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🌐 Total High Molecular Weight DNA Extraction from plant tissues for Long Read Sequencing

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This protocol is a combination of two published protocols ([10.1186/1746-4811-8-26](https://doi.org/10.1186/1746-4811-8-26) and [10.2144/000114460](https://doi.org/10.2144/000114460)) with modifications and was developed as a research within [GIH collaborative projects](#). Using this protocol, high quality High Molecular Weight (HMW) DNA (50kb – 300kb) was obtained from a wide range of plants tissues – Neptunia (leaves & roots), Senecio (leaves) and Mangoes (Kensington pride, Alphonso, and Tommy Atkins leaves). The DNA quality was assessed in Qubit, NanoDrop, TapeStation, PFGE and Oxford Nanopore Technologies. The yielded HMW DNA is suitable for long read sequencing technologies (ONT and PacBio) or similar experiments.

[372-826.pdf](#)

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<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b5qyq5xw>



High Molecular Weight DNA, Total HMW DNA, Plant HMW DNA extraction, Mango HMW DNA, Neptunia HMW DNA, Senecio HMW DNA, long read sequencing

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Starting materials:

- Young and healthy tissues are ideal samples for HMW DNA extraction. The amount of sample required depends on the plant genome size. More material is required for small genome plants when compared to bigger genome plants (of equivalent sample quality).

Handling of HMW DNA:

- Always use wide-bore pipette tips as recommended in the protocol.
- Allow the DNA to stand in elution buffer ☞ **Overnight** at ☞ **Room temperature** or tap the tube gently.

NO vortexing at all!!

- Avoid repeated cycle of freezing and thawing. Aliquot the required amount of DNA in multiple tubes before storing at ☞ **-20 °C** / ☞ **-80 °C**.

Citations

Xin, Z., & Chen, J. (2012). A high throughput DNA extraction method with high yield and quality.. Plant Methods.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/1746-4811-8-26>

Mayjonade, B., Gouzy, J., Donnadieu, C., Pouilly, N., Marande, W., Callot, C., Langlade, N., & Muñoz, S. (2018). Extraction of high-molecular-weight genomic DNA for long-read sequencing of single molecules. Biotechniques.
<https://doi.org/10.2144/000114460>

Materials and consumables

A	B	C
Items description	Catalogue number	Suppliers/Manufacturers
Ammonium Acetate 7.5M Solution	A2706-100ML	Sigma Aldrich
Chloroform:Isoamyl alcohol (24:1)	ACR327155000	Thermo Fisher
CTAB	52365-50G	Sigma Aldrich
Distilled water Ultra-Pure	10977015	Thermo Fisher Scientific
DNA LoBind tubes 1.5ml	30108051	Eppendorf
Dry ice	-	-
Dynabeads M-270 Carboxylic Acid	14306D	Thermo Fisher
EDTA (0.5M), pH-8, Nuclease-free	AM9260G	Life Technologies
Ethanol (>98%)	US015017	Thermo Fisher Scientific
Falcon tube 15ml	FAL352096	In Vitro Technologies
Liquid Nitrogen (LN2)	-	-
P1000 wide bore pipette tips	2079GPK	Thermo Fisher Scientific
P200 wide bore pipette tips	LC1152-965	Adelab Scientific
PEG 8000	V3011	Promega
Proteinase K (PK) Solution	MC5005	Promega
Qubit 1× dsDNA HS Assay Kit	Q33231	Life Technologies
RNase solution	A7973	Promega
Sodium Chloride	71580-500G	Sigma Aldrich
UltraPure 1M Tris-HCl, pH-8	15568025	Life Technologies
β-mercaptoethanol	M6250-100 mL	Sigma Aldrich

[☒ Ammonium acetate solution for molecular biology, 7.5 M](#) **Millipore**

Sigma Catalog #A2706

[☒ CTAB \(Hexadecyltrimethylammonium bromide\)](#) **Sigma**

Aldrich Catalog #52365-50G

[☒ UltraPure Distilled Water](#) **Thermo Fisher**

Scientific Catalog #10977015

[☒ DNA LoBind Tubes, 1.5](#)

mL Eppendorf Catalog #0030108051

[☒ Dynabeads™ M-270 Carboxylic Acid](#) **Thermo**

Fisher Catalog #14306D

[☒ EDTA \(0.5 M\), pH 8.0](#) **Life**

Technologies Catalog #AM9260G

[☒ Falcon® 15 mL Polystyrene Centrifuge Tube Conical Bottom with Dome Seal Screw Cap Sterile](#)

