	25	675	250	50	50
R4	50	650	250	50	100
R5	100	600	250	50	200
R6	150	550	250	50	300

- 65.2 Slope of fluorescence in Tube A vs concentration of RNA standard gives  $m_{\text{RNA+DNase}}$ Slope of fluorescence in Tube B vs concentration of RNA standard gives  $m_{\text{RNA+RNase}}$
- 65.3 Calculate ρ

$$\rho = \frac{m_{RNA+RNase}}{m_{RNA+DNase}}$$

66 Total RNA of the samples

ug Total RNA (ml assay)-1

$$=0.001\times\frac{\left(RFU_A-RFU_{A_{Blank}}\right)-\left(RFU_C-RFU_{C_{Blank}}\right)}{(1-\rho)}/m_{RNA+DNase}$$

Where

 $\mathsf{RFU}_\mathsf{A}$  and  $\mathsf{RFU}_\mathsf{C}$  are the fluorescence in Tube A and Tube C of the same sample.

 ${\sf RFU}_{\sf ABlank}$  and  ${\sf RFU}_{\sf CBlank}$  are the fluorescence in Tube A and Tube  $_{\sf C}$  of the blank.

- 67 DNA standard curve
  - 67.1 Concentrations of DNA standards in the microplate

Standard	1 ug/mL (uL)	Tris+WS (uL)	0.05% STEB (uL)	SG II WS (uL)	Final (ng/mL)
D1	10	690	250	50	10
D2	20	680	250	50	20
D3	40	660	250	50	40
D4	70	630	250	50	70
D5	100	580	250	50	100

- 67.2 Slope of fluorescence in Tube A vs concentration of DNA standard gives  $m_{\text{DNA+DNase}}$ Slope of fluorescence in Tube B vs concentration of DNA standard gives  $m_{\text{DNA+RNase}}$
- 67.3 Calculate δ

$$\delta = \frac{m_{DNA+DNase}}{m_{DNA+RNase}}$$

Total DNA of the samples

68 ug Total DNA (ml assay)<sup>-1</sup>

$$=0.001\times\frac{\left(RFU_B-RFU_{B_{Blank}}\right)-\left(RFU_C-RFU_{C_{Blank}}\right)}{(1-\delta)}/m_{DNA+RNase}$$

Where,

 $\mathsf{RFU}_\mathsf{B}$  and  $\mathsf{RFU}_\mathsf{C}$  are the fluorescence in Tube B and Tube C of the same sample

 $\mathsf{RFU}_\mathsf{BBlank}$  and  $\mathsf{RFU}_\mathsf{CBlank}$  are the fluorescence in Tube B and Tube  $_\mathsf{C}$  of the blank.

69 Dilution factor=40

If.

- Sample is extracted by 1 mL extraction reagent
- In Set 1, sample is diluted to 1/10
- In Set 3, diluted by Tris and all working solutions to 250/950
- In microplate, diluted by SG-II WS to 190/200