

A convenient method for the isolation of crude nuclear pellets

R. Krumlauf
Ohio State University

G. A. Marzluf
Ohio State University

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Abstract

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can be handled, the homogenization is fast and easily controlled, fewer omni-mix steps and shorter times are required to release the nuclei, yields are comparable (75%) to those obtained using the french pressure cell, and lower concentrations of Ficoll will stabilize the nuclei. The crude nuclear pellets are used to prepare DNA and pure nuclei.

Germinated conidia (14 hrs) are harvested by filtration and rinsed. The Braun Homogenizer disrupts cells via high speed shaking (4000 rpm) with glass beads. Typically, 90g wet weight of cells are used in each isolation. The 90g are distributed among four 75 ml glass homogenizer bottles. Each bottle contains 50g acid washed glass beads (.45-.50mm), 10-15g cells and 11 ml of isolation buffer A (Hautala *et al.*, 1977). The isolation buffer, however contains only 5% Ficoll 400. The cells are kept cold during the homogenization by a jacket fed with siphoned CO₂. The cells are homogenized in 30 sec pulses followed by 30 sec rests. Table I shows that optimum yields without

This procedure describes a convenient method for the isolation of crude nuclear pellets from *N. crassa*. The method, an adaptation of the one developed by Hautala *et al.* ((1977) *J. Bact.* 130:704-713), utilizes Braun Homogenizer to disrupt cells. The main advantages of the technique are that the cells need not be frozen, large amounts of material

TABLE I
Efficiency of Cell Disruption with the Braun Homogenizer

<u>time (sec) of homogenization</u>	<u>% yield and distribution of DNA</u>		
	<u>crude nuclear pellet</u>	<u>membrane pellet</u>	<u>crude nuclear supernatant</u>
0	0	100	0
30	25	70	5
60	39	57	4
90	75	20	5
120	73	8	19
150	57	6	37

Homogenizations were performed in 30 sec pluses followed by 30 sec rests

lysing nuclei are obtained using 90 sec total homogenization time. The yield at 120 sec is the same but 20% of the nuclei have lysed.

The homogenates plus beads from the four bottles are combined in a beaker and allowed to settle for two minutes. The homogenate is then decanted from the beads. The beads are rinsed three or four times with 50 ml of isolation buffer and are saved for reuse. The homogenate and rinses are combined and their volume adjusted to 300 ml. The mixture is then mini-mixed for 10-15 minutes in a setting of 6.0. The solution is then centrifuged at 700 xg in large plastic centrifuge bottles for 10 minutes. The decanted supernatant is saved. The pellet is resuspended with a syringe in isolation buffer, the volume adjusted to 300 ml and mini-mixed a second time using the same conditions. The solution is centrifuged and the second spin is combined with the first supernatant. The crude nuclear pellet is obtained by centrifuging the combined supernatants at 9000 xg for 50 minutes. We routinely obtain yields of 65-75% based on DNA content using this method. See Table II.

The entire procedure requires about four hours. It is possible to handle 180 g of cells by running two homogenizations. While the first homogenate is mini-mixed and centrifuged, the second homogenate may be started in the mini-mixer. By overlapping the centrifuge and mini-mix times in this manner and combining all the supernatants to spin down the crude nuclear pellet we can handle 180 g in four hours and 360 g conveniently in a day. (Supported by Grant GM-23367 from the National Institutes of Health).

Department of Biochemistry and The Developmental Biology Program, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

TABLE II

method of homogenization	Yield Comparisons of DNA Using Different Techniques		DNA pure nuclei
	% yields based on whole cells	% yields based on crude	
1 french pressure cell cell frozen	100	70-80	25
2. french pressure cell cell cold	100	65-72	22
3. Braun homogenizer 90 sec	100	65-75	26
4. hand shaking with glass beads 10 min	100	20	2-3

DNA concentrations were measured by the diphenylamine method (Giles et al. 1965, Nature 206:93).