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# Spirostomum

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

Spirostomum is a single celled motile ciliate and member of the Sub-kingdom Protozoa, Phylum Ciliophora, Order Heterotrichida, Family Spirostomidae.

Spirostomum are one of the larger fresh water ciliates, possessing an elongated flattened cylindrical body ranging from 1-3mm in length and hence clearly visible to the naked eye, with the body being highly contractile. One of the major anatomical features of Spirostomum is the peristome (mouth) which stretches for up to three quarters of the body length of the organism.

## MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Add a 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.

## CULTURE MEDIUM

Spirostomum are easy to maintain in aged pond water or non-polluted stream water. Cultures should be kept in glass petri dishes in a cool dark cupboard at 15-20°C and fed with 4-5 grains of pasteurised wheat every 2 months. Small ciliated Chilomonas are also normally present in these cultures, and these act as a food source. Paramecium culture medium from Southern Biological can also be used as a growth medium.

Catalogue Code L 5.30



## Supporting Products for Spirostomum:

### Culture Medium

Code: CM 7 Paramecium culture medium

### 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

### Coverslips

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

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