

***Plasmodium falciparum*, Strain 3D7**

Catalog No. MRA-102

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Contributor:

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Manufacturer:

BEI Resources

Product Description:

Protozoa Classification: *Plasmodiidae*, *Plasmodium*

Species: *Plasmodium falciparum*

Strain: 3D7

Original Source: *Plasmodium falciparum* (*P. falciparum*), strain 3D7 was cloned from the NF54 strain by limiting dilution; it is reported as a pyrimethamine-sensitive strain.¹ The parent NF54 isolate was derived from a patient living near Schipol Airport, Amsterdam, who had never left the Netherlands.¹

Comment: The complete genome of *P. falciparum*, strain 3D7 has been sequenced (BioProject: [PRJNA13173](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/PRJNA13173)).²

Material Provided:

Each vial of MRA-102 contains approximately 0.5 mL of *P. falciparum* infected human blood in Glycerolyte 57 solution (1:5). Please see Appendix I for cryopreservation instructions.

Packaging/Storage:

MRA-102 was packaged aseptically in cryovials. The product is provided frozen and should be stored at -80°C or colder immediately upon arrival. For long-term storage, the vapor phase of a liquid nitrogen freezer is recommended (-130°C or colder). Freeze-thaw cycles should be avoided.

Growth Conditions:

RPMI 1640 medium, adjusted to contain 10% (v/v) heat-inactivated human serum, 25 mM HEPES, 2 mM L-glutamine

Human serum (pooled Type A or Type O recommended)

Please see Appendix II for complete medium preparation instructions and notes.

Incubation:

Temperature: 37°C

Atmosphere: 90% N₂, 5% CO₂, 5% O₂

Propagation:

- Place the frozen vial in a 37°C water bath until the culture is completely thawed. Transfer the vial to a biological safety hood and wipe the outside surface of the vial with 70% ethanol.
- Using a sterile 1 mL pipette, aseptically transfer the contents of the vial to a sterile 50 mL conical centrifuge tube.

- Add 12% sodium chloride (NaCl) solution dropwise, approximately 1:5 ratio NaCl to cell mixture (0.2× original culture volume). Allow to stand for 5 minutes.
- Using a 1 mL syringe and 27-gauge needle, add dropwise while shaking 10 volumes of a 1.6% NaCl solution (10:1 ratio NaCl to original culture volume).
- Centrifuge at 1000 × g for 5 minutes and remove most of the supernatant, leaving approximately 0.5 mL to 1 mL to resuspend the cell pellet. Resuspend the cells by gently swirling the tube.
- Add dropwise while shaking 10 volumes of complete medium. Centrifuge at 1000 × g for 5 minutes and carefully remove the supernatant.
- Add 5 mL of complete medium and transfer the sample to a 25 cm² tissue culture flask.
- For continuous culture, add uninfected red blood cells (RBCs) to a 1% to 2% hematocrit solution (immediately or the next day).
- Gently aerate culture with a 95% air, 5% CO₂ gas mixture through a sterile, cotton-plugged Pasteur pipet. Incubate the flask at 37°C.
- Take a smear for Giemsa staining after 24 hours to evaluate parasite growth and determine parasitemia.

Maintenance:

Note: Changing of the culture medium every 24 hours is required for malaria-infected erythrocyte cultures.

- Remove the flask with infected culture from the 37°C incubator and place onto a flask warmer.
- Carefully remove the supernatant with a sterile, unplugged Pasteur pipet under vacuum. Remove as much of the supernatant as possible without taking the cells.
- Add 25 mL of sterile warm (37°C) complete medium to the flask, gently mix and aerate, then quickly tighten the cap and place the flask in the 37°C incubator until the next change of medium.

Preparation of Blood Smear:

- Carefully remove 0.5 mL to 1 mL of mixed culture with a sterile pipet and transfer to a microcentrifuge tube.
- Centrifuge the microcentrifuge tube at high speed and aspirate the supernatant.
- Mix the pellet and transfer 6 µL of the suspension to a glass slide for a thick film smear or 2 µL for a thin film smear. Spread the drop into a thin film using the edge of a clean glass slide. Air dry for 3 minutes at room temperature.
- Fix the blood smear by rinsing it with methyl alcohol. Air dry for 3 minutes at room temperature.
- Stain blood films in 10% Giemsa solution for 15 minutes. Rinse with distilled water and allow to air dry.
- Using light microscopy at 100× magnification, determine parasitemia of culture.

