

***Trypanosoma cruzi*, Strain Brazil (+*luc*)  
(axenic epimastigote)**

**Catalog No. NR-46429**

**For research use only. Not for use in humans.**

**Contributor:**

Ana Rodriguez, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology (Parasitology), New York University Langone Research Center, New York, New York, USA

**Manufacturer:**

BEI Resources

**Product Description:**

Protozoa Classification: *Trypanosomatidae*, *Trypanosoma*

Species: *Trypanosoma cruzi*

Strain: Brazil (+*luc*)

**Note:** The strain designation on the label is incorrect. The correct strain designation is Brazil (+*luc*). NR-46429 was deposited to BEI Resources as strain Y (+*luc*) and updated by the depositor to strain Brazil (+*luc*).<sup>1,2</sup>

Original Source: The epimastigote stage of *Trypanosoma cruzi* (*T. cruzi*), strain Brazil (+*luc*) was established from the trypomastigote form (BEI Resources NR-40347) through multiple passages in culture. The Brazil (+*luc*) strain is a luciferase-expressing transgenic clone derived from the Brazil strain, which was isolated from a human patient in Brazil.<sup>1,3</sup>

Comments: The luciferase gene was introduced to the Brazil strain of *T. cruzi* via the pTREX-GFP plasmid where *luc* replaced GFP.<sup>1</sup> The presence of the luciferase gene was confirmed in NR-40347 by PCR and by luciferase activity.

**Note:** The luciferase expressing plasmid was not integrated into the *T. cruzi* genome. It is recommended that luciferase activity be assayed monthly to confirm plasmid retention.

The protozoan parasite *T. cruzi* is the causative agent of Chagas' disease, a debilitating vectorborne disease endemic in North, Central and South America.<sup>4</sup> In North America, *T. cruzi* has been identified through climactic and vector-based data as a potential emerging health risk to humans in the southern United States, where the two most commonly reported reservoirs in North America are the raccoon and the Virginia opossum.<sup>5,6</sup> The parasite has a complex life cycle and is transmitted by hematophagous triatomine reduviid bugs to wildlife and exotic mammal species, domestic dogs and humans.<sup>5,6</sup> Dogs are considered a reservoir in the domestic transmission cycle of *T. cruzi* in endemic areas.<sup>5,7</sup>

*T. cruzi* is currently classified into six discrete typing units (TcI, TcII, TcIII, TcIV, TcV and TcVI), which are identifiable by common molecular markers and represent different eco-epidemiological features, pathogenicity and geographical distribution.<sup>3,8</sup> TcVI is considered a hybrid DTU containing both TcII and TcIII genomes, and is most associated with domestic infection cycles of Chagas' disease in southern and central South America.<sup>8</sup>

**Material Provided:**

Each vial of NR-46429 contains approximately 0.5 mL of cells in cryopreservative [5% dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO)]. Please refer to Appendix I for cryopreservation instructions.

**Packaging/Storage:**

NR-46429 was packaged aseptically in screw-capped plastic cryovials and is provided frozen on dry ice. The product should be stored at -130°C or colder, preferably in the vapor phase of a liquid nitrogen freezer. If liquid nitrogen storage facilities are not available, frozen cryovials may be stored at -70°C or colder for approximately one week.

**Note:** Do not under any circumstances store vials at temperatures warmer than -70°C. Storage under these conditions will result in the death of the culture.

To ensure the highest level of viability, the culture should be initiated immediately upon receipt. Any warming of the product during shipping and transfer must be avoided, as this will adversely affect the viability of the product. For transfer between freezers and for shipping, the product may be placed on dry ice for brief periods, although use of a portable liquid nitrogen carrier is preferred. Please read the following recommendations prior to using this material.

**Growth Conditions:**

Liver Infusion Tryptose (LIT) medium (ATCC® Medium 1029, Appendix II) adjusted to contain 10% (v/v) heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum

Incubation:

Temperature: 25°C

Atmosphere: Aerobic

Propagation:

1. To establish a culture from the frozen state, place a vial in a 35°C to 37°C water bath. Thawing time is approximately 2 to 3 minutes. Do not agitate the vial. Do not leave the vial in the water bath after it is thawed.
2. Immediately after thawing, transfer the vial contents to a T-25 tissue culture flask containing 10 mL of LIT medium. Incubate at 25°C with the cap screwed on tightly.
3. Observe the culture daily under an inverted microscope for the presence of bloodstream forms of the parasite. Subculture when the culture has reached peak density.

Maintenance:

1. Agitate a culture at or near peak density and aseptically transfer 0.5 mL to 1.0 mL into a new tissue culture flask with fresh growth medium.
2. Incubate the culture at 25°C with the cap screwed on tightly and examine daily under an inverted microscope.
3. Transfer every 3 to 7 days, as needed. Note that the transfer interval should be determined empirically as it is dependent on the quantity of the inoculum.

Please refer to Appendix I for cryopreservation instructions.

**Citation:**

Acknowledgment for publications should read "The following reagent was obtained through BEI Resources, NIAID, NIH: *Trypanosoma cruzi*, Strain Brazil (+*luc*) (axenic epimastigote), NR-46429."

### 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. 6th ed. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2020; see [www.cdc.gov/biosafety/publications/bmbl5/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/biosafety/publications/bmbl5/index.htm).

### Disclaimers:

You are authorized to use this product for research use only. It is not intended for human use.

