

CARD-FISH and Microautoradiography

Protocol for Bacteria and Archaea



by **Gerhard J. Herndl Lab @ www.microbial-oceanography.eu**



No liability shall be taken for direct, indirect, consequential or incidental damages arising from the use, results of use, or inability to use this protocol. The protocol has been thoroughly checked, however, if you have suggestions for improvements please let us know (thomas.reinthal@univie.ac.at).

Sample Fixation

1. Fix samples with 0.2 µm filtered 37% formaldehyde to final concentration of 2-4%. After fixation, store at 4°C for at least 1h but not longer than 24h.
2. Filtrate sample on white polycarbonate filter placing on cellulose nitrate support filter. Check the abundance of cells in samples to estimate the volume to filter. For example:

| Abundance of cells in sample | Volume to filter (ml) |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1x10 ⁴ cell ml ⁻¹ | 50 (minimum) |
| 5x10 ⁵ cell ml ⁻¹ | 10 |
| 1x10 ⁶ cell ml ⁻¹ | 5 |

3. After sample filtration, wash twice with 5-10 ml of MQ.
4. Air-dry filters
5. Store at -20°C until processing. Filters can be stored frozen for several months.

Embedding

1. Boil 0.1% Agarose in a microwave and cool down to 35-40°C. Pipette 50-55 µl of the Agarose on petri dish. Dip filter with both sides in Agarose and place filters sample side down on drop.
2. Let filters dry at 37°C in hybr. oven without lid for 10-15min.
3. Pour ethanol (96%) in petri dish and carefully remove filters.
4. Air-dry filters, now they can be stored at -20°C.

Permeabilization

1. Cut filters (e.g. 1/12 size of a filter for a hybridization).
2. **Bacteria:** Prepare 10 ml of permeabilization mix with lysozyme (see below).

| Stock reagent | Volume (µl) | Final |
|---------------|-------------|----------|
| Lysozyme | 100 mg | 10 mg/ml |
| 1M Tris-HCl | 1000 | 0.1 M |
| 0.5M EDTA | 1000 | 0.05 M |
| MQ water | 8000 | |

* after preparation put it on ice.

3. **Bacteria:** Pour lysozyme mix in petri dish and place filters sample side down into it, incubate for 1h at 37°C in hybr. oven.
After 1h, wash filters 1x in excess MQ.
Archaea: For permeabilization of Archaea, incubate filters in 0.1M HCl for 1 min at room temperature (RT) (Woebken et al. 2007). Afterwards wash filters 3x in excess MQ.
4. Place all filters for 20-25min in 0.01M HCl at RT to inactivate endogenous peroxidases.
5. Wash filters 2x in excess MQ
6. Shortly dip them into Ethanol (96%)
7. Dry filters, now they can be stored at -20 °C.

Hybridization

1. Mix hybridization buffer with HRP probe (final volume 300 µl → see p. 6). Freeze probes just once, after thawing store them at 4°C for up 0.5 year.
2. Place filter sections into 0.6 ml Eppi. You can put multiple 1/12 size filter sections maximum ca. 20 filters/ tube.
3. Hybridize at 35°C for 12-15h in hybrid. oven. in the dark. Stick Eppis on rotor and shake slowly.

Washing

1. Prepare washing buffer (final volume 50 ml) and pre-warm it in a 37°C water bath.
2. The volume of 5M NaCl in the Washing Buffer varies between probes (see p. 5). Here are examples:

Bacteria - Washing Buffer for 35°C hybr. temp. and 55% Formamide in hybridization buffer:

| Stock reagent | Volume (µl) | Final |
|---------------|-------------|-------|
| 5M NaCl | 30* | 13mM |
| 1M Tris-HCl | 1000 | 20mM |
| 0.5M EDTA | 500 | 5mM |
| MQ water | 48420 | |
| 10% SDS | 50 | 0.01% |

Archaea - Washing Buffer for 35°C hybr. temp. and 20% Formamide in Hybridization buffer:

| Stock reagent | Volume (µl) | Final |
|---------------|-------------|-------|
| 5M NaCl | 1350* | 145mM |
| 1M Tris-HCl | 1000 | 20mM |
| 0.5M EDTA | 500 | 5mM |
| MQ water | 47100 | |
| 10% SDS | 50 | 0.01% |

3. After hybridization, quickly transfer filter sections into washing buffer under fume hood.
4. Keep filters in washing buffer for 15 min at 37°C waterbath, afterwards pour in to buechner funnel.

Amplification

1. Prepare PBS-T-Mix:

| Stock reagent | Volume | Final |
|------------------|--------|-------|
| 1xPBS | 50 ml | |
| 100% Triton X100 | 25 µl | 0.05% |

PBS should have pH of 7.4 -7.6

2. Pick filters and incubate in 25 ml PBS-T-Mix at RT for 10-15min in the dark.
3. Prepare substrate with mixing prepared amplification buffer (AMP), 30% H₂O₂, and Alexa Tyramide. Use 1.5 ml Eppis (A, B) to dilute 30% H₂O₂ to final concentration of 0.0015% in Eppi B.

| | AMP (µl) | H ₂ O ₂ (µl) | Tyr (µl) | Ratio |
|---|----------|------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| A | 200 | 1 from 30% | | |
| B | 493 | 5 from A | 5 | 1:100 |

4. Dab filters on blotting paper, place sections on top of each other. Place in Eppi B with the substrate mix.
5. Incubate it for 15min at 46°C in hybrid. oven in the dark.
6. After incubation, dab filters on tissue paper to remove excess substrate mix.
7. Wash in 25ml PBS-T mix at RT for 15min in the dark.
8. Wash 3x in excess MQ
9. Shortly dip them into Ethanol (96%).
10. Dry and mount in DAPI mix or store at -20 °C for further experiments (MICRO-CARD-FISH).