50/Bag Invitrogen Catalog #FAL352095

[☒ ART™ Barrier Specialty Pipette Tips, 1000, wide bore](#) **Thermo**

Fisher Catalog #2079GPK

[☒ PEG-](#)

8000 Promega Catalog #V30111

[☒ Proteinase K \(PK\) Solution,](#)

4ml Promega Catalog #MC5005

[☒ Qubit™ 1X dsDNA HS Assay Kit](#) **Invitrogen - Thermo**

Fisher Catalog #Q33231

[☒ RNase A Solution,](#)

4mg/ml Promega Catalog #A7973

[☒ 1M Tris-HCl \(pH 8.0\)](#) **Thermo Fisher**

Scientific Catalog #15568025

[☒ 1% β-mercaptoethanol](#)

Sigma Catalog #M6250

Equipment

- Benchtop centrifuge
 - Centrifuge for 15ml falcon tube
 - Esky/container for dry ice
 - Flask Dewar or equivalent to transport LN2
 - Heat block
 - HulaMixer
 - Magnetic rack
 - Mini centrifuge
 - Mortar and pestle
 - NanoDrop
 - Qubit
 - TapeStation or equivalent
 - Thermomixer (with adapter for 15ml tubes)
-
- Chloroform: Isoamyl alcohol (24:1) waste should be collected in a separate waste container.
 - Experiment should be performed under fume hood after adding β -mercaptoethanol in lysis buffer during the extraction step.
 - Follow the standard Liquid Nitrogen handling procedures.
 - Consult MSDS for each required reagent and handle accordingly.

Prepare the following buffers and solutions before starting the experiment:

Lysis Buffer

A	B
Tris-HCl	100 mM
EDTA	20 mM
CTAB (w/v)	4%
NaCl	1.4 M
PVP 360k (w/v)	1%
β -mercaptoethanol (add just before use)]	2%

Combine the reagents given in the table below.

A	B
1M Tris-HCl (pH = 8)	5 ml
0.5M EDTA (pH = 8)	2 ml
CTAB powder	2 g
PVP	0.5 g
NaCl	4 g

Adjust the final volume to **50 mL** with Nuclease free water/lab grade water. Store at **Room temperature** for up to 3-4months.

Dilution Buffer:

A	B
Tris-HCl	100 mM
EDTA	20 mM
CTAB (w/v)	2%

Combine the reagents given in the table below

A	B
1M Tris-HCl (pH = 8)	5 ml
0.5M EDTA (pH = 8)	2 ml
CTAB powder	1 g

Adjust the final volume to **50 mL** with Nuclease free water/lab grade water. Store at **Room temperature** for up to 3-4months.

High-salt TE buffer

A	B
EDTA	2 mM
Tris-HCl	10 mM
NaCl	1 M

Combine the reagents given in the table below

A	B
NaCl	581 mg
0.5M EDTA (pH=8)	40 µl
1M Tris-HCl (pH=8)	100 µl

Complete to **10 mL** with Distilled water Ultra-Pure. Autoclave it for long-term (1 year) storage.

Binding buffer (20% PEG8000 and 3M NaCl):

Add **2 g** PEG 8000 and **1.75 g** NaCl in **10 mL** nuclease free water and mix well until it turns as a clear solution and store at cold room or 4-7°C.

Beads solution:

A	B
Dynabeads™ M-270 Carboxylic Acid	4%
PEG8000	18%
NaCl	1 M
Tris-HCl pH-8	10 mM
EDTA pH-8	1 mM

- First prepare the required volume of the solution except Dynabeads.
- Keep the Dynabeads at RT for at least **00:15:00**. Mix well by vortexing, then take 4% of the beads solution (v/v) immediately.
- Wash the beads with nuclease free water 3 times. Resuspend the beads pellet completely while washing.
- Add the beads solution and store the beads solution at **4 °C**.
- Keep the beads solution at **Room temperature** for at least **00:15:00** and mix well before using it.

Tissues preparation and lysis

1h 12m

20m

- Take **10 mL** lysis buffer and warm it at **60 °C** for 15-20 min.
- Take ~ **1 L** of liquid nitrogen (LN₂) in Dewar Flask that requires for chilling mortar and pestle and grinding the tissues.
- Take dry ice in an esky/insulated container for later steps.

- Grind **500 mg** to **1000 mg** healthy young fresh/snap frozen/frozen tissues in mortar and pestle chilled with LN₂ to fine powder.

15m

It may require topping up 2-3 times LN₂ while grinding the plant tissues.

- Keep a 15 ml falcon tube on the dry ice for **00:05:00** then swirl the ground powder with LN₂ and pour directly into the falcon tube while keeping the falcon tube on the dry ice.

