

We supply:

- Living materials
- Culture media
- Frozen materials
- Preserved materials
- Skeletons
- Microscopes
- Wall charts
- Stains and Indicators
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Fern Prothalli

The growing of Fern Prothalli is a slow process requiring extreme patience and plenty of time. The prothalli supplied to you have been growing for between two and eight months, and you will have received prothalli at a variety of different ages, from early spore germination, through young prothallia formation to the sporophyte commencing to grow on the gametophyte.

MICROSCOPE EXAMINATION

To observe the prothalli at their various stages, transfer the contents of the culture to a petri dish and examine under a stereomicroscope. Transfer suitable plantlets to a drop of culture solution on a cavity slide and examine under 40x-100x magnification on the stage of a compound microscope. Tease the plantlets apart with a pair of dissecting needles if necessary.

CULTURE MEDIUM

To continue to maintain your prothalli, a suitable medium is required. A sterile culture medium can be purchased from Southern Biological.

Cultures can be maintained between 12°C - 22°C in indirect sunlight for many months, in glass petri dishes. Growth is always slow.

When the plants have reached the stage where small sporophytes (1-2mm) can be seen projecting from the prothalli, they can be transferred to good quality potting mix. Keep the culture moist, cool, and humid for the ferns to continue to develop.

Catalogue Code: L2.20



Supporting Products for Fern Prothalli:

Prepared Culture Medium:

Code: CM6
Fern Prothallus Culture
Medium, 100ml

Bioplastic Mounts:

Code: BPM12.50
Fern life history, Polypodium,
five stages.

Laminated Wall Charts:

Code: WC28
Fern Life Cycle

Prepared Microscope Slides:

Code: PMS25.30
Fern prothallium with
antheridia WM

Code: PMS25.31
Fern prothallium with
archegonia WM

Code: PMS25.32
Fern prothallium, antheridia
and archegonia, WM

Code: PMS25.33C
Fern prothallium with young
sporophyte, WM