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# Drosophila Culture Medium

Catalogue Code: CM 4 (150gm) and CM 4L (1.2 kg)

Drosophila Instant Culture Medium provides an inexpensive and simple means of culturing Drosophila, without having to resort to tedious and time consuming media preparation.

To prepare the medium, dispense the powder into clean vials or bottles and add water. The manufacturer of the medium, Carolina Biological, recommends equal volumes of medium and water however our experiences are, that a slightly lower volume of water works best. The exact ratio will vary with the temperature and humidity therefore we suggest using the lower volume of water and adding extra only if required. The aim is to have the medium moist, but not saturated with extra moisture.

	Culture powder	Tap-water	Yeast grains
Our G10.95 vials	2.5gms medium (8mL loose packed)	5 – 7 mLs water	4 - 6 grains
250mLs glass bottle	10gms medium (30mL loose packed)	20 – 25 mLs water	15-20 grains

**Procedure:**

- Prepare medium on the day of use.
- Place medium into a clean and dry culture vial
- Carefully pour water over the entire surface of the medium. The aim is to wet-out the whole area but not to saturate the area with excess water
- Allow at least 5 minutes for the hydration to fully occur. If after this time there are dry areas add a little more water to that spot.
- Sprinkle the dry yeast onto the surface.
- Plug the vial or bottle with either a foam plug (for G10.95), or gauze-covered cotton-wool plug (for alternative bottle).
- Flies may now be added (inoculation) to the vial.

After inoculation, store the vials at 22-24°C. The medium will compress, darken in colour and may become slimy as the larvae develop. This is normal. Flies should emerge from pupae in 14-16 days after initial inoculation.

Sub-culturing onto new medium is required every 3-4 weeks.  
On a weekly basis, add more yeast to the vial.

**NOTE:** The transport medium which Southern Biological uses to send the flies is a different composition and therefore has a different appearance to the Instant Medium. We use an agar medium simply because it is more stable in the vials during shipping.