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Stentor

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

Stentor is a single celled motile ciliate, member of the Sub-Kingdom Protozoa, Phylum Ciliophora, Order Heterotrichida, Family Stentoridae.

Measuring approximately 0.1-0.3 mm in size, Stentor are barely visible to the naked eye. Morphology varies from species to species, but the organisms generally are ciliated, rounded at the rear, with a prominent peristome (mouth). Typical organelles include a beaded macronucleus, a water-expelling vesicle, and numerous food vesicles - these organelles are not readily visible in wet preparations of live specimens. A thin bluish-green pellicle (membrane) also surrounds the organism and this is the reason for the grey-blue colour of the cultures.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

We assess our own cultures by examining them in petri dishes under a stereo-microscope, using 10x or 20x magnification, a white-plate background, and bright natural light. Look for pale blue oval or trumpet shaped, organisms.

If you use a compound (monocular) microscope with transmitted electric light, under 40x magnification, the Stentor can look dark grey/black in colour, which is totally different to the image when using incident daylight.

CULTURE MEDIUM

Stentor can be readily maintained in clean glass petri dishes set in a dark cupboard at room temperature (18-23°C). The culture medium can be aged pond/stream water (non-polluted), or pre-made Stentor Culture Medium (CM11), supplemented with 4-5 grains of pasteurized wheat. Small ciliated Chilomonas are also normally present in these cultures and act as a food source for the larger Stentor, and approx. 2ml of this food supply needs to be added once a week for the Stentor to flourish.

Catalogue Code: L 5.40



Supporting Products for Stentor:

Prepared Microscope Slides
Code: PMS 13.60 Stentor

Posters
Code: WC32 Pond I, Smaller
Microlife

Petri Dishes
Code: E 4.30 Glass Circular
Petri Dish (10)
Code: E 4.10 Plastic Circular
Petri Dish (20)

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