According to Pernthaler et al. (2002) with some modifications

2. CARD-FISH –Buffers and Chemicals–

www.microbial-oceanography.eu 2018

Hybridization Buffers - 10ml:

Store at -20°C for up to 1 year; when in use keep on ice!
For the different probes, check p.7-8 for information of formamide concentration.

| Stock reagent | Volume (µl) | Final conc. | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 5M NaCl | 1800 | 900 mM | | | | |
| 1M Tris-HCl | 200 | 20 mM | | | | |
| Dextran Sulfate | 1 g | 10% | | | | |
| 100% Triton X100 | 5 | 0.05% | | | | |
| Bring in solution at 40-60°C in water bath, takes about 30min then cool down on ice. Then add: | | | | | | |
| Formamide final conc % | 60 | 55 | 45 | 40 | 35 | 20 |
| Formamide (ml) | 6.0 | 5.5 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 2.0 |
| 10% Blocking (ml) | 1 | | | | | |
| Sigma Water (ml) | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 5.0 |

Amplification Buffer (0.1% blocking) - 20 ml:

| Stock reagent | Volume (µl) | Final conc. |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Dextran Sulfate | 2g | 10% |
| 5M NaCl | 8000 | 2 M |
| 10% Blocking | 200 | 0.1% |
| 1x PBS | 11800 | |

* Store at 4°C in 50 ml Greiner tube.

Amplification Buffer (NO Blocking)* - 9 ml:

| Stock reagent | Volume (µl) | Final conc. |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Dextran Sulfate | 1g | >10% |
| 5M NaCl | 4000 | >2M |
| 1x PBS | 5000 | |

*If needed. Store at 4°C in 50 ml Greiner tube.

Amplification buffer (0.5, 1.0% Blocking)*-0.7 ml:

| Stock reagent (µl) | AMP 1% Blocking | AMP 0.5 % Blocking |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| AMP (No Blocking) | 630 | 630 |
| 10% Blocking reagent | 70 | 35 |
| 1x PBS | 0 | 35 |

* If needed.

DAPI 50 µg/ml – 500 µl:

| Stock reagent | Volume (µl) | Final |
|---------------|-------------|----------|
| DAPI 1 mg/ml | 25 | 50 µg/ml |
| 1xPBS | 475 | |

DAPI mix 2 µg/ml - 1 ml:

| Stock reagent | Volume (µl) | Final |
|---------------|-------------|---------|
| DAPI 50µg/ml | 40 | 2 µg/ml |
| 1xPBS | 70 | 0.5 |
| Vectashield | 140 | 1 |
| Cititfluor | 750 | 5.5 |

6 N HCl - 100 mL:

- MQ 30 mL
- ↓ ← HCl conc. 50 mL
- ↓
- Fill up to 100 mL with MQ (keep in a plastic or a glass bottle)
- * Do not autoclave. HCl conc. includes 35-37% of HCl which is experientially considered 12 M (= 12 N for HCl).

5 N NaOH - 100 mL:

- MQ 80 mL
- ↓ ← NaOH (sodium hydroxide, solid, MW: 40.00) 20 g
- ↓
- Fill up to 100 mL (keep in a plastic bottle).
- *Do not autoclave.

0.5 M EDTA - 500 mL:

*For what: to reduce the effect of heavy metal and inactivate enzymes with adding buffer or enzymatic reaction reagent. Use 0.1-1mM concentration and pH=7.0-8.0. Chelate reagent.

Chemicals needed

- EDTA2Na-2H₂O (Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid disodium salt dihydrate, MW:372.24)
- NaOH (pastilles)
- 5 N NaOH

MQ 400 mL

↓ ← EDTA powder 93.06 g

Mix and measure pH

↓ ← NaOH (pastilles) ca. 10 g

Adjust to pH 8.0 with 5 N NaOH. EDTA will dissolve only at pH 8!

↓

Fill up to 500 mL

↓

Autoclave

↓

Keep at RT or in fridge

10x PBS - 500 mL:

*For what: representative for saline solution. To wash and suspend cells.

Chemicals needed

- NaH₂PO₄ (MW: 119.98, acid) 1.38 g
- Na₂HPO₄ (MW: 141.96, alkaline) 7.12 g
- NaCl 37.985 g

MQ 400 mL

↓ ← Chemicals listed above

Adjust to pH 7.6 with 6N HCl or 5N NaOH

↓

Fill up to 500 mL

↓

Autoclave

↓

Keep at RT or in fridge

1x PBS - 1000 mL:

10x PBS 100 mL
MQ 850 mL
↓
Mix and adjust to pH 7.6
↓
Fill up to 1000 mL
↓
Autoclave

1 M Tris-HCl buffer - 500 mL:

*For what: common buffer for biological lab work
proper working pH=7.1-8.0.

Chemicals needed

- Tris-hydroxymethyl-aminomethane, MW: 121.14
- 6N HCl

MQ 400 mL
↓ ←Tris powder 60.55 g

Adjust to pH 8.0 with 6 N HCl
(approx. 50 mL of 6 N HCl)

↓
Fill up to 500 mL
↓
Autoclave
↓
Keep it at RT or in fridge

5 M NaCl - 250 mL:

MQ 200 mL
↓ ←NaCl (MW: 58.44) 73.05 g

Fill up to 250 mL
↓
Autoclave
↓
Keep it at RT or in fridge

Maleic acid buffer - 50 mL:

Chemicals needed

- Maleic acid (MW: 116.08) 0.580 g
- NaCl (MW:58.44) 0.438 g

MQ 35 mL in a 50-100 mL glass screw cap bottle
↓ ←Chemicals listed above

Adjust to pH 7.5 with NaOH (ca. 2 solid tablets plus 5 N NaOH)

↓
Fill up to 50 mL

Blocking Reagent 10% - 50 mL:

Chemicals needed

- Boehringer Mannheim Blocking reagent (check expire date)

50 mL of Maleic acid buffer (mentioned above)
↓ ←Blocking reagent 5 g

Dissolve reagent on heating plate at 60 °C with stirring
for about 1h. Do not boil.

