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# Planaria

Phylum Platyhelminthes. Class Turbellaria

Immediately on receiving your planaria culture, remove the lid. The 10 planaria should be clearly visible attached to the sides and base of the container. They can be gently dislodged and removed using a wide-mouthed pasteur pipette (preferably plastic to avoid damaging the planaria).

On arrival, the planaria may appear sluggish. Carefully pour off the pond water in which they have been transported and add fresh pond water. This should encourage movement around the container. Repeat this action every 48-72 hours.

The planaria should be stored in subdue to dark light and will survive for a few days without food.

The addition of a small quantity of pond weed such as Elodea is also helpful to the survival of the planaria. The organisms will often be found adhering to the Elodea leaves. The easiest way to dislodge the planaria from the leaves is to briskly swish the Elodea in a small volume of pond water.

On reaching a length of about 1cm, the planaria can be cut transversely and regeneration will occur. The instructions for this process are found in BK 22.10, Carolina Protozoa and Invertebrates Manual.

To maintain a planaria for a longer period of time, transfer them to a glass Petri dish and cover them with fresh pond water. They will need to be fed every 2 or 3 days with hard-boiled egg yolk or freshly hatched brine shrimp. In each case only a small amount of food is required. If yolk is used, leave the yolk in the Petri dish for approximately an hour. Brine shrimp can be left for about 3 hours. After feeding, the planaria will need to be transferred to another Petri dish with fresh pond water. Do not leave them in the original container as their own slime, plus the egg will foul the water.

Catalogue Code: L 4.60



**Supporting Products for  
Planaria cultures.**

**Slowing reagents**

Code: MC 11.0 Protoslo

**Prepared Microscope Slides**

Code: PMS 15.10 Planaria,  
entire injected

Code: PMS 15.11 Planaria,  
pharynx region

Code: PMS 15.12 Planaria,  
Intestinal region

Code: PMS Set 3 Animal  
Kingdom Survey Set

**Posters**

Code: WC33 Pond II, Larger  
Microlife

**Bioplastic Mounts**

Code: BPM 3.30  
Platyhelminthes comparison

**Preserved Materials**

Code: PM 5.001 Preserved  
Planaria

**Books**

Code: BK 22.10 Carolina  
Protozoa and Invertebrate  
Manual

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