Use of this product is subject to the terms and conditions of the BEI Resources Material Transfer Agreement (MTA). The MTA is available on our Web site at [www.beiresources.org](http://www.beiresources.org).

While BEI Resources uses reasonable efforts to include accurate and up-to-date information on this product sheet, neither ATCC® nor the U.S. Government makes any warranties or representations as to its accuracy. Citations from scientific literature and patents are provided for informational purposes only. Neither ATCC® nor the U.S. Government warrants that such information has been confirmed to be accurate.

This product is sent with the condition that you are responsible for its safe storage, handling, use and disposal. ATCC® and the U.S. Government are not liable for any damages or injuries arising from receipt and/or use of this product. While reasonable effort is made to ensure authenticity and reliability of materials on deposit, the U.S. Government, ATCC®, their suppliers and contributors to BEI Resources are not liable for damages arising from the misidentification or misrepresentation of products.

### Use Restrictions:

**This material is distributed for internal research, non-commercial purposes only.** This material, its product or its derivatives may not be distributed to third parties. Except as performed under a U.S. Government contract, individuals contemplating commercial use of the material, its products or its derivatives must contact the contributor to determine if a license is required. U.S. Government contractors may need a license before first commercial sale.

### References:

- Rodriguez, A., Personal Communication.
- Andriani, G., et al. "Activity *in vivo* of Anti-*Trypanosoma cruzi* Compounds Selected from a High Throughput Screening." PLoS. Negl. Trop. Dis. 5 (2011): e1298. PubMed: 21912715. Erratum in: PLoS. Negl. Trop. Dis. 8 (2014): e3293.
- Minning, T. A., et al. "Widespread, Focal Copy Number Variations (CNV) and Whole Chromosome Aneuploidies in *Trypanosoma cruzi* Strains Revealed by Array Comparative Genomic Hybridization." BMC Genomics 12 (2011): 139. PubMed: 21385342.

- Bern, C. "Chagas' Disease." N. Engl. J. Med. 373 (2015): 456-466. PubMed: 26222561.
- Patel, J. M., et al. "Isolation, Mouse Pathogenicity, and Genotyping of *Trypanosoma cruzi* from an English Cocker Spaniel from Virginia, USA." Vet. Parasitol. 187 (2012): 394-398. PubMed: 22341614.
- Brown, E. L., et al. "Seroprevalence of *Trypanosoma cruzi* among Eleven Potential Reservoir Species from Six States across the Southern United States." Vector Borne Zoonotic Dis. 10 (2010): 757-763. PubMed: 20020815.
- Estrada-Franco, J. G., et al. "Human *Trypanosoma cruzi* Infection and Seropositivity in Dogs, Mexico." Emerg. Infect. Dis. 12 (2006): 624-630. PubMed: 16704811.
- Zingales, B., et al. "The Revised *Trypanosoma cruzi* Subspecific Nomenclature: Rationale, Epidemiological Relevance and Research Applications." Infect. Genet. Evol. 12 (2012): 240-253. PubMed: 22226704.

ATCC® is a trademark of the American Type Culture Collection.



**APPENDIX I: CRYOPRESERVATION**

1. To harvest the Trypanosoma culture, remove the media containing trypanosomes from infected culture flasks that have reached peak density and transfer to 15 mL plastic centrifuge tubes. Centrifuge at 800 × g for 10 minutes.
2. Remove all but 0.5 mL of the supernatant from each tube, resuspend the cell pellets and pool them into a single tube.
3. Adjust the parasite concentration to 2 × 10<sup>7</sup> to 4 × 10<sup>7</sup> cells per milliliter using fresh growth medium.  
Note: If the concentration of parasites is too low, centrifuge at 1300 × g for 10 minutes and resuspend in a smaller volume of fresh medium to yield the desired parasite concentration.
4. Mix equal volumes of parasite suspension and fresh medium containing 10% dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) to yield a final concentration of 1 × 10<sup>7</sup> to 2 × 10<sup>7</sup> cells per milliliter in 5% DMSO. The freezing process should start 15 to 30 minutes following the addition of cryoprotective solution to the parasite suspension.  
Note: To prevent culture contamination, penicillin-streptomycin solution (ATCC® 30-2300™) may be added to a final concentration of 50 IU per milliliter to 100 IU per milliliter penicillin and 50 100 micrograms per milliliter to 100 micrograms per milliliter streptomycin.
5. Dispense 0.5 mL aliquots into 1 mL to 2 mL sterile plastic screw-capped vials for cryopreservation.
6. Place the vials in a controlled rate freezing unit. From room temperature cool the vials at -1°C per minute to -40°C. If the freezing unit can compensate for the heat of fusion, maintain rate at -1°C per minute 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 1.5 to 2 hours and then plunge vials into liquid nitrogen.
7. Store in either the vapor or liquid phase of a nitrogen refrigerator (-130°C or colder).

**APPENDIX II: ATCC® Medium 1029**

Liver Infusion Broth (BD 226920)	9.0 g
Tryptose (BD 211713)	5.0 g
NaCl	1.0 g
Na <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub>	8.0 g
KCl	0.4 g
Glucose	1.0 g
Fetal bovine serum (heat-inactivated)	100.0 mL
Hemin	10.0 mg
Distilled water to	1.0 L

Adjust pH to 7.2 and filter-sterilize. Dispense aseptically in 5.0 mL aliquots into 16 × 125 screw-capped test tubes.