↓
Autoclave

↓
Make 5 mL aliquots. Pipette carefully (800 µL is max
for 1mL pipette tip, as it is viscous liquid).

↓
Keep at -20°C. According to the manufacture solution
should be good for a few days at 4°C and many
months if stored frozen.

Tyramide Synthesis**Chemicals needed**

- 1 mg A₄₈₈ Succinimidyl ester and/or
- 1 mg A₅₅₅ Succinimidyl ester
- N,N-Dimethylformamide (waterfree)
- Tyramine-HCL
- Triethylamine

Abbreviations used

- DMF:** N,N-Dimethylformamide
F_w=73.09 g/mol
- TEA:** Triethylamine
F_w=101.19 g/mol
- TYR-HCL:** Tyramine-HCL
M_w = 173.64 g/mol

Solutions

1. **DMF-TEA stock:**
1ml DMF + 10 µl TEA
Prepare in 2 ml Eppi
2. **TYR Stock:**
10 mg TYR-HCL + 1 ml DMF-TEA stock
100 µl TYR.stock = 5.76 µmol/l
Prepare in 15 ml Greyner

Triethylamine & Dimethylformamide are dangerous:
work in the hood and on ice!

3. **Succinimidyl ester:**
1mg active ester + 100 µl DMF
1 mg Alexa₄₈₈ = 1.6 µmol/l

Alexa₄₈₈: M_w = 643.41 g/mol
λ_{max} = 495 nm
E_{max} = 519 nm
ε = 71,000
C_f = 0.11

Alexa₅₅₅: M_w = 1250g /mol
λ_{max} = 555 nm
E_{max} = 565 nm
ε = 150,000
CF₂₈₀ = 0.08

Esters are light sensitive (cover with aluminum foil) and prone to hydrolysis, therefore prepare shortly before tyramide synthesis; cool esters on ice until they are used for synthesis.

Synthesis

1. 100 µl Alexa₄₈₈ + 25.2 µl TYR stock
100 µl Alexa₅₅₅ + 12.6 µl TYR stock
2. Incubate at room temperature in the dark for ~12 hours, slowly rotating
3. Dilute to 1 ml with absolute Ethanol (874.8 µl for A₄₈₈ and 887.4 µl for A₅₅₅)
4. Make aliquots (~50 µl) and store at -20°C.

Washing Buffers (FISH protocols in Silva)**NaCl concentration in the washing buffer for washing at 37°C after hybridization at 35°C**

| % formamide in hybridization buffer | Final conc. of NaCl (M) | 5 M NaCl (µl) in 50 ml of washing buffer |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 20 | 0.145 | 1350 |
| 25 | 0.105 | 950 |
| 30 | 0.074 | 640 |
| 35 | 0.052 | 420 |
| 40 | 0.037 | 270 |
| 45 | 0.026 | 160 |
| 50 | 0.019 | 90 |
| 55 | 0.013 | 30 |
| 60 | 0.009 | 0 |
| 65 | 0.008 | 0 |
| 70 | 0.005 | 0 |

NaCl concentration in the washing buffer for washing at 48°C after hybridization at 46°C

| % formamide in hybridization buffer | Final conc. of NaCl (M) | 5 M NaCl (µl) in 50 ml of washing buffer |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 0 | 0.900 | 9000 |
| 5 | 0.636 | 6300 |
| 10 | 0.450 | 4500 |
| 15 | 0.318 | 3180 |
| 20 | 0.225 | 2150 |
| 25 | 0.159 | 1490 |
| 30 | 0.112 | 1020 |
| 35 | 0.080 | 700 |
| 40 | 0.056 | 460 |
| 45 | 0.040 | 300 |
| 50 | 0.028 | 180 |
| 55 | 0.020 | 100 |
| 60 | 0.014 | 40 |
| 65 | - | - |
| 70 | - | - |

3. CARD-FISH –probes–

Measure concentration of DNA (Wendeberg 2010)

Ordered probe (dry), Biomers

↓ ←xx µl* of Sigma water

Make 100 pmol/µL

↓

Dilute x1/2 (x1/4) with Sigma water (ex. 1µL of probe + 1µL of Sigma water).

↓

Measure DNA concentration (260 and 404 nm) with Nanodrop 2000.

*Volume is written on the product information sheet from Biomers. Normally it's 50-100 µl, when you order Scale "S".

In our case (UV-Vis application, 1mm path length),

$$OD_{260} = \text{Abs } 260 \text{ nm} \div 0.1 \text{ cm}$$

$$OD_{404} = \text{Abs } 404 \text{ nm} \div 0.1 \text{ cm}$$

Calculate the concentration of the single-stranded DNA oligonucleotide present in the sample*:

$$OD_{260_{adj}} = OD_{260} - (OD_{404} \times 0.276)$$

$$\text{DNA concentration (ng/}\mu\text{l)} = OD_{260_{adj}} \times 20$$

*Both HRP and the probe contribute to the absorption maximum 260 nm. The measured concentration therefore must be decreased by a correction factor of 0.276.

Labelling efficiency

Presuming optimal labeling, the peak ratio (OD_{260}/OD_{404}) should be ~3.

Make aliquots

Dilute the probe to make 50 ng/µl with adding Sigma water

↓

Make 20-50 µl of aliquots in UV sterile 0.6 mL tubes.

↓

Keep them at -20°C

Volume of probes to add into hybrid. buff.

In our lab, currently there are three different concentrations of probe working solutions prepared. Depending on the DNA concentration, amounts need to be added to the Hybridization Buffer is different (shown in box below). The final volume of Hybridization Buffer + probe(s) is 300 µl.

| Company | Conc. in stock | Vol (µl) |
|--------------|----------------------|----------|
| Biomers | 50 ng/µl of DNA | 1.0 |
| Thermo (10x) | 500 ng/µl of DNA+HRP | 1.5 |
| Thermo (1x) | 50 ng/µl of DNA+HRP | 15.0 |

*Approx. vol. The best concentration of probe is depending on sample.

