

Tips on recovering your Planaria



“a world of learning”

Planaria are small flatworms that are adept at hiding. To ensure you find all the planaria in your culture, we suggest the following:

- Look for various sizes. You will probably see some specimens around 7-10mm in length, but others could be as small as 3-4mm.
- Use a white background to help see your planaria. Although most planaria are dark coloured, some specimens can be a light grey or brown colour. Place a white piece of paper on the work bench or transfer your culture to a white plastic take-away food container to help see the specimens.
- Check the underside of the lid of the culture bottle in case some specimens have found their way there.
- Use a plastic pipette to search through the culture. In particular, you should carefully look in the organic material (detritus) that tends to clump together at the bottom of the culture bottle. Draw specimens into the pipette to transfer them to another container.
- Planaria will sometimes contract to conceal themselves when disturbed. Allow the culture to rest then gently swirl to expose any specimens that have extended during the rest period.



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