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S-Trap™ plate digestion protocol (Protifi) of proteins for LC-MS / proteomics

In 1 collection

ronan.ocualain¹, Davidknight¹, Staceywarwood¹, Jamesallsey¹, Emmakeevill¹¹University of Manchester

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ronan.ocualain

ABSTRACT

This protocol details the in-house BioMS procedure of S-Trap™ 96-well plate protein clean-up and digestion.

It is adapted from the long protocol from Protifi (as on August 2022) - <https://files.protifi.com/protocols/s-trap-96-well-plate-long-1-4.pdf>

ATTACHMENTS

[iiaebptmp.docx](#)

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PROTOCOL CITATION

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COLLECTIONS ⓘ

**Researcher led sample preparation for LC-MS using the BioMS research core facility**

KEYWORDS

S-trap™ 96-well plate, Digestion, Elution, Digestion protocol, Eppendorf thermomixer, Mass spec analysis, proteomics, quartz, s-trapping, S-trap, Protifi, desalting, clean-up, LC-MS, off-line, offline, enzymatic digestion, automatable

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 madhavi.d

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 ronan.ocualain

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PARENT PROTOCOLS

Part of collection

[Researcher led sample preparation for LC-MS using the BioMS research core facility](#)

GUIDELINES

- You may purchase S-trap plate positions (or full plates) and other consumables directly from us at the BioMS core facility on PPMS - <https://corefacilities.manchester.ac.uk/?BioMS>).
- Allow ⌚02:30:00 for this process.
- This plate based protocol is to be used for samples with a protein load between **50 µg** to **250 µg** of starting material.¹
- You have cell or tissue lysates in **50 µL** of S-Trap lysis buffer (**5 % (v/v)** SDS with **50 millimolar (mM)** TEAB **pH 7.5**).²
- Protein lysates have been sheared of nucleic acid (e.g. from BioMS's LE220+ AFA sonication system).³
- Protein lysates have been reduced and alkylated and clarified by centrifuging at **14000 x g** for **00:10:00** (see the protocol "[Reduction and alkylation of protein lysates for LC-MS \(proteomics\) using dithiothreitol \(DTT\) and iodoacetamide \(IAM\)](#)" in this collection).⁴
- The protein concentration of a pool of the protein lysates has been quantified and samples prepared to be 100 µg of protein in 50 µL of 5% SDS (see notes).

Notes:



1. If you have less than **50 µg** of protein - use the "[S-Trap™ column digestion protocol \(Protifi\) of proteins for LC-MS / proteomics](#)" in this collection. Speak with a member of BioMS if you are unsure which option to use.
2. Alternatively, if your lysate volume is larger than **50 µL** simply remove a **25 µL** sample aliquot for processing.
3. This step is essential as omitting it may clog the S-Trap column. If you do not have access to ultrasonication, see protocol from [EMDmillipore](#) for details.
4. If it is thought that the insoluble pellet contains proteins of interest, then proceed with homogenising (with a pipette and tip) the insoluble pellet as much as possible with fresh 5% S-trap lysis buffer. A suspension of insoluble particles may be formed this way. Proceed with a separate S-trap column to process this additional sample.

MATERIALS TEXT

Locate the following buffers and reagents:

A	B
Location	Buffer/reagent
Bench	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 12% phosphoric acid – S-Trap binding buffer (90% aqueous methanol containing a final concentration of 100 mM TEAB, pH 7.1) – 0.1% formic acid in water – 0.1% formic acid in 30% acetonitrile – MTBE / Methanol solution (10/3 (v/v))
Freezer 3	Aliquots of trypsin (10 uL at 2ug.uL ⁻¹)

Locate the following consumables:




- 2x S-Trap plates (one for the processing, and another to use as a balance in the centrifuge - the balance one will be next to the centrifuge you will be using). Please purchase the use of the S-trap plate in advance from BioMS core facility on PPMS - <https://corefacilities.manchester.ac.uk/?BioMS>).
- 2x fresh collection plates: one for sample flow-through and washes, use the other clean plate for elution and collection of peptides generated by the process.
-  **1.5 mL** ⁽ⁱ⁾, and  **2 mL** ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ Eppendorf tubes

for





(i) diluting samples (if necessary), and for the digestion step.

and

(ii) collecting unbound material from the S-trapping process.


- You may need additional S-Trap binding buffer, there are aliquots of  **5 mL** of **[M]100 millimolar (mM)** TEAB, **pH7.1** stored in freezer 3, thaw and add  **45 mL** of methanol to make a final volume of  **50 mL** to use.