4. CARD FISH –probe information–

List of oligonucleotide probes targeted to marine prokaryotes. Probes and hybridization conditions currently used in Microbial Oceanography Lab is shown in bold.

*Hybridization temperature: 35 °C, washing temperature: 37 °C

| Target organisms | Probe | | | Hybridization condition | | |
|------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Name | Sequence | Ref | Formamide conc. in hybrid. buffer (%) | Ref. | |
| Bacteria | EUB338 I | GCT GCC TCC CGT AGG AGT | Amann et al. (1990) | 55 | Pernthaler et al. (2002) | |
| | EUB338 I | GCT GCC TCC CGT AGG AGT | Amann et al. (1990) | 55 | Ishii et al. (2004) | |
| | EUB338 II | GCA GCC ACC CGT AGG TGT | Daims et al. (1999) * supplement to EUB338I | | | |
| | EUB338 III | GCT GCC ACC CGT AGG TGT | Daims et al. (1999) * supplement to EUB338I | | | |
| Thaumarchaeota | Cren554 | TTA GGC CCA ATA ATC MTC CT | Massana et al. (1997) | 20 | Pernthaler and Amann (2005) | |
| | Cren537 | TGA CCA CTT GAG GTG CTG | Teira et al. (2004) | 20 | Teira et al. (2004) | |
| | Cren554 | TTA GGC CCA ATA ATC MTC CT | Massana et al. (1997) | 20 | Lekunberri et al. (2013) | |
| | Cren537 | TGA CCA CTT GAG GTG CTG | Teira et al. (2004) | | | |
| Euryarchaeota | Eury806 | CAC AGC GTT TAC ACC TAG | Teira et al. (2004) | 20 | Teira et al. (2004) | |
| Negative control | NON338 | ACT CCT ACG GGA GGC AGC | Wallner et al. (1993) | 55 | Pernthaler et al. (2002) | |
| SAR11 clade | SAR11-152R SAR11-441R SAR11-542R SAR11-732R | ATT AGC ACA AGT TTC CYC GTG T TAC AGT CAT TTT CTT CCC CGA C TCC GAA CTA CGC TAG GTC GTC AGT AAT GAT CCA GAA AGY TG | Morris et al. (2002) | 15 | Morris et al. (2002) *FISH, 37°C hybrid temp | |
| | SAR11-152R SAR11-441R SAR11-542R SAR11-732R | ATT AGC ACA AGT TTC CYC GTG T TAC AGT CAT TTT CTT CCC CGA C TCC GAA CTA CGC TAG GTC GTC AGT AAT GAT CCA GAA AGY TG | Morris et al. (2002) | 45 | Lekunberri et al. (2013) | |
| | SAR11-441R | TAC AGT CAT TTT CTT CCC CGA C | Morris et al. (2002) | 50 | Mary et al. (2006) | |
| | SAR11-441R | TAC AGT CAT TTT CTT CCC CGA C | Morris et al. (2002) | 45 | Pernthaler and Amann (2005) | |
| | SAR11-486 | GGA CCT TCT TAT TCG GGT | Fuchs et al. (2005) | 60 | Fuchs et al. (2005) | |
| | SAR202 clade | SAR202-104 SAR202-312 | GTT ACT CAG CCG TCT GCC TGT CTC AGT CCC CCT CTG | Morris et al. (2004) | 35 | Morris et al. (2004) *FISH, 37°C hybrid temp |
| | | SAR202-312 | TGT CTC AGT CCC CCT CTG | Morris et al. (2004) | | |
| SAR324-1412 | | GCC CCT GTC AAC TCC CAT | Schattenhofer et al. (2009) | | | |
| SAR406 clade | SR406-97 | CAC CCG TTC GCC AGT TTA | Fuchs et al. (2005) | 65 | Fuchs et al. (2005) | |
| Alteromonas /Colwellia | Alt1413 | TTT GCA TCC CAC TCC CAT | Eilers et al. (2000) | 55 | Lekunberri et al. (2013) | |
| | Alt1413 | TTT GCA TCC CAC TCC CAT | Eilers et al. (2000) | 50 | Pernthaler and Amann (2005) | |

*Please double check the sequence when you order.

4. CARD FISH –probe information–

www.microbial-oceanography.eu 2018

*Hybridization temperature: 46 °C, washing temperature: 48 °C

| Target organisms | Probe | | | Hybridization condition | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Name | Sequence | Ref. | Formamide conc. in hybrid. buffer (%) | Ref. |
| Bacteria | EUB338 I | GCT GCC TCC CGT AGG AGT | Amann et al. (1990) | 35 | |
| | EUB338 II | GCA GCC ACC CGT AGG TGT | Daims et al. (1999) | | |
| | EUB338 III | GCT GCC ACC CGT AGG TGT | * suppliment to EUB338I Daims et al. (1999) * suppliment to EUB338I | | |
| Thaumarchaeota | Cren554 | TTA GGC CCA ATA ATC MTC CT | Massana et al. (1997) | 0 | |
| | Cren554 | TTA GGC CCA ATA ATC MTC CT | Massana et al. (1997) | | |
| | Cren537 | TGA CCA CTT GAG GTG CTG | Teira et al. (2004) | | |
| Euryarchaeota | Eury806 | CAC AGC GTT TAC ACC TAG | Teira et al. (2004) | 0 | |
| Negative control | NON338 | ACT CCT ACG GGA GGC AGC | Wallner et al. (1993) | 35 | |
| SAR11 clade | SAR11-486 | GGA CCT TCT TAT TCG GGT | Fuchs et al. (2005) | 25 | Schattenhofer et al. (2009) |
| | SAR11-152R | ATT AGC ACA AGT TTC CYC GTG T | Morris et al. (2002) | 25 | Gomez-Pereira et al. (2013) |
| | SAR11-441R | TAC AGT CAT TTT CTT CCC CGA C | | | |
| | SAR11-441R (modif) | TAC CGT CAT TTT CTT CCC CGA C | Gomez-Pereira et al. (2013) | | |
| | SAR11-487 (modif) | CGG ACC TTC TTA TTC GGG | | | |
| | SAR11-487-H3 | CGG CTG CTG GCA CGA AGT TAG C | | | |
| SAR11-542R | TCC GAA CTA CGC TAG GTC | Morris et al. (2002) | | | |
| SAR11-732R | GTC AGT AAT GAT CCA GAA AGY TG | | | | |
| SAR11-486 | SAR11-486 | GGA CCT TCT TAT TCG GGT | Fuchs et al. (2005) | 25 | Teeling et al. (2016) |
| | SAR11-441R | TAC AGT CAT TTT CTT CCC CGA C | Morris et al. (2002) | | |
| SAR202 clade | SAR202-312 | TGT CTC AGT CCC CCT CTG | Morris et al. (2004) | 40 | Schattenhofer et al. (2009) |
| SAR324 clade | SAR324-1412 | GCC CCT GTC AAC TCC CAT | Schattenhofer et al. (2009) | 35 | Schattenhofer et al. (2009) |
| SAR406 clade | SAR406-97 | CAC CCG TTC GCC AGT TTA | Fuchs et al. (2005) | 40 | Schattenhofer et al. (2009) |
| Alteromonas /Colwellia | Alt1413 | TTT GCA TCC CAC TCC CAT | Eilers et al. (2000) | 40 | Eilers et al. (2000) |

*Please double check the sequence when you order.

5. MICROAUTORADIORAPHY

www.microbial-oceanography.eu 2018

Cell sampling and fixing

1. Check the abundance of cells in your samples, to estimate the volume to filter (see p. 2).
2. Transfer samples in Greiner tubes (samples and killed controls). Fix controls with 0.2 µm filtered formaldehyde (final conc. 2-4%) and wait for 15min.
3. Add radioactive labeled compounds for both samples and killed controls, e.g.:

| Substrate | Final concentration in sample* |
|---|--|
| ³ H-Leucine | 40 nM (coastal) 10-20 nM (epipelagic) 5 nM (meso-, bathypelagic) |
| ³ H-Thymidine | 20 nM |
| ¹⁴ C-HCO ₃ ⁻ | 50-100µCi |

*Above concentrations are for marine systems. They are highly depending on sample.

4. Incubate for at least 4h in the dark under in situ temperature. Take into account the expected level of activity for your sample and the substrate activity (e.g. for deep sea: 24h for ³H-leucine, 72h for ¹⁴C-bicarbonate).
5. Kill all samples with 0.2 µm filtered formaldehyde (final conc. 2-4%) and incubate at 4°C in the dark ~24h.
6. Filter the samples and store them (see p. 2).

Transfer of filter sections

1. Place the sample filter sections on slides covered with plastic foam sheets (samples side up). If the section size is 1/12 of a filter, 8-10 pieces are possible to be placed on a slide. This process can be done while melting the emulsion (next step).

All the following steps must be performed in the dark with a safety lamp, although complete darkness ensures a better result!

2. Melt the emulsion prepared in the tube (2 slide mailer) for 0.5-1h at 43°C in a water bath in the dark.
3. Coat the slides with the prepared emulsion by dipping them into the tube.
4. Remove the emulsion from the underside of the slide with clean tissue paper.
5. Dry the slides for 5-10 min (the time it takes to process 4 slides) on ice cold aluminum plates. This is best done in a small tray containing ice covered with aluminum foil.
6. One by one, take the prepared filter sections and carefully mount them on the slides. Sample filter sections are transferred to the emulsion slides.
7. Place the slides in a light proof box wrapped twice with aluminum foil, containing silica gel drying beads, for exposure* at 2-4°C.

*The exposure time is dependent on the activity of the substrate and expected activity of the cells.

Developing and Fixing

The Dark room should be at around 17°C. All developing chemicals and MQ should be kept in at 17°C.

1. Place box with slides in the dark room (17°C) for 1h before starting.
2. Prepare developing chemicals in slide staining jars.

All the following steps must be performed in complete darkness!

3. Remove aluminum foil and place the slides in the slide rack.
4. **Kodak:**
Develop the slides using Kodak specifications: 2 min in Dektol Developer, 10s to stop developing in MQ, 5 min in Kodak Fixer, 2 min in MQ.

Ilford:

Develop the slides using Ilford specifications: 4 min in Ilford Phenisol Developer, 10s to stop developing in MQ, 6-7 min* in Ilford Hypam Fixer, 5 min in MQ.
*According to the manufacture's protocol, 4 min is recommended. If the emulsion is not clear enough within 4 min, fixing the material for twice the time is also applicable. Therefore, we currently chose 6-7 min for fixing.

After this you can turn on the light!

5. Keep the slides in the MQ until you are back in the lab. Dry the underside of the slide
6. Surround the borders of the filters on the underside of the slide with a marker. This is also the last chance to know from the filter labels which section is which - so label the slide accordingly.
7. Dry the side with filters with tissue. Remove only the outer edge of the filter section and dry for 10-20 min.
8. Carefully peel the filter sections off. If it is difficult to hold the filter with forceps, make the edge of filter wet again with wetted tissue paper.
9. Put a drop of DAPI-mix in each filter outline and put a cover slip over it.
10. They can be stored at -20°C until they are counted on the epifluorescence microscope.

