



Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) RdRp nested RT-PCR

Judy A. Northill¹, Ian Mackay¹

¹Public Health Virology, Forensic and Scientific Services



Public Health Virology, Forensic and Scientific Services



ABSTRACT

A nested RT-PCR targeting the RdRp region of the sub-genus *Sarbecovirus*. The primers are modified from the pan-coronavirus RT-PCR published by Hu *et al.* 2017 to be more specific to SARS-CoV-2.

Assay may be used in resource poor settings where real-time cyclers are not available.

Sanger sequencing can be used to confirm SARS-CoV-2 where WGS is not available or where WGS fails due to poor quality sample.

THIS PROTOCOL ACCOMPANIES THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATION

Hu D, Zhu C, Wang Y, Ai L, Yang L, Ye F, et al. Virome analysis for identification of novel mammalian viruses in bats from Southeast China. Scientific Reports. 2017;7(1):10917. https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-11384-w

STEPS MATERIALS

| NAME ~ | CATALOG # | VENDOR ~ |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|
| SuperScript III One-Step RT-PCR System with Platinum Taq | 12574026 | Invitrogen - Thermo Fisher |
| MyFi Mix | BIO-25049 | Bioline |

Oligonucleotides

1

| Name | Purpose | 5'-3' |
|--------------|---------|-------------------------|
| Wuhan15283-F | Round 1 | ATGGGTTGGGATTATCCTAAATG |
| Wuhan15887-R | Round 1 | TGTTGAGAGCAAAATTCATG |
| Wuhan15286-F | Round 2 | GGTTGGGATTATCCTAAATGTGA |
| Wuhan15725-R | Round 2 | GCATCGTCAGAGAGTATCATCAT |

Round 1 amplified products will produce a band of 605bp. Round 2 amplified products will produce a band of 440bp.



SuperScript III One-Step RT-PCR System with Platinum Taq

by Invitrogen - Thermo Fisher Catalog #: 12574026



MyFi Mix

by Bioline

Catalog #: BIO-25049

Round 1 mix

| Reagent | Volume x1 (µI) | Final Concentration |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Nuclease-free water | 3.2 | |
| 2 x Reaction mix* | 10 | 1 X |
| Wuhan15283-F (20pmol/µl) | 0.5 | 500nM |
| Wuhan15887-R (20pmol/μl) | 0.5 | 500nM |
| Superscript/Platinum Taq mix* | 0.8 | |
| TOTAL | 15 | |

^{*}SuperScript III One-Step RT-PCR System with Platinum Taq #12574026

Dispense mix in $15\mu l$ amounts in 0.2ml PCR tubes suitable for thermocycler. Mix maybe stored frozen if necessary.

Round 2 mix

| Reagent | Volume x1 (µl) | Final Concentration |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Nuclease-free water | 4 | |
| MyFi 2X mix* | 10 | 1X |
| Wuhan15286-F (20pmol/μl) | 0.5 | 500nM |
| Wuhan15725-R (20pmol/μl) | 0.5 | 500nM |
| TOTAL | 15 | |

^{*}MyFi™Mix Bioline #BIO-25049

Dispense mix in $15\mu l$ amounts in 0.2ml PCR tubes suitable for thermocycler. Mix maybe stored frozen if necessary.

AMPLIFICATION ROUND 1

3

- Thaw required number of tubes with round 1 mix.
- Add 5μl of extract, control, or NTC (nuclease-free water) to round 1 mix above for a final reaction volume of 20μl.
- · Label the tubes and record details.

The assay has been used with Eppendorf thermocyclers. PCR cycling times

AMPLIFICATION ROUND 2

- Dilute each of the round 1 amplicons 1/100 in nuclease-free water (2ul + 198ul is ideal)
 - Thaw required number of tubes with round 2 mix.
 - Add 5μl of the diluted round 1 amplicon.
 - Total reaction volume is 20μl.

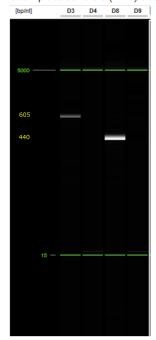
GEL ELECTROPHORESIS

5 Amplified products are analysed by gel electrophoresis or equipment such as a QIAxcel or equivalent.

Round 1 amplified products will produce a band of 605bp.

Round 2 amplified products will produce a band of 440bp.

No template controls (NTC) should be not detected.



Example of result from a QIAxcel.

 $\hbox{D3-Round 1 band, D8-round 2 band, D4 and D9 are NTC in round 1 and 2 respectively}.$

This is an open access protocol distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited