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ProductInformation

Automated Protocol for Extract-N-Amp™ Tissue PCR Kits

Using the Tecan Freedom EVO® 150 Workstation

Extract-N-Amp Tissue Product Codes **XNATR and XNAT2R**

Automation Guide ____ *2*

I. Description ____ **2**

II. Product Components ____ **3**

III. Storage ____ **3**

IV. Materials to Be Supplied by the User ____ **3**

V. Instrument Requirements for the Freedom EVO 150 Workstation ____ **4**

VI. Worktable Setup ____ **5**

VII. Temperature Control Device Setup ____ **6**

VIII. Tissue Preparation ____ **6**

IX. Reagent Preparation ____ **6**

X. Automated Method Description ____ **7**

A. Getting Started ____ 7

B. Method Overview ____ 7

XI. Recommended Parameters for PCR Amplification: ____ **8**

XII. Method Customization ____ **8**

A. Use of a different PCR plate ____ 8

B. PCR setup using multiple primer sets ____ 8

C. Transfer of tissue extracts to a new plate ____ 8

XIII. Performance Characteristics ____ **9**

XIV. Troubleshooting ____ **10**

XV. Contact Information ____ **11**

Automation Guide

I. Description

The Extract-N-Amp™ Tissue PCR Kits (XNATR and XNAT2R) have been developed for use as a high-throughput system for the rapid extraction and subsequent amplification of genomic DNA from mouse tails and other animal tissues in a 96-well format. The Extract-N-Amp Tissue PCR Kits provide a novel DNA extraction system, eliminating the need for long enzymatic digestions and homogenization steps that are not amenable to automation. The XNAT2R Kit includes a specially formulated Extract-N-Amp PCR ReadyMix™ reagent that is a 2X reaction mixture of buffer, salts, dNTPs, and *Taq* polymerase. The ReadyMix reagent also contains Sigma's antibody mediated hot start polymerase, JumpStart™ Taq polymerase, for highly specific amplification of genomic DNA directly from the extract. The XNATR Kit includes the REDExtract-N-Amp PCR ReadyMix reagent containing an inert tracking dye for convenient direct loading of the PCR reactions onto an agarose gel for analysis.

The validated method created for use on the Freedom EVO 150 Liquid Handling Workstation from Tecan provides a high throughput protocol for all aspects of the Extract-N-Amp Tissue PCR kit.

Extraction and amplification of genomic DNA from animal tissues is accomplished in 4 easy steps:

1. The Extraction and Tissue Preparation Solution mixture is added to tissue samples and incubated at room temperature for 10 minutes.
2. Extracts are incubated for 15 minutes at 85 °C.
3. A Neutralization Solution is added to the extract. Once the Neutralization Solution has been added, extracts can be stored at 2–8 °C for at least 6 months.
4. PCR reactions are set up using 4 µl of the extracts.

In just 50 minutes, the Freedom EVO 150 can complete the extraction and PCR reaction setup for 96 tissue samples.

II. Product Components

Reagents Provided	Product Code	Extract-N-Amp Tissue XNAT2R	REDExtract-N-Amp Tissue XNATR
	Package Size	1000 extractions 1000 amplifications	1000 extractions 1000 amplifications
Extraction Solution	E7526	240 ml	240 ml
Tissue Preparation Solution	T3073	30 ml	30 ml
Neutralization Solution B	N3910	240 ml	240 ml
Extract-N-Amp PCR Ready Mix or REDExtract-N-Amp PCR Ready Mix	E3004 (for XNAT2R) R4775 (for XNATR)	12 ml	12 ml

III. Storage

The Extract-N-Amp Tissue PCR Kits can be stored at 2–8 °C for up to 3 weeks. For long-term storage, store at –20 °C. Do not use a frost-free freezer.

IV. Materials to Be Supplied by the User

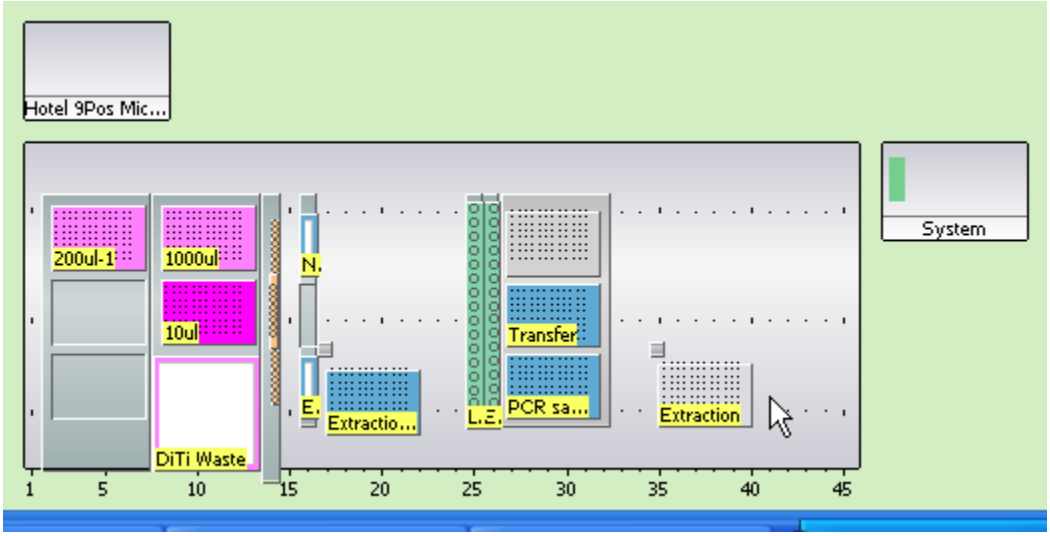
1. Animal tissues
2. Small dissecting scissors
3. Forceps (small to medium in size)
4. Primers for genes of interest
5. Water, molecular biology reagent (Sigma, W4502)
6. 96 well PCR plates, with full skirt (Sigma, P4616)
7. Lid, universal (Fisher, 07200694)
8. 96-well PCR plates (Stratagene, 410088)
9. Cap strips (Stratagene, 410096)
10. PCR plate holder (Nunc, 251357)
11. 5 ml polypropylene round bottom tube (12 x 75 mm)
12. Microcentrifuge tubes (1.5 ml or 2 ml)
13. Aluminum sealing film (Sigma, A2350)
14. Heating device for 96-well plate (Inheco Industrial Heating & Cooling)
    - CPAC UltraFlat High Temperature (7000091)
    - TEC Control With RS 232 Interface (8900009)
15. 96-well PCR Plate Adapter (3200203)
16. Thermal cycler (RoboCycler, Stratagene)
17. Thermometer (Fisher, 15-077-26)

V. Instrument Requirements for the Freedom EVO 150 Workstation

(For detailed ordering information, contact Tecan sales representative)

Part Description	Qty
LiHa Arm (8 channel) with Disposable Tip Option	1
RoMa Arm	1
1 ml Syringes	8
DiTi 3 Position	1
DiTi 2 Position with Waste Slide and Cover	1
Wash Station	1
Te-Shake	1
Microplate Carrier (Landscape, 3-Position)	1
MP Hotel (9-Position)	1
16 Position Tube Carrier	1
16 Position Microcentrifuge Tube Carrier	1
100 ml Trough Carrier (3-Position)	1
100 ml Trough	2
25 ml Trough	2

VI. Worktable Setup



Grid Position	Equipment
2	DiTi 3 position Position 1: 200 µl tips
8	DiTi 2 position with waste slide and cover Position 1: 1000 µl tips Position 2: 10 µl tips Position 3: DiTi waste slide and cover
14	Wash Station Position 1: cleaner shallow Position 2: waste
16	Position 1: 100 ml trough with Neutralization Solution Position 3: 100 ml trough with Extraction Mixture
17	Te-Shake with 96-well PCR plate containing tissue samples
25	13 mm 16 position tube rack Position 16: PCR Master Mix
26	13 mm 16 position tube rack Positions 9–16: Control samples
27	3 position Microplate Carrier, Landscape Position 1: Lid Position 2: 96-well PCR plate for the transfer of neutralized tissue extracts Position 3: PCR amplification plate
35	Heating Device
37	MP Hotel for temporary storage of lid at position 1

VII. Temperature Control Device Setup

Set the temperature control device to the maximum setting of 110 °C with an offset of –4 °C (refer to the Watlow Temperature Control device User's Manual). Place a PCR plate containing 100 µl of water in each well on the device and measure the temperature inside the wells using thermometer probes. Verify that the temperature in the wells is at a minimum of 85 °C after 3 minutes. Approximately one hour prior to running the automated method, turn on the temperature control device and verify that the temperature display on the controller has reached the desired reading.

VIII. Tissue Preparation

For Fresh or Frozen Mouse Tails:

1. Rinse scissors and forceps in 70% ethanol prior to use and between different samples. Place a 0.3–0.4 cm piece of mouse tail tip (cut end down) into a 96-well PCR plate ensuring that each sample is centered down into the bottom of each well.
2. Chill the plate at 2–8 °C until needed.

Other Animal Tissues:

1. Rinse scissors and forceps in 70% ethanol prior to use and between different samples. Place a 4–6 mg piece of tissue into a 96-well PCR plate ensuring that each sample is centered down into the bottom of each well.
2. Chill the plate at 2–8 °C until needed.

IX. Reagent Preparation

1. *Extraction and Tissue Preparation Solution Mixture*: Pre-mix the Extraction and Tissue Preparation Solutions at a ratio of 4:1. This solution can be stored for up to 2 hours before use. To process a single plate of 96 samples, add 10 ml of the mixture to the 100 ml trough at grid location 16, position 3.

2. *Neutralization Solution*: To process a single plate of 96 samples, add 10 ml of Neutralization Solution to the 100 ml trough at grid location 16, position 1.

3. *PCR Master Mix*: The Extract-N-Amp Tissue PCR ReadyMix is a 2x reaction mixture containing buffer, salts, dNTPs, and Taq polymerase. To prepare a Master mix, add water and primers (forward and reverse) to the Extract-N-Amp Tissue PCR ReadyMix as described in table below.

	Water	PCR Mix	Forward Primer	Reverse Primer
Stock		E3004	100 µM	100 µM
Working (2 ml)	0.73 ml	1.25 ml	10 µl	10 µl

To set up 20 µl PCR reactions in one 96-well plate, a total of 2 ml PCR master mix needs to be added to the 5 ml tube at grid location 25, position 16.

X. Automated Method Description

This overview describes the general liquid handling steps required to execute the automated Extract-N-Amp Tissue PCR method and can be customized to a variety of applications. To customize applications, see Section XII.

A. Getting Started

1. Turn on the temperature control device.
2. Set up the worktable by placing the carriers and racks at the appropriate grid positions as described in section VI.
3. Add reagents to the appropriate troughs as described in section IX.
4. Run the method using Freedom EVOware® Software Version 1.0 SP1 or later.
5. At the completion of the method, place cap strips onto the PCR plate, vortex to mix the solution and briefly centrifuge. The PCR plate is now ready to be placed into a thermal cycler.
6. Seal the PCR plate containing tissue extracts with a sealing film. Tissue extracts can be stored for up to 6 months at 2–8 °C.

B. Method Overview

The *ExtractNAmpTissue* method performs all of the steps necessary to extract DNA from 96 tissue samples and set up PCR reactions for 96 samples using a master mix. For complete program details download the automation program at www.sigmaaldrich.com/automation.

1. Set DiTi positions for 1000 µl, 200 µl, and 10 µl disposable tips.
2. Extraction and Tissue Preparation Solution mixture (62.5 µl) is dispensed into each well of the Extraction plate containing the tissue samples.
3. Mix the Extraction plate by shaking at 750 rpm for 30 sec.
4. Pause for a 10 minute incubation
5. Transfer the Extraction plate to the heating device for an incubation of 15 minutes at 85 °C.
6. Neutralization solution (50 µl) is dispensed into each well of the Extraction plate.
7. Neutralized tissue extracts (80 µl) are transferred from the Extraction plate to the Transfer plate for long-term storage.
8. PCR master mix (16 µl) is dispensed into each well of the PCR plate.
9. Tissue extracts (4 µl) are dispensed into each well of the PCR plate.
10. DNA controls (4 µl) are dispensed into wells of column 12 of the PCR plate.