6. MICROAUTORADIOGRAPHY –Chemicals and Buffers–

www.microbial-oceanography.eu 2018

Emulsion (Kodak and Ilford)

Kodak:

The Emulsion is a mix of Kodak NTB and Sigma water 2:1 (v/v) = 7 ml + 3.5 ml

Ilford:

The Emulsion is a mix of Ilford Nuclear Emulsion Type K5 and Sigma water 1:1 (v/v) = 5 ml + 5 ml

Take into account the emulsion has an expiration date of few months. Each tube with the emulsion can be used a max. of three times in total ca. 15 slides.

1. Melt the emulsion for 1 h at 43°C before use.
2. Wrap the 2 slide mailer (tubes) with Aluminium tape (or Aluminium foil plus duct tape) and ensure that the lid is covered with black marker pen.
3. Add 3.5 ml (Kodak) or 5 ml (Ilford) of Sigma water in the tubes.
4. In the completely dark condition, add 7 ml (Kodak) or 5 ml (Ilford) of photographic emulsion with a dispenser. The emulsion is highly sensitive to light; therefore, complete darkness is recommended. This is best done using a bottle top dispenser.
5. Wrap the tubes in aluminum foil twice and store at 4°C.

Kodak Fixer (250 ml)

Chemicals needed

- Kodak Fixer

MQ 198 mL

↓ ←Fixer powder 46 g

Mix and fill up to 250 mL

↓

Keep it at 17°C

Kodak Developer (250 ml)

Chemicals needed

- Kodak GBX Developer

Developer 54 ml

↓ ←MQ 190 ml

Mix and fill up to 250 mL

↓

Keep it at 17°C

*Dilute it every time. Color of diluted solution should be from clear to very light yellow. If the original reagent becomes brownish, do not use it and order new.

Ilford Fixer (250 ml)

Chemicals needed

- ILFORD HYPAM

Fixer 50 ml

↓ ←MQ 200 ml

Mix and keep it at 17°C

Ilford Developer (250 ml)

Chemicals needed

- ILFORD PHENISOL

Developer 50 ml

↓ ←MQ 200 ml

Mix and keep it at 17°C

*Same as Kodak, always ensure that the developer is fresh and has not turned brown.

7. MICROAUTORADIOGRAPHY –Radioactive labelled substrates–

www.microbial-oceanography.eu 2018

Suggested exposure time for various substrates according to literature

| Substrate | Conc. (nM) | Emulsion | Incubation time (h) | Temp. (°C) | Location | Reference |
|--|------------|----------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| ³ H-AA mixture (47 Ci/mmol ⁻¹) | 2.1 | NTB-2 | 48 | -20 | Delaware Bay | Cottrell and Kirchman (2000) |
| ³ H-NAG (9,9 Ci/mmol ⁻¹) | 10 | NTB-2 | 48 | -20 | | |
| ³ H-Protein [from <i>Vibrio</i> grown on ³ H-leucine] | | NTB-2 | 48 | -20 | | |
| ³ H-Chitin [from fungus grown on ³ H-NAG] | | NTB-2 | 48 | -20 | | |
| ³ H-Thymidine (83,5 Ci mmol ⁻¹) | 20 | NTB-2 | 48 | 4 | Delaware estuary | Cottrell and Kirchman (2003) |
| ³ H-Leucine (150 Ci mmol ⁻¹) | 20 | NTB-2 | 48 | 4 | | |
| ³ H-AA mixture (47 Ci mmol ⁻¹) | 0.5 | NTB-2 | 48-144 | 4 | North Atlantic Ocean | Malmstrom et al. (2004a) |
| ³⁵ S-DMSP (1,170 Ci mmol ⁻¹) | <0.1 | NTB-2 | 336-480 | 4 | | |
| ³ H-Thymidine (83,5 Ci mmol ⁻¹) | 20 | NTB-2 | 28-48 | 4 | Delaware estuary | Cottrell and Kirchman (2004) |
| ³ H-Leucine (150 Ci mmol ⁻¹) | 20 | NTB-2 | 3-7 | RT | | |
| ³⁵ S-DMSP (12-43 TBq mmol ⁻¹) | <0.1 | LM-1 | 48-144 | 4 | North Atlantic Ocean | Malmstrom et al. (2004b) |
| ³ H-Protein (0,3-0,9 Ci/gr ⁻¹) [from <i>Vibrio</i> grown on ³ H-Leucine] | 20 ng/ml | NTB-2 | 10 days | 4 | North Atlantic Ocean | Malmstrom et al. (2005a) |
| ³ H-AA mixture (47 Ci/mmol ⁻¹) | 0.5 | NTB-2 | 48-72 | 4 | | |
| ³ H-Glucose (40 Ci/mmol ⁻¹) | 0.5 | NTB-2 | 48-72 | 4 | Delaware estuary | Elifantz et al. (2005) |
| ³ H-Glucose (33 Ci/mmol ⁻¹) | 2 | NTB-2 | 12-24 | 4 | | |
| ³ H-EPS [from <i>Nitzschia</i> grown on ³ H-glucose] | 1,5 | NTB-2 | 72-144 | 4 | | |
| ³⁵ S-DMSP (12-43 TBq/mmol ⁻¹) | <0.1 | LM-1 | 48-144 | 4 | | |
| ³⁵ S-MeSH (43 TBq/mmol ⁻¹) | <0.01 | LM-1 | 48-144 | 4 | North Atlantic Ocean | Malmstrom et al. (2005b) |

