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# High Molecular Weight DNA extraction from tunicates

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[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b5axq2fn](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b5axq2fn)

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This protocol has been successfully used with *Botrylloides diegensis* and has been based on the following publication (with small changes):

[https://febs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1016/0014-5793\(89\)80446-6](https://febs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1016/0014-5793(89)80446-6)

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<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.b5axq2fn>



high molecular weight DNA, tunicates, ascidians, DNA extraction

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from step 8 on, avoid vortexing or vigorous shaking; invert the tube gently to avoid breaking the DNA.

TE Buffer: 100 mM Tris-borate, pH 8.0 + 50 mM Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA

14 % (w/v) SDS (sodium dodecyl sulfate)

10 mg/mL RNase

20 mg/mL Proteinase K

Phenol pH 8.0

Chloroform

1:1 (v/v) Phenol pH 8.0/Chloroform

Cold ethanol (-20 °C)

3M sodium acetate


RNase-free water

2mL tubes

sterile plastic pestle

1 Clean the slide from which you will take the colony of your interest. See [Cleaning colonial ascidians](#).

2 Isolate a cleaned colony composed of approx. 20-30 zooids.




















2.1 Transfer to a 2 mL tube and spin at maximum speed for  00:02:00 . 2m

2.2 Remove the excess water.

3 Homogenize the sample in  500 µL of TE buffer using a sterile plastic pestle.

4 Add  500 µL of SDS and  4 µL of RNase and mix by vortexing.

5 Incubate at  55 °C for  00:10:00 . 10m

- 6 Add  **4 µL** of Proteinase K and mix by vortexing.
- 7 Incubate at  **55 °C** for  **00:15:00** . 15m
- 8 Add  **1 mL** of phenol and mix well by inverting the tube until the phases are completely mixed.
- 9 Spin at  **10000 rcf** for  **00:05:00** and carefully transfer the  **500 µL** of the upper 5m  
phase to a new 2 mL tube.
- 10 Add  **500 µL** of (1:1 v/v) phenol/chloroform and mix well by inverting the tube.
- 11 Spin at  **10000 rcf** for  **00:05:00** and carefully collect the  **300 µL** of upper phase to 5m  
a new 2 mL tube.
- 12 Precipitate the DNA by addition of  **30 µL** 3 M sodium acetate and  **600 µL** of ethanol.  
Mix gently by inverting the tube.
- 13 Spin at  **10000 rcf** for  **00:03:00** to pellet nucleic acids and carefully remove and 3m  
discard supernatant.
- 14 Wash in  **1 mL** cold ethanol (  **-20 °C** ) and invert gently several times.
- 15 Spin at  **10000 rcf** for  **00:02:00** . 2m

- 16 Carefully remove and discard supernatant and place the tube up-side-down on a paper towel<sup>10m</sup> for 🕒00:10:00 .
- 17 Resuspend the pellet gently in RNase-free water at 🌡37 °C for 🕒01:00:00 . 1h
- 18 Quantify the DNA concentration and quality.
- 19 Store at 🌡-20 °C or 🌡-80 °C (for longer storage).