5m

- Keep the lid half-opened and let LN₂ to evaporate.

10m

7 


1m

Take out the tube and add **10 mL** prewarmed **lysis buffer** (at **60 °C**) with freshly added **200 µL** β -mercaptoethanol.

8 

1h

Mix well by inverting the tubes (~100 times) until the solution become more homogenous. In some sample, solution may not be homogenous but form whiteish clumps (it is normal) and incubate at **60 °C** in thermomixer at **300 rpm** for **01:00:00**.

9 

1m

Add **200 µL** Proteinase K (stock conc= **20 mg/mL**) after 20 min of incubation.


10 

1m

Mix well by inverting the tube (15-20 times) and continue the incubation.

11 Let the tube to cool down to **Room temperature** (**00:10:00**).

10m

12 

5m

Spin the solution at **3000 x g, Room temperature, 00:05:00**.

If any clump formed during the incubation pellet would be large.

13 

3m

Take an equal volume of the supernatant in two fresh 15 ml falcon tubes using P1000 wide bore pipette tips.

Extraction of raw HMW DNA

2h 37m

14 

30s

Add an equal volume of Chloroform:Isoamyl alcohol (24:1) into the solution.

15 


10m

Mix the solution by inverting the tube until a milky colour appears (~100 times) and centrifuge at **3000 x g, Room temperature, 00:10:00**.




16 Transfer the aqueous phase to a new 15ml falcon tube without disturbing interface layer.

2m

- 17  30s
- Add an equal volume of Chloroform:Isoamyl alcohol (24:1) into the solution.
- 18  10m
- Mix the solution by inverting the tubes ~100 times and centrifuge at **3000 x g, 00:10:00**.
- 19 2m
- Transfer the aqueous phase to a new 15 ml falcon tube without disturbing the interface layer (much thinner than the first extraction).
- 20  30s
- Add a double volume of **dilution buffer** to the aqueous phase.
- 21  1h
- Mix well by inverting the tubes and place them again in thermomixer at **60 °C** for **01:00:00** at **400 rpm**.
- 22  5m
- Centrifuge at **3000 x g, Room temperature, 00:05:00** and carefully remove the supernatant. A loose white pellet of CTAB-DNA complex should be visible at the bottom of the tube.
- 23  1m
- Resuspend the pellet with **1 mL** 70% ethanol (freshly prepared) using a wide bore P1000 pipette tip and transfer all into a 2ml LoBind DNA tube.
- 24  1m
- Rinse the tube with additional **1 mL** 70% ethanol to collect remaining CTAB-DNA complex. Perform the same for another 15 ml falcon tube.
- 25  5m
- Incubate 2 ml tubes for **00:05:00** at **Room temperature** in a HulaMixer at **9 rpm**.
- 26  5m
- Spin the tube at **13000 x g, 00:05:00** and discard the supernatant.
- 27  10m
- Repeat washing steps **go to step #25** & **go to step #26** once with **2 mL** 70% ethanol.

- 28 Keep the tubes under fume hood for ⌚ **00:05:00** to remove any traces of ethanol. 5m
- 29 Resuspend the DNA pellet in **200 µL** of prewarmed (**60 °C**) **High-salt TE buffer**. 5m
- 30  20m
- Add **4 µL** RNaseA and incubate at **37 °C** for 15-20 min.

Beads Purification of HMW DNA 1h 11m







- 31  10m
- Add **100 µL** ammonium acetate (**7.5 Molarity (M)**) mix well and incubate it for ⌚ **00:10:00** at **Room temperature** . Shake it once every 5 min.
- 32  3m
- Spin the tube at **13000 x g**, **00:03:00** and transfer the supernatant using wide-bore pipette tips into a fresh tube.
- 33  1m
- Add equal volume of **binding buffer** and mix well by inverting the tube.
- 34  30m
- Add **150 µL** beads solution (8-9 million beads) and incubate it for ⌚ **00:30:00** at **Room temperature** in a HulaMixture.
- 35  3m
- Place the tube in magnetic rack for 2-3 min and remove the supernatant and wash the beads with **500 µL** freshly prepared 70% ethanol (clumping of beads may appear but try to dislodge by inverting the tube several times).
- 36  30s
- Wash the pellet once again with **500 µL** freshly prepared 70% ethanol.
- 36.1 Take out the tubes from magnetic rack and add **500 µL** freshly prepared 70% ethanol. 30s
- 36.2 Dislodge the beads by inverting the tubes. 30s

36.3 Place the tubes back to the magnetic rack for 2 min and remove the supernatant.

2m 30s

37 

15m


Add  **75 µL** prewarmed (at  **50 °C**)  **10 millimolar (mM)** Tris-HCl (elution buffer)  **pH 8** and incubate at  **Room temperature** for  **00:15:00**.