The list is same as on protocol ver. 2007

NAG: N-acetylglucosamine

EPS: extracellular polymeric substances

DMSP: dimethylsulfoniopropionate

MeSH: methanethiol

8. Chemicals –Order information–

www.microbial-oceanography.eu 2018

| Product | Description | Company | Art.Nr.: | Size |
|---|--|--|----------------|-------------------------|
| Agarose | Low melting point Dnase and Rnase none detected | Sigma-Aldrich | A9414 | 5 g |
| Blocking Reagent | For nucleic acid hybridization and detection | Roche Diagnostics GmbH (Sigma-Aldrich) | 11 096 176 001 | 50 g |
| Buechner funnel | (diam.59mm) | VWR International | HALD127C/1 | |
| Citifluor | Glycerol/ PBS solution AF1 | Citifluor Ltd. (Electron microscopy science) | 17970 | 100 ml |
| DAPI | DAPI stain | Sigma-Aldrich | D9564 | 1x10 mg |
| Dextran Sulfate | | Sigma-Aldrich | D8906 | 100 g |
| EDTA | | Plusone | 17-1324-01 | |
| Formamide | for molecular biology | Sigma-Aldrich | 47671 | 250 ml |
| H₂O₂ | 30% (w/w) | Sigma-Aldrich | H1009 | 5 ml |
| Lysozyme | from chicken egg white | Sigma-Aldrich | Nr.: L7651 | 50000 units/mg, 25 g |
| maleic acid | | Sigma-Aldrich | M-0375 | 500 g |
| multiwell plates | 12-well (TC treated with lid) | Sigma-Aldrich | M 8687 | 1St. |
| N,N-Dimethylformamide (DMF) | N,N-Dimethylformamide | Sigma-Aldrich | 227056 | 100 ml |
| Nitrocellulose filter | 0.45 µm, 25 mm (diameter) | Millipore | HWAP | 100 pcs |
| Polycarbonate filter | 0.2 µm, 25 mm (diameter) | Millipore | GTTP | 100 pcs |
| Probes | DNA oligonucleotide probe 5' HRP conjugate Purification: PAGE | Biomers | | Scale: S (0.05 µmol) |
| Proteinase K | (Fluka) frim triturachium album | Sigma-Aldrich | Nr.: 82456 | 1x1ml |
| SDS | Lauryl Sulfate | Sigma-Aldrich | L-4509 | 100 g |
| Triethylamine (TEA) | Triethyl amine | Sigma-Aldrich | 17924 | |
| Tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane (Tris) | Trizma® base | Sigma-Aldrich | T1503 | 1 kg |
| Triton X100 | X-100 | Sigma-Aldrich | 9002-93-1 | 500 ml |
| Tyramide dye (green) | Alexa Fluor™ 488 NHS Ester (Succinimidyl Ester) | Thermo Fisher Scientific | A20000 | 1mg |
| Tyramide dye (orange) | Alexa Fluor™ 555 NHS Ester (Succinimidyl Ester) | Thermo Fisher Scientific | A20009 | 1 mg |
| Tyramine hydrochloride (TYR-HCl) | | Sigma-Aldrich | T2879 | 5 g |
| Vectashield | | Vector Laboratories, Inc. | H-1000 | 10 ml |
| Water | Sigma Water | Sigma-Aldrich | W4502 | 1 L |

8. Chemicals –Order information–

www.microbial-oceanography.eu 2018

Chemicals additionally needed for microautoradiography

| Product | Description | Company | Art.Nr.: | Size |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 2 slide mailer | tubes for emulsion | Raymond A Lamb Limited | Nr.:E6.2 | 125x |
| Dispensette | 0.5-10ml | | | |
| Ilford developer | Ilford Phenisol 5L Developer | Ilford (AgarScientific) | CAT1757635, AGP9106 (AgarScientific) | 5 l |
| Ilford emulsion | Nuclear Emulsion Type K5, 0.2µm crystal | AgarScientific | AGP9281 | 50 ml |
| Ilford Fixer | Ilford Hypam Fixer | AgarScientific | AGP9183 | 5 l |
| Kodak Developer | Carestream® Kodak® autoradiography GBX developer/replenisher | Carestream Kodak (Sigma-Aldrich) | P7042 | 1GA |
| Kodak emulsion | Type NTB | Carestream Kodak | 889 5666 | 118 ml |
| Kodak Fixer | Carestream® Kodak® Processing chemicals (Kodak Fixer) | Carestream Kodak (Sigma-Aldrich) | P6557 | 1GA |
| Safetylight | Dunkel kammer leuchte 230V, 50Hz | Kaiser Fototechnik | Nr.: 4018 | |
| Safetylight | lamp model B | Eastman Kodak company | 141-2212 | |
| Safetylight filter | Dunkel kammer filter (rot) 9 x12 cm | Hama | Nr.:8194 | |
| Safetylight filter | Kodak 2 darkred | Eastman Kodak company | 152-1525 | |
| staining dishes | | Sigma-Aldrich | S4642 | 2x3 |
| staining dishes | slide rack | Sigma-Aldrich | S5017 | 1x3 |
| staining dishes | rack handle | Sigma-Aldrich | S5142 | 1x3 |