XI. Recommended Parameters for PCR Amplification:

Step	Temperature	Time	Cycles
Initial Denaturation	94–96 °C	3 minutes	1
Denaturation	94–96 °C	0.5–1 minutes	
Annealing	45–68 °C	0.5–1 minutes	30–40
Extension	72 °C	1–2 minutes (~1 kb/min)	
Final Extension	72 °C	10 minutes	1
Hold	4 °C	Indefinitely	

XII. Method Customization

A. Use of a different PCR plate

The automated method was created using the 96-well PCR amplification plates with half skirt from Stratagene. Other PCR plates including 384-well plates may be used in this method, but may require the creation of a new labware in the Freedom EVOware software.

B. PCR setup using multiple primer sets

To amplify genomic DNA from the 96 tissue extracts with different primer sets, primers can be added to microcentrifuge tubes and placed on the tube racks or added to the PCR ReadyMix and placed into the additional 100 ml or 25 ml troughs on the appropriate carriers. Additional steps will need to be added to the automated program.

C. Transfer of tissue extracts to a new plate

Because the size of tissue samples may vary, it may be necessary to adjust the height of aspiration in the method to avoid clogging of the pipet tips with tissue samples. In some instances, manual transfer of the extracts to a new plate may be required.

XIII. Performance Characteristics

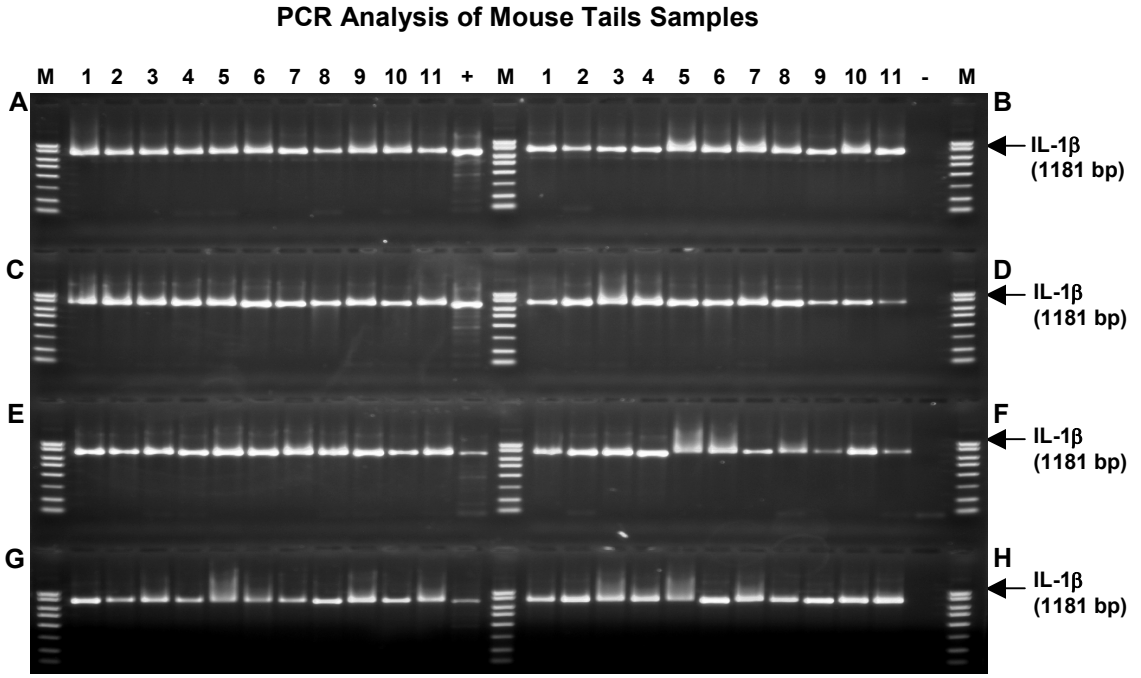


Figure1. DNA was extracted from 88 samples of mouse-tails (0.3–0.4 cm) using the automated Extract-N-Amp Tissue PCR procedure on the Tecan Freedom EVO workstation. Amplification of the 1181 bp IL-1β gene followed using 4 μl of extracted template or 4 μl of human genomic DNA controls in a 20 μl PCR reaction incorporating the 2x PCR ReadyMix. 6 μl of each reaction were analyzed on a 1% Agarose gel. M: PCR marker. (+): Mouse genomic DNA control. (-): No DNA template control.

