

Paramecium caudatum

Catalogue Code: L 4.40



Supporting Products for Paramecium:

Culture Medium:

Code: CM 7 Paramecium Culture Medium, 100ml

Books:

Code: BK22.10 Carolina Protozoa and Invertebrate Manual, Whitten and Prendergrass, 32 pages.

Prepared Microscope Slides:

Code: PMS 13.40 Paramecium, WM
Code: PMS 13.41 Paramecium, conjugation, WM

Slowing Medium

Code: MC 11.0 Protoslo
Code: MC 11.3 Methyl Cellulose (powder) 20gm

Microscope Slides

Code: M 7.15 Glass Slides
Code: M 7.16 Glass Cavity Slides
Code: M7.80 EasyView Slides

Coverslips

Code: M 7.11 Square Glass Coverslips
Code: M 7.17 Square Plastic Coverslips

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Immediately on receipt of your Paramecium culture loosen the cap and place the bottle in a dark cupboard.

Paramecium are typical organisms of the class Ciliata, and are commonly found in fresh water in the presence of decaying vegetable matter. The surface of these organisms are covered by thousands of fine protoplasmic hairs called cilia. These allow the animals to move, by beating with a co-ordinated rhythm.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Add 1 drop of culture to one drop of Protoslo or methyl cellulose solution on a microscope slide and mix gently. Add a coverslip and examine under low power using maximum contrast, i.e. with iris diaphragm almost closed. You will find that your Paramecium culture contains two distinct types of micro-organisms;

- the relatively small and far more numerous protozoa (Chilomonas) and the
- larger ciliated Paramecium, in which internal organelles are far more readily visible.

The Paramecium are 3-4 times the size of the Chilomonas making it almost impossible to confuse the two. Chilomonas are essential members of the food chain and help break down macro particles which are then consumed by the Paramecium.

CULTURE MEDIUM

Inoculate 1-2ml of your Southern Biological Paramecium culture into a clean shallow glass or plastic petri dish, containing 20-25ml of pond water or aged tap water, and several grains of rice. Maintain (at temperatures up to 25°C.) in a dark cupboard to minimise growth of other algae.

It is also possible to obtain rapid growth of Paramecium by sub-culturing into a solution of boiled lettuce which has been cut very finely. This will produce large numbers of organisms within 5-7 days, but will also deteriorate more rapidly, surviving for only about 2 weeks.

Alternatively, Paramecium can be grown in Southern Biological Paramecium Culture Medium (Code CM7) which is based on a dilute defined mineral salt solution, and rice. This will encourage steady growth of Paramecium for 68 weeks.