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# OPEN ACCESS



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A method for the temperature-controlled extraction of DNA from ancient bones Elena Essel, Petra Korlević, and Matthias Meyer BioTechniques 2021 71:1, 382-386 https://doi.org/10.2144/btn-2021-0025

# A method for the temperature-controlled extraction of DNA from ancient bones V.2

**Y** Version 1 is forked from <u>A method for the temperature-controlled extraction of DNA</u> from ancient bones

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87493

**Keywords:** Ancient DNA, sequential DNA extraction, contamination removal, endogenous DNA, archaeological material

#### **ABSTRACT**

We here provide a protocol for the decontamination of ancient bones and teeth that is based on a temperature-controlled, sequential release of DNA. DNA can be extracted from all fractions generated with this method and the fraction with the highest proportion of endogenous DNA identified for further analysis. The protocol proceeds through repeated incubation of the sample powder in phosphate buffer at 37, 60 and 90 °C, followed by the complete lysis of the residual sample powder. As DNA is denatured at high temperature, subsequent DNA extraction and library preparation has to be performed using methods optimized for single-stranded DNA.

#### **MATERIALS**

### Reagents

- Sodium phosphate, 0.5M buffer soln., pH 7.0 Thermo Scientific Catalog #AAJ63791AP
- Water for HPLC Sigma

  Aldrich Catalog #270733
- EDTA solution pH 8.0 (0.5 M) for molecular biology AppliChem Catalog #A4892,1000
- Tris buffer pH 8.0 (1 M) for molecular biology AppliChem Catalog #A4577,0500
- Proteinase K 100 mg Sigmaaldrich Catalog #3115879001
- ₩ TWEEN® 20 Sigma

  Aldrich Catalog #T2700-100ML

### Consumables and equipment

- DNA LoBind Tubes 2.0
  mL Eppendorf Catalog #0030108078
- DNA LoBind Tubes 2.0
  mL Eppendorf Catalog #0030108078
- ★ Ceramic beads 2.8 mm VWR International Catalog #432-0292
- 50 ml CELLSTAR® Polypropylene Tube 30/115 MM Conical Bottom Blue screw cap sterile skirt greiner bio-one Catalog #210261
- Parafilm M 10 cm
   wid neoLab Catalog #3-1012

Equipment	
Thermomixer	NAME
HLC	BRAND
52 82 00133	SKU

Equipment	
Incubator	NAME
Memmert	BRAND
Incubator IN55	SKU

Equipment	
Tube rotator	NAME
VWR	BRAND
444-0500	SKU

Equipment	
UV cross-linker	NAME
Vilber	BRAND
Bio-Link BLX 254	SKU

Equipment	
Vortex mixer	NAME
Scientific Industries	BRAND
SI-0236	SKU

Equipment	
Centrifuge	NAME
Bench centrifuge	TYPE
Eppendorf	BRAND
5424	SKU

#### PROTOCOL MATERIALS

X TWEEN® 20 Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #T2700-100ML

In 2 steps

EDTA solution pH 8.0 (0.5 M) for molecular biology AppliChem Catalog #A4892,1000

Step 4

Proteinase K 100 mg Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #3115879001

Step 4

★ Ceramic beads 2.8 mm VWR International Catalog #432-0292 Step 6

Sodium phosphate, 0.5M buffer soln., pH 7.0 **Thermo**Scientific Catalog #AAJ63791AP

Materials, Step 2

Water for HPLC Merck MilliporeSigma (Sigma-Aldrich) Catalog #270733

In 2 steps

Tris buffer pH 8.0 (1 M) for molecular biology AppliChem Catalog #A4577,0500

Step 3

## **Buffer preparation**

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Note

All buffers are irradiated with UV-C light at a dose of 7 kJ/cm<sup>2</sup> using a cross-linker.