Identify the following equipment that you will use:

- one each of  **10 µL** or  **20 µL** , a  **200 µL** pipette, and a  **1 mL** pipette.
- A plate centrifuge such as a Thermo Megafuge 16 with plate rotor fitted.)
- A Vortex mixer (if diluting samples).
- Eppendorf Thermomixer.
- An Eppendorf Thermomixer with 1.5 mL thermoblock and set it to 47 °C, 01:00:00, and a speed of 0 rpm (i.e. no shaking).

Set the Eppendorf Thermomixer to  **47 °C** ,  **01:00:00** , with the PCR 96 thermoblock, and a speed of **0 RPM (i.e. no shaking)**.

Catalogue numbers:


 **ortho-Phosphoric acid 85% Sigma-**
aldrich Catalog #1005732500

 [Methanol Optima™ LC/MS Grade Fisher Chemical](#) **Fisher**

Scientific Catalog #A456-4

 [Pierce™ 0.1% Formic Acid \(v/v\) in Acetonitrile, LC-MS Grade](#) **Thermo**

Fisher Catalog #85174

 [Pierce™ 0.1% Formic Acid \(v/v\) in Water, LC-MS Grade](#) **Thermo**

Fisher Catalog #85170

 [tert-Butyl methyl ether 99%](#) **Alfa**

Aesar Catalog #L14030

 [Trypsin TPCK Treated](#) **Worthington Biochemical**

Corporation Catalog #LS003740

 [SDS sodium dodecyl sulfate](#) **Contributed by**

users Catalog #75746-250G

 [Triethylammonium bicarbonate \(TEAB\)](#) **Sigma**

Aldrich Catalog #T7408

 [Protifi S-trap 96-well plate](#) **Contributed by**

users Catalog #C02-96well-1





SAFETY WARNINGS

Please refer to the copies of Risk Assessment Forms held in both B2071 and B2075 for hazards to health, and other identified hazards and risks, associated with the use of this protocol before starting.

BEFORE STARTING

Prepare your protein samples using the other protocols in this collection.

The following steps are optimised for volumes of  **50 µL** and  **100 µL** of protein.

For other **volumes** and **amounts** of protein, adjust accordingly, by dilution into S-trap lysis buffer. It is recommended that the final concentration of SDS be at least greater than  **3 % (v/v)**, and up to  **15 % (v/v)**, and a protein load between  **50 µg** to  **250 µg** for the process to work successfully.

Use the 1.5 mL adaptor for the Eppendorf Thermomixer, and set the thermomixer to **47 °C** , **01:15:00** , and a speed of **0 rpm** (i.e. no shaking).

Sample preparation

10m



To the **50 µL** volume of sample in S-trap lysis buffer, add **5 µL** of **12 % (v/v)** aqueous phosphoric acid at 1:10 for a final concentration of **1.2 % (v/v)** phosphoric acid and vortex mix.

Notes:

1. To create a **50 µL** sample with a concentration of **50 µg/µL** protein, You can estimate the amount of lysate required using the following calculation:

amount lysate (ul) = 50ul/calculated pooled lysate concentration(in ug/ul) and make up the volume to **50 µL** with 1x SDS solubilization buffer,

e.g. if the pooled lysate was determined to have a concentration of **1.6 mg/mL** then take $50/1.6 = 31$ **µL** of each sample and add **19 µL** of 1x SDS solubilization buffer.

If your samples are dilute, i.e. less than **0.5 µg/µL** , it is be a good idea to concentrate your samples before proceeding with the S-trap plate process. Methods to do this include the use of a speed-vac or lyophilisation.

Speak with a member of the BioMS team before doing so.

This step is essential to completely denature proteins and trap them efficiently.

The pH will be \leq **1.0** . If the sample pH is not \leq **1.0** , add additional phosphoric acid to reach pH \leq **1.0** .

A quick way to check the pH is to spot **2 µL** of the acidified lysate on a strip of filter paper.

The final phosphoric acid concentration is different between S-Trap micros, and minis/midis.

2 

Add  **350 µL** of S-Trap binding buffer to the acidified lysis buffer and mix.

3 Put the S-Trap plate on top of a clean 96 well plate, add the acidified methanolic SDS lysate into the plate.



No plate pre-equilibration is necessary. Solution typically begins to drip through immediately.

