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Visualization of chitin-rich tissues with Lactophenol blue slide mount

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Bark Beetle Mycobiome Research Coordination Network

ABSTRACT

This protocol describes how to visualize chitin-rich tissues, such as fungal mycelium.

This protocol is part of the Bark Beetle Mycobiome (BBM) Research Coordination Network. For more information on the BBM international network: Hulcr J, Barnes I, De Beer ZW, Duong TA, Gazis R, Johnson AJ, Jusino MA, Kasson MT, Li Y, Lynch S, Mayers C, Musvuugwa T, Roets F, Seltmann KC, Six D, Vanderpool D, & Villari C. 2020. Bark beetle mycobiome: collaboratively defined research priorities on a widespread insect-fungus symbiosis. *Symbiosis* 81: 101–113 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13199-020-00686-9>.

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Steps:

1. Place a drop of 70-95% ethanol on a microscope slide.
2. Immerse the fungal material in the drop of alcohol.
3. Add one or at most two drops of the lactophenol blue stain before the alcohol dries out.
4. Holding the coverslip between forefinger and thumb, touch one edge of the drop of alcohol/stain with the coverslip edge, and lower gently to avoid air bubbles.

5. Seal the edge of the coverslip with nail polish to prevent desiccation. This way, the mount will last for days to months.