2 Sodium-phosphate buffer (0.5 M sodium phosphate, pH 7.0, 0.1 % Tween 20) is prepared by combining the following reagents:

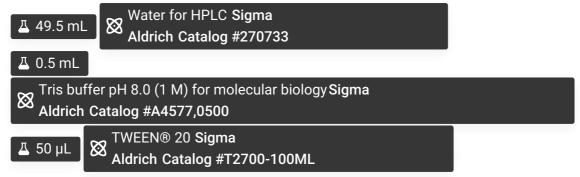
Д 49.5 mL

Sodium phosphate, 0.5M buffer soln., pH 7.0 **Thermo**Scientific Catalog #AAJ63791AP

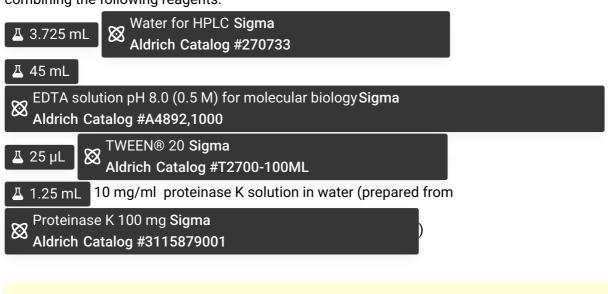
**Δ** 50 μL

X TWEEN® 20 Sigma
Aldrich Catalog #T2700-100ML

3 Tris-Tween wash buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.1% Tween-20) is prepared by combining the following reagents:



4 Lysis buffer (0.45 M EDTA, pH 8.0, 0.05% Tween-20 and 0.25 mg/ml proteinase K) is prepared by combining the following reagents:



Note

Proteinase K is added after UV irradiation

# Sample preparation

- In an ancient DNA cleanroom, remove approximately 50 mg of sample powder from each specimen using a sterile dentist drill and transfer the powder to a 2.0 ml DNA LoBind tube.
- **6** To facilitate resuspension of the bone powder during the subsequent incubation and wash steps,

## Temperature-controlled phosphate treatment

Add <u>A 0.5 mL</u> sodium phosphate buffer to the sample powder, completely resuspend the powder by thorough vortexing, and incubate the tube in a thermo block adjusted to the desired temperature (5) 900 rpm, 00:15:00

#### Note

Temperature-controlled phosphate treatment steps

37 °C 2 times

§ 60 °C 2 times

§ 90 °C 2 times

#### Note

At least one negative control (tube without sample material) should be included in each experiment and carried through all subsequent steps).

- **8** Transfer tubes to a tabletop centrifuge and spin for 2 min at maximum speed (e.g., 16,400g/13,200 rpm).
- 9 Transfer supernatant to a 1.5 mL LoBind tube and store at -20 °C until the day of DNA extraction.

#### Note

Beads facilitate the resuspension of the sample powder after centrifugation steps, but make it harder to remove supernatant.

Pipette slowly and carefully.

10 Repeat steps 7-9 once at each temperature (for a total of 2 wash steps).

#### Note

For the 90 °C incubation, make sure the liquid in the tube reaches 90 °C by the end of the 15 min incubation time. If necessary, set the thermo block to a higher temperature.

- The temperature-controlled phosphate treatment is followed by a room-temperature wash step with I nL Tris-Tween buffer at the end of the last temperature cycle. Completely resuspend the powder by thorough vortexing.
- Transfer tubes to a tabletop centrifuge and spin for 2 min at maximum speed (e.g., 16,400g/13,200 rpm)
- 13 Transfer supernatant to a 1.5 mL LoBind tube and store at -20 °C until the day of DNA extraction.

# Final digestion of sample material

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Add  $\pm$  1 mL of lysis buffer to the sample powder, completely resuspended the powder by vortexing, and incubate overnight (8 – 16 h) with rotation at \$ 37 °C

#### Note

Wrap the tube with parafilm to prevent leaking.

Transfer tubes to a tabletop centrifuge and spin for 2 min at maximum speed (commonly at 16,400 g/13,200 rpm).

Transfer supernatant to a 1.5 mL LoBind tube and proceed to DNA extraction or store the tube at -20 °C until the day of DNA extraction.

