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# 🌐 Filter-paper based PURExpress detection of ZikV and CoV2 RNA by enhancer toehold (TacToe) sensors

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Chaitanya Anil Athale: Supervisor, Conceptualization, Funds acquisition.

CFE-calibration



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**Protocol status:** Working

**We use this protocol and it's working**

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**Keywords:** toehold, sensor, point of care, covid, zika, RNA, diagnostics, point-of-care, filter-paper, lacZ

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## Disclaimer

This method is a scientific protocol that has not been validated on clinical samples so far.

## Abstract

This method details the approach to using in vitro transcription-translation (TxTr) systems based on PURExpress adsorbed on a paper disc. These to run a toehold detection reaction for COVID RNA. The work is related to a manuscript titled "Translational Enhancer Based Amplification of Toehold Sensors (TacToe) for Improved Sensitivity and Speed of Viral RNA Detection" to appear in ACS Synthetic Biology.

## Attachments



[dnaSequences-](#)

[Toehold...](#)

234KB

## Materials

Whatman Filter Paper discs

Biopsy Punch (3 mm) with metal caps

PureXpress CFE

Toehold plasmid DNA

384 well plate (Corning Costar)

## Before start

Before you start you need the DNA sequences that are provided in the attached files.

## Reaction Kinetics using PURExpress

40m

### 1 BSA treated paper disk preparation:

- 1) Make 5% BSA solution in ultrapure water
- 2) Soak filter paper disc (Whatmann filter paper 42, ashless, dm 42.5) in BSA solution, keep it at room temperature for overnight in a beaker
- 3) Rinse the filter paper using ultrapure water (repeat the process for 5 times)
- 4) Let filter paper dry at room temperature (overnight) or at 65 °C in hybridizer (~1-1.5h)
- 5) Use sterile 2mm/3mm biopsy punch to create small paper discs
- 6) Store the discs in sterile petri plate

### 2 PCR amplification of the sensor and the trigger from purified plasmids

The Sensors and triggers are amplified using the following primers:

A	B	C	D	E
Primer	Sequence	Length (bp)	Tm (°C)	Description
27B_LacZ_F	AACGCTGCTCT GGGCTAAC	19	64.4	Forward Primers for sensor amplification
27B_LacZ_R	CGTGTGCTTCT CAAATGCC	19	64.5	Reverse Primers for sensor amplification
trig_F	TTTAGAGGCC CAAGG	16	58.7	Forward primer for trigger amplification
trig_R	GTTGCGCTAAT ACGACTCACTA	22	60.9	Reverse primer for trigger amplification

Following are the lengths of the amplicons (linearised sensor/trigger):

A	B	C
Amplicon	Amplicon length (bp)	Primers used to amplify
ZIKV 27B	3305	27B_LacZ_F and 27B_LacZ_R
ZIKV TacToe	3326	
COV TacToe	3327	
ZIKV Trigger	400	trig_F and trig_R
COV Trigger	233	

### 3 Prepare the following reaction mix (Master-mix):

30m

**DNA working concentration:**

**ZIKV:**



Toehold: 24nM

Trigger: 54nM

**COV:**

Toehold: 0.3nM

Trigger: 8nM

Components	Working Conc.	Blank(μl)	Test(μl)
Buffer A*		2.01	2.01
Buffer B*		1.5	1.5
CPRG (20mg/ml)	0.6ug/ml	0.21	0.21
Rnase inhibitor		0.5	0.5
Toehold DNA	(Adjust depending on the yield and the reaction requirements)		
Trigger DNA	(Adjust depending on the yield and the reaction requirements)		
Water		2.78	-
<b>Total Volume</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

\*Buffer A and B are the two mixes from NEB's PURExpress

Buffer B	1.5	1.5 on ice while preparing the master-mix
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- 4 From the 7 μl master-mix, pipette out 2μl on each paper-disk placed in a 384 well plate to get triplicates of each reaction (2μl x 3).

10m

- 5 Measure absorbance at 570nm over 100 minutes at a 1 minute interval in a plate reader incubated at 37°C

1h 40m

6 **Freeze drying disks with CFE (Home-made or PURExpress)+ CPRG**

1. Cell free reaction (Mastermix + CFE) applied on paper discs (3mm)(Mastermix 1.02ul +CFE 0.44ul)
2. Air dry
3. Flash freeze in liquid Nitrogen
4. Put the disc in PCR tubes (1disc/tube). Make 4 small holes on capusing sterile syringe.
5. Put the tubes in lyophilizer @-75 °C, 4 hour , 0.04 mbar pressure
6. Samples store @Room Temperature in sterile falcon with silica inside
7. Rehydration: Plasmid (~24nM) + water (0.54ul)



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