- Amann, R. I., Binder, B. J., Olson, R. J., Chisholm, S. W., Devereux, R. and Stahl, D. A. (1990). Combination of 16S rRNA-targeted oligonucleotide probes with flow cytometry for analyzing mixed microbial populations. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* **56**(6): 1919-1925.
- Cottrell, M. T. and Kirchman, D. L. (2000). Natural assemblages of marine proteobacteria and members of the Cytophaga-Flavobacter cluster consuming low- and high-molecular-weight dissolved organic matter. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* **66**(4): 1692-1697.
- Cottrell, M. T. and Kirchman, D. L. (2003). Contribution of major bacterial groups to bacterial biomass production (thymidine and leucine incorporation) in the Delaware estuary. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* **48**(1): 168-178.
- Cottrell, M. T. and Kirchman, D. L. (2004). Single-cell analysis of bacterial growth, cell size, and community structure in the Delaware estuary. *Aquat. Microb. Ecol.* **34**(2): 139-149.
- Daims, H., Bruhl, A., Amann, R., Schleifer, K. H. and Wagner, M. (1999). The domain-specific probe EUB338 is insufficient for the detection of all Bacteria: Development and evaluation of a more comprehensive probe set. *Syst. Appl. Microbiol.* **22**(3): 434-444.
- Eilers, H., Pernthaler, J., Glockner, F. O. and Amann, R. (2000). Culturability and in situ abundance of pelagic bacteria from the North Sea. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* **66**(7): 3044-3051.
- Elifantz, H., Malmstrom, R. R., Cottrell, M. T. and Kirchman, D. L. (2005). Assimilation of polysaccharides and glucose by major bacterial groups in the Delaware Estuary. *Applied and environmental microbiology* **71**(12): 7799-7805.
- Fuchs, B. M., Woebken, D., Zubkov, M. V., Burkill, P. and Amann, R. (2005). Molecular identification of picoplankton populations in contrasting waters of the Arabian Sea. *Aquat. Microb. Ecol.* **39**(2): 145-157.
- Gomez-Pereira, P. R., Hartmann, M., Grob, C., Tarran, G. A., Martin, A. P., Fuchs, B. M., Scanlan, D. J. and Zubkov, M. V. (2013). Comparable light stimulation of organic nutrient uptake by SAR11 and Prochlorococcus in the North Atlantic subtropical gyre. *ISME J* **7**(3): 603-614.
- Ishii, K., Musmann, M., MacGregor, B. J. and Amann, R. (2004). An improved fluorescence in situ hybridization protocol for the identification of bacteria and archaea in marine sediments. *FEMS Microbiol. Ecol.* **50**(3): 203-212.
- Lekunberri, I., Sintès, E., de Corte, D., Yokokawa, T. and Herndl, G. J. (2013). Spatial patterns of bacterial and archaeal communities along the Romanche Fracture Zone (tropical Atlantic). *FEMS Microbiol. Ecol.* **85**(3): 537-552.
- Malmstrom, R. R., Cottrell, M. T., Elifantz, H. and Kirchman, D. L. (2005a). Biomass production and assimilation of dissolved organic matter by SAR11 bacteria in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. *Applied and environmental microbiology* **71**(6): 2979-2986.
- Malmstrom, R. R., Kiene, R. P., Cottrell, M. T. and Kirchman, D. L. (2004a). Contribution of SAR11 bacteria to dissolved dimethylsulfoniopropionate and amino acid uptake in the North Atlantic ocean. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* **70**(7): 4129-4135.
- Malmstrom, R. R., Kiene, R. P. and Kirchman, D. L. (2004b). Identification and enumeration of bacteria assimilating dimethylsulfoniopropionate (DMSP) in the North Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* **49**(2): 597-606.
- Malmstrom, R. R., Kiene, R. P., Vila, M. and Kirchman, D. L. (2005b). Dimethylsulfoniopropionate (DMSP) assimilation by *Synechococcus* in the Gulf of Mexico and northwest Atlantic Ocean. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* **50**(6): 1924-1931.
- Mary, I., Heywood, J. L., Fuchs, B. M., Amann, R., Tarran, G. A., Burkill, P. H. and Zubkov, M. V. (2006). SAR11 dominance among metabolically active low nucleic acid bacterioplankton in surface waters along an Atlantic meridional transect. *Aquat. Microb. Ecol.* **45**: 107-113.
- Massana, R., Murray, A. E., Preston, C. M. and DeLong, E. F. (1997). Vertical distribution and phylogenetic characterization of marine planktonic Archaea in the Santa Barbara Channel. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* **63**(1): 50-56.
- Morris, R. M., Rappe, M. S., Connon, S. A., Vergin, K. L., Siebold, W. A., Carlson, C. A. and Giovannoni, S. J. (2002). SAR11 clade dominates ocean surface bacterioplankton communities. *Nature* **420**(6917): 806-810.
- Morris, R. M., Rappe, M. S., Urbach, E., Connon, S. A. and Giovannoni, S. J. (2004). Prevalence of the Chloroflexi-related SAR202 bacterioplankton cluster throughout the mesopelagic zone and deep ocean. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* **70**(5): 2836-2842.
- Pernthaler, A., Pernthaler, J. and Amann, R. (2002). Fluorescence in situ hybridization and catalyzed reporter deposition for the identification of marine bacteria. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* **68**(6): 3094-3101.
- Pernthaler, J. and Amann, R. (2005). Fate of heterotrophic microbes in pelagic habitats: Focus on populations. *Microbiol. Mol. Biol. Rev.* **69**(3): 440-+.
- Schattenhofer, M., Fuchs, B. M., Amann, R., Zubkov, M. V., Tarran, G. A. and Pernthaler, J. (2009). Latitudinal distribution of prokaryotic picoplankton populations in the Atlantic Ocean. *Environ. Microbiol.* **11**(8): 2078-2093.
- Teeling, H., Fuchs, B. M., Bennke, C. M., Kruger, K., Chafee, M., Kappellmann, L., Reintjes, G., Waldmann, J., Quast, C., Glockner, F. O., Lucas, J., Wichels, A., Gerds, G., Wiltshire, K. H. and Amann, R. I. (2016). Recurring patterns in bacterioplankton dynamics during coastal spring algae blooms. *Elife* **5**: e11888.
- Teira, E., Reinthaler, T., Pernthaler, A., Pernthaler, J. and Herndl, G. J. (2004). Combining catalyzed reporter deposition-fluorescence in situ hybridization and microautoradiography to detect substrate utilization by bacteria and Archaea in the deep ocean. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* **70**(7): 4411-4414.
- Wallner, G., Amann, R. and Beisker, W. (1993). Optimizing fluorescent in situ hybridization with rRNA-targeted oligonucleotide probes for flow cytometric identification of microorganisms. *Cytometry* **14**(2): 136-143.
- Wendeberg, A. (2010). Fluorescence in situ hybridization for the identification of environmental microbes. *Cold Spring Harb Protoc* **2010**(1): pdb prot5366.
- Woebken, D., Fuchs, B. M., Kuypers, M. M. M. and Amann, R. (2007). Potential interactions of particle-associated anammox bacteria with bacterial and archaeal partners in the Namibian upwelling system. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* **73**(14): 4648-4657.