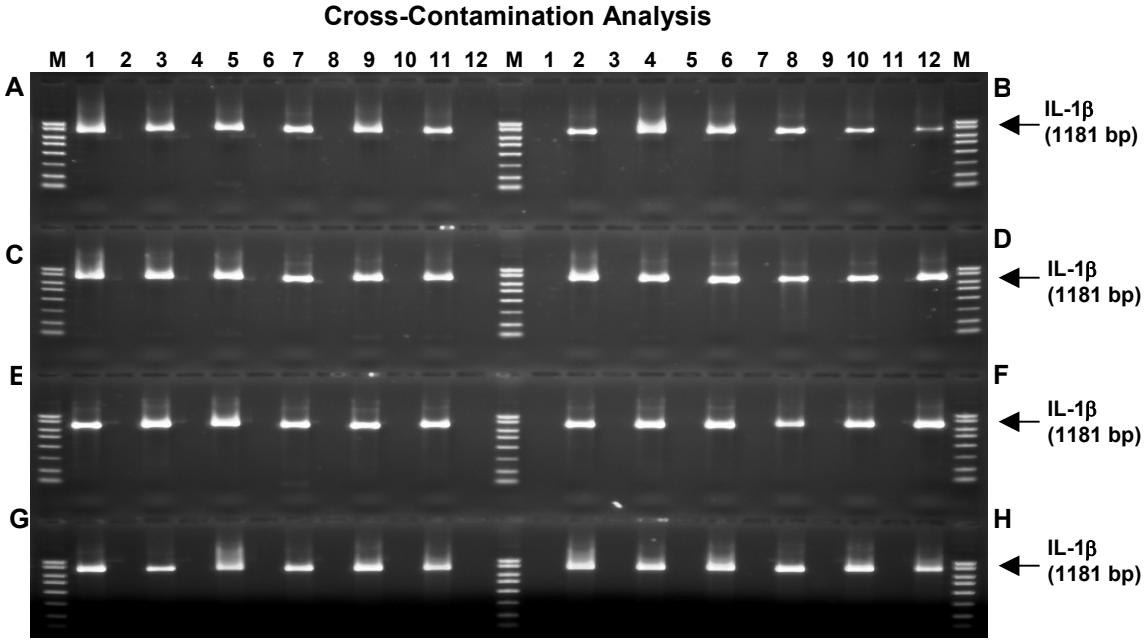


Figure 2. Mouse tails were placed in alternating wells of the extraction plate. The extraction plate was processed using the automated Extract-N-Amp Tissue PCR procedure on the Tecan Freedom EVO workstation. All samples were amplified and 6 μl of the resultant products were electrophoresed on a 1% agarose gel. No PCR products were detected in the wells without tissue samples.

XIV. Troubleshooting

Problem	Cause	Solution
Little or no PCR product is detected.	A PCR component is missing or degraded.	Run a positive control to ensure components are functioning.
	No tissue extract is added to the PCR reactions.	Check the performance of liquid handler. Prime the system if needed. Adjust the aspiration position of the disposable tips in the extraction plate if the liquid detection function is inactivated.
	PCR reaction is inhibited due to contaminants in the tissue extract.	Use less extract or dilute the extract with 50:50 mix of Extraction and Neutralization Solutions and repeat PCR.
	PCR reaction is inhibited due to the presence of a precipitate that may form in the tissue extract.	Centrifuge the plate containing tissue extracts before adding the extracts to PCR amplification plate.
	The mixing of Neutralization Solution with tissue DNA extract is not sufficient due to inefficient mixing by the liquid handler and/or the clogging of the pipet tip by the tissue.	Increase the aspiration and dispensing speed and/or cycle times in the mixing steps. Decrease the aspiration distance of the pipet tips in the mixing steps to avoid sucking up the tissue by the pipettors.
	Genomic DNA is sheared when the solution is mixed with the pipettor.	Reduce the aspiration and dispensing speed and/or cycle times in the mixing steps. It is critical for amplifying the large genomic DNA fragments.
	Too few cycles are performed.	Increase the number of cycles (5−10 additional cycles at a time).
	Others	Refer to the Technical Bulletin of Extract-N-Amp Tissue PC Kits.
Negative control shows a PCR product or “false positive” results are obtained.	Reagents are contaminated.	Use new labware and new batch of reagents. Test a reagent blank without DNA template to determine if the reagents used in extraction or PCR are contaminated.

XV. Contact Information

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