Citation:

Acknowledgment for publications should read “The following reagent was obtained through BEI Resources, NIAID, NIH: *Plasmodium falciparum*, Strain 3D7, MRA-102, contributed by Daniel J. Carucci.”

Biosafety Level: 2

Appropriate safety procedures should always be used with this material. Laboratory safety is discussed in the following publication: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Institutes of Health. Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories. 5th ed. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2009; see www.cdc.gov/biosafety/publications/bmbl5/index.htm.

All blood cultures should be handled with appropriate safety precautions necessary for the handling of bloodborne pathogens. Personnel must be trained in accordance with their institutional policy regarding bloodborne pathogens.

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References:

1. Walliker, D. et al. "Genetic Analysis of the Human Malaria Parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*." Science 236 (1987): 1661-1666. PubMed: 3299700.
2. Böhme, U., et al. "Progression of the Canonical Reference Malaria Parasite Genome From 2002-2019." Wellcome Open Res. 4 (2019): 58. PubMed: 31080894.

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APPENDIX I: CRYOPRESERVATION

Note: Only the immature parasite stage (rings) is viable by this method. We recommend a parasitemia of 3% or higher of ring-stage parasites for cryopreservation.

1. Centrifuge the culture at 1000 × g for 5 minutes.
2. Wash the pellet once with 10 or more volumes of incomplete RPMI 1640 medium. Centrifuge at 1800 × g for 5 minutes and leave sufficient supernatant to resuspend the pellet.
3. To the volume of packed red blood cells, slowly add dropwise one volume of cold (4°C) Glycerolyte 57 solution. Let stand for 5 minutes at room temperature.
4. Add dropwise an additional 3 volumes of cold Glycerolyte 57 solution to the pellet. Mix well and aliquot 0.5 mL into 1.5 mL sterile cryopreservation vials.
5. Place the vials in a controlled-rate freezing unit. From room temperature, cool the vials at -1°C/min to -40°C. If the freezing unit can compensate for the heat of fusion, maintain rate at -1°C/min through this phase. At -40°C, plunge vials into liquid nitrogen. Alternatively, place the vials in a Nalgene 1°C freezing container. Place the container at -80°C for 24 to 48 hours and then plunge vials into liquid nitrogen.
6. Store in either the vapor or liquid phase of a nitrogen refrigerator (-130°C or colder).

APPENDIX II: MEDIA PREPARATION

1. **Incomplete Medium:** used for many applications involving wash steps during preparation of parasites for culture or assay. The incomplete medium consists of RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with the following components¹:

Incomplete Medium

RPMI 1640 medium^{2,3}

Sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO₃)⁴ 2.0 g/L

L-Glutamine 2 mM

HEPES [4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid] 25 mM

Optional:

D-Glucose⁵ 2.0 g/L

Hypoxanthine 5 µg/L

Gentamicin 2.5 mg/L

¹Prepare sterile stock solutions at concentrations that are easily diluted into the liquid medium to obtain the appropriate user concentrations and add aseptically. Ready-made stock solutions for many of the components are available from numerous manufacturers.

²RPMI 1640 medium is available from numerous manufacturers as both a powder and a sterile, prepared liquid, with or without L-glutamine and HEPES. If using powdered RPMI 1640 medium, prepare the medium following manufacturer instructions, sterile-filter using a 0.22 µm filter, then aseptically add the necessary components in the appropriate concentrations.

³If stock solutions were not sterile or aseptic techniques were not followed, sterile-filter the medium using a 0.22 µm filter after the addition of all components. Store at 4°C.

⁴Prepared, liquid medium typically contains sodium bicarbonate while powdered medium does not. A typical concentration of sodium bicarbonate in RPMI 1640 medium is 2 g/L, though some formulations contain different amounts.

⁵A typical concentration of D-glucose in RPMI 1640 medium is 2 g/L. The option to supplement with an additional 2 g/L yields a final concentration of 4 g/L D-glucose.

2. **Complete Medium:** consists of incomplete medium (above) supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated human serum. If necessary, filter the complete medium with a 0.22 µm filter. Since serum tends to clog sterilizing filters, a serum pre-filter may be used first, followed by a 0.22 µm sterilizing filter.

Note: Human serum type A is used with washed type O blood. Serum substitutes may be used; however, they may not be acceptable for all parasite strains.