# DNA purification of phosphate fractions and final lysate

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Thaw the sodium phosphate fractions (and lysates if necessary) at \$\ \mathbb{S} \ 37 \ \cdot \text{C} \ \text{in a thermo block} \ \text{with gentle shaking.}

#### Note

Make sure the liquid is fully thawed and any crystals have completely dissolved.

#### Note

If desired, DNA extraction can also be performed on the Tris-Tween buffer, but DNA yields are expected to be extremely low.

For the sodium phosphate fractions, purify 100  $\mu$ l of the supernatant, and for the final lysate, purify 500  $\mu$ l using binding buffer 'G' of the DNA extraction method described in Glocke and Meyer (2017). Final volume of all DNA extracts is 50  $\mu$ l.

#### **CITATION**

Glocke I, Meyer M (2017). Extending the spectrum of DNA sequences retrieved from ancient bones and teeth.. Genome research.

LINK

https://doi.org/10.1101/gr.219675.116

# Library preparation, sequencing, and data processing

Prepare DNA libraries using 20% of the DNA extract as input, following the protocol for library preparation, quantification and indexing by Gansauge et al. (2020).

#### **CITATION**

Gansauge MT, Aximu-Petri A, Nagel S, Meyer M (2020). Manual and automated preparation of single-stranded DNA libraries for the sequencing of DNA from ancient biological remains and other sources of highly degraded DNA.. Nature protocols.

LINK

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41596-020-0338-0

Perform shallow shotgun sequencing on Illumina's MiSeq or HiSeq2500 platforms (or other Illumina platforms) using a paired-end double-index configuration (2x 76 + 2x 7 cycles).

#### **CITATION**

Kircher M, Sawyer S, Meyer M (2012). Double indexing overcomes inaccuracies in multiplex sequencing on the Illumina platform.. Nucleic acids research.

LINK

https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkr771

# **Sequence analysis**

21

Trim adapters and merge overlapping paired-end reads into single-molecule sequences using leeHom.

#### **CITATION**

Renaud G, Stenzel U, Kelso J (2014). leeHom: adaptor trimming and merging for Illumina sequencing reads.. Nucleic acids research.

LINK

https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gku699

Use the Burrows-Wheeler Aligner (BWA, https://github.com/mpieva/network-aware-bwa) to align merged sequences to a suitable reference genome (e.g. turTru1.75, bosTauUMD3.1, loxAfr4) using ancient parameters ("-n 0.01 -o 2 -l 16500") allowing more mismatches and

indels.

#### **CITATION**

Li H, Durbin R (2010). Fast and accurate long-read alignment with Burrows-Wheeler transform.. Bioinformatics (Oxford, England).

LINK

https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btp698

#### **CITATION**

Meyer M, Kircher M, Gansauge MT, Li H, Racimo F, Mallick S, Schraiber JG, Jay F, Prüfer K, de Filippo C, Sudmant PH, Alkan C, Fu Q, Do R, Rohland N, Tandon A, Siebauer M, Green RE, Bryc K, Briggs AW, Stenzel U, Dabney J, Shendure J, Kitzman J, Hammer MF, Shunkov MV, Derevianko AP, Patterson N, Andrés AM, Eichler EE, Slatkin M, Reich D, Kelso J, Pääbo S (2012). A high-coverage genome sequence from an archaic Denisovan individual.. Science (New York, N.Y.).

LINK

https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1224344

- Restrict further analyses to sequences of length 35 bp and above to avoid spurious alignments of short sequences with random similarity to the reference genome.
- Merge sequences with the same start- and end-coordinate into one consensus sequence using bam-rmdup (https://github.com/mpieva/biohazard-tools).
- Generate summary statistics using samtools and choose the library with the highest proportion of endogenous DNA for further sequencing. Prepare additional libraries from remaining DNA extract if necessary.

### **CITATION**

Li H, Handsaker B, Wysoker A, Fennell T, Ruan J, Homer N, Marth G, Abecasis G, Durbin R, 1000 Genome Project Data Processing Subgroup. (2009). The Sequence Alignment/Map format and SAMtools.. Bioinformatics (Oxford, England).

LINK

https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btp352