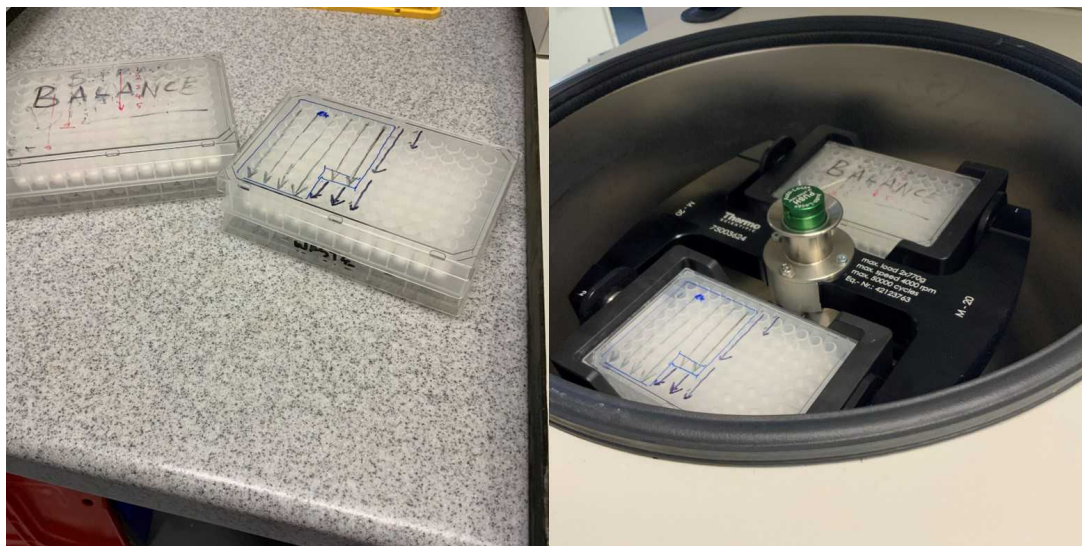
Sample Trapping

30m

4 

2m

Locate an S-trap balance plate, with a receiver 96 well plate beneath. Centrifuge the plate at  **1000 x g** for  **00:02:00** in the Thermo megafuge 16 centrifuge.



5 Repeat the previous two steps until all sample has been applied to the S-Trap plate.

Protein should be trapped within the protein-trapping matrix of the plate.

Sample Washing 30m



2m

Wash captured protein with one wash of **200 µL** of MTBE solution, simply add **200 µL** of the MTBE solution to the column, and spin at **1000 x g** for **00:02:00**.

This will remove methanol insoluble biomolecules from the quartz filter.



2m

Following this, perform three washes of **200 µL** of S-Trap binding buffer, again, add **200 µL** of the S-trap binding buffer, and centrifuge at **1000 x g** for **00:02:00**.

Note: If you wish, you may transfer the flow through and washes back into an eppendorf sample tube after each centrifugation step, otherwise empty the collection tube so that the washes do not come in contact with the binding matrix. If discarding the washes then collect in a beaker and put in acetonitrile/solvent waste when finished.

- **Note:** Depending on the number of protein samples you need to process, you may find that you need additional S-Trap binding buffer.
- If so, there are aliquots of **5 mL** of **100 millimolar (mM)** TEAB at **pH 7.1** stored in **50 mL** Falcon tubes in freezer 3.
- - take one out, thaw at **Room temperature**, and add **45 mL** of methanol (located in fume hood) to make a final volume of **50 mL**, mix, and use.

Digest proteins 1h 15m

8 Move S-Trap digestion plate on top of a clean receiver plate.

9 Locate the trypsin aliquots. They are in the top shelf of freezer 3.

Trypsin must be added to the protein at a ratio of 1:10 wt:wt (enzyme:protein).

10

The frozen aliquots are at a volume of **10 µL** containing **20 µg** of trypsin (concentration of **2 µg/µL**).

11



Add **250 µL** of digestion buffer to the aliquot. This gives a total volume of **260 µL**, enough for 2 S-Trap digestions.

12



Add **125 µL** of digestion buffer containing protease into the top of the wells.

13

Place cover over the stacked plates.

14



1h 15m

Incubate in the thermomixer for **01:15:00** at **47 °C** for trypsin.

Some dripping may occur during incubation; this is not of concern. REMEMBER - DO NOT SHAKE.





15 

OPTIONALSTEP: If you wish, you may also set up this digestion step **overnight**, with no impact on the S-trap process.

To do this, set the Thermomixer to **37 °C** and incubate overnight, again with no shaking.

Elute peptides: 20m

16 

Add **80 µL** of digestion buffer to all wells of the S-Trap digestion plate.

17 

2m

Centrifuge the plate at **1000 x g** for **00:02:00** or until all solution has passed through.

Do not centrifuge the plate prior to addition of 80 µL of digestion buffer used in this first elution.

18 

2m

Add **80 µL** of 0.1% aqueous formic acid to all wells of the S-Trap digestion plate and spin through at **1000 x g** for **00:02:00**.

19 

2m

Further elute peptides with **55 µL** of 30% aqueous acetonitrile containing 0.1% formic acid

and spin through at **1000 x g** for **00:02:00**.

20 This elution assists in recovery of hydrophobic peptides.

The final acetonitrile concentration will be around **5 % (v/v)**.

21 

2m

Proceed to [R3 plate desalting](#) or store in a refrigerator **Overnight**.



When you are ready, please dispose of any solvent waste in the non-chlorinated waste drum.