38 Place the tube back in the magnetic rack and leave it for  **00:05:00**.

5m

39 Remove the supernatant in the fresh 1.5ml LoBind DNA tube.

30s

If the eluate is very viscous and beads could not pellet either add more elution buffer or centrifuge  **13000 x g, 00:05:00**.

40 Assess DNA quality in NanoDrop, Qubit, and TapeStation/PFGE.

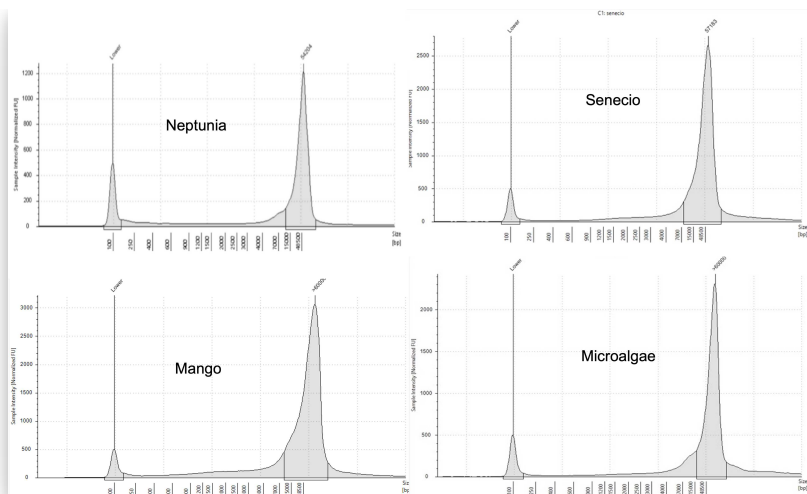
Worked Results

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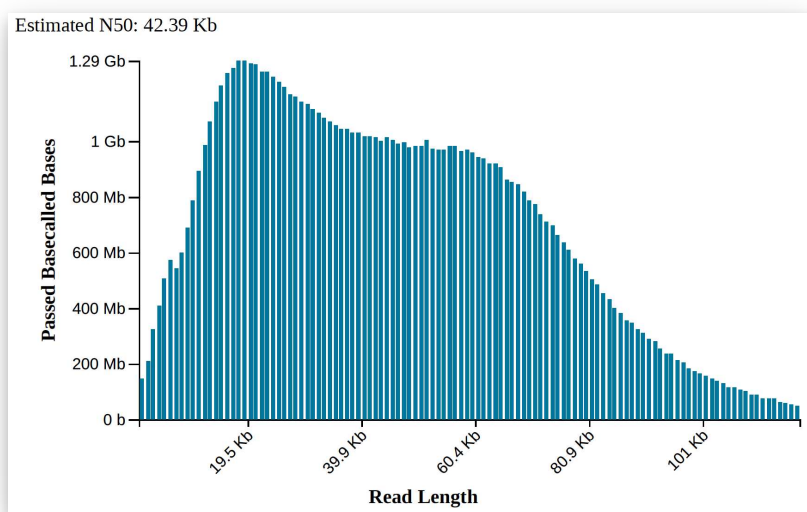


Sample type	Sample amount	Qubit Concentration (ng/µl)	Nanodrop			Yield (µg)	DIN value
			Concentration (ng/µl)	A260/A280	A260/A230		
Neptunia leaves*	1g (young leaves)	276	462	1.92	1.45	13.8	8.1
Senecio leaves*	750 mg (healthy young)	400	462	1.81	1.53	50	8.9
Neptunia roots (4x)*	0.7g-1.4g (healthy mixed)	27-106	ND	1.84-1.88	1.95-2	1.3-5.3	7.2-8.3
Mango (Alphonso) leaves*	1.5g (healthy mixed)	193	328	1.89	2.38	9.65	8.4
Mango (Kensington pride) leave	1.5g (healthy mixed)	266	618	1.93	2.34	13.3	8.4
Microalgae (fresh)	2 cluture flasks (250ml)	154.8	151.2	1.88	1.9	7.7	9.1
*snap frozen samples							

A. Quality and yield assessment of total HMW DNA extracted from different sources.



B. TapeStation electropherogram showing high molecular weight DNA



C. Read length distribution in Nanopore sequencing and N50 =42 kilobases shows the extraction of good quality HMW DNA extraction. DNA was extracted from snap frozen neptunia leaves and sequenced in PromethION where library was prepared using ligation sequencing library kit (SQK-LSK109).