



Product Sheet

# *Entamoeba histolytica* (ATCC® PRA-373™)

Please read this FIRST

Storage Temp.  
**Frozen Cultures:**  
-70°C for 1 week;  
liquid N<sub>2</sub> vapor  
for long term  
storage



**Freeze-dried Cultures:**  
2-8°C

**Live Cultures:**  
See Protocols  
section for  
handling  
information



Biosafety Level  
2

## Intended Use

This product is intended for research use only. It is not intended for any animal or human therapeutic or diagnostic use.

## Citation of Strain

If use of this culture results in a scientific publication, it should be cited in that manuscript in the following manner: *Entamoeba histolytica* (ATCC® PRA-373™)

American Type Culture Collection  
PO Box 1549  
Manassas, VA 20108 USA  
[www.atcc.org](http://www.atcc.org)

800.638.6597 or 703.365.2700  
Fax: 703.365.2750  
Email: [Tech@atcc.org](mailto:Tech@atcc.org)

Or contact your local distributor



## Description

**Strain Designation:** 103:NIH  
**Deposited Name:** *Entamoeba histolytica* Schaudinn  
**Depositor:** LS Diamond  
**Isolation:** Human case of amebic dysentery, India, September 1941



## Notes

This xenic culture contains the original bacterial flora present when the amoeba was first isolated.



## Propagation

**Growth Conditions**  
**Temperature:** 35°C  
**Culture System:** Xenic

**Medium**  
ATCC® Medium 1171: TYGM-9 medium

## Instructions for Complete Medium

**Media:** ATCC Medium 1171 grown with mixed bacteria (Quality controlled lots of this medium are commercially available from ATCC as cat. no. PRA-1171)



## Protocols

### Storage and Culture Initiation

Frozen ampules packed in dry ice should either be thawed immediately or stored in liquid nitrogen. If liquid nitrogen storage facilities are not available, frozen ampules may be stored at or below -70°C for approximately one week. **Do not under any circumstance store frozen ampules at refrigerator freezer temperatures (generally -20°C).** Storage of frozen material at this temperature will result in the death of the culture.

1. One day before thawing a frozen ampule inoculate two tubes of ATCC medium 1171 with the bacterial flora only. Incubate the tubes on a 15° horizontal slant at 35°C. If the specific bacterial flora associated with this culture are not available, skip this step and proceed to step 2.
2. On the following day combine 4.1 mL ATCC medium 1171 with 0.9 mL of HIBS (heat-inactivated bovine serum) to produce 5 mL of medium enriched with 20% serum. Invert gently several times to mix. **Note:** If bacterized medium 1171 was prepared in step 1, use the bacterized medium in place of fresh medium for faster recovery/growth.
3. Remove the frozen ampule from liquid nitrogen and flame gently at the base of the cap. Remove the cap and aseptically add 0.5 mL of the serum-enriched medium prepared in step 2. Place in a 35°C water bath until thawed (2-3 min). **Note:** Manipulations of the ampule before placing in the water bath should be done as quickly as possible to avoid warming of the contents at a suboptimal rate.
4. Transfer contents of the thawed ampule to a one-dram screw-capped vial (vial holds approximately 4.0 mL).
5. Add 2.5 mL of serum-enriched medium prepared in step 2 to the vial in dropwise fashion. Tighten the cap and incubate on a 15° horizontal slant at 35°C for 2-3 hours.
6. Ice the vial for 10 minutes, then invert gently 10 times. Centrifuge the vial at 100-200 x g for 5 min.
7. Aspirate the supernatant leaving approximately 0.5 mL. **Note:** Do not aspirate the pelleted material.
8. Replace the supernatant with 3.0 mL of the bacterized medium 1171 prepared in step 1 if available; otherwise use fresh medium 1171 (i.e., not serum-enriched).
9. Incubate the vial on a 15° horizontal slant at 35°C with the cap screwed on tightly. Observe the culture daily and transfer when many trophozoites are observed (i.e., early stationary phase).

**Notes:** In general, addition of penicillin G at 75 U/mL and streptomycin at 75 µg/mL to ATCC Medium 1171 may be necessary if the bacterial density in the culture is too high. Inoculate fresh tubes of media with bacteria at least one day prior to subcultivation and prior to addition of antibiotics, if used.

### Culture Maintenance

1. Ice a test tube culture at or near peak density for 10 minutes, invert 20 times and aseptically transfer a 0.1 and 0.3 mL aliquot to a fresh tube of ATCC medium 1171. **Note:** Growth is often better if the growth medium is inoculated with bacteria at least 24 hrs before inoculating with amoebae. Also, better growth can often be achieved by controlling bacterial density with addition of antibiotics to the culture.



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2. Screw cap on tightly and incubate on a 15° horizontal slant at 35°C.



### Cryopreservation

#### Reagents

##### CPMB-5 Cryoprotective Solution

DMSO	1.0 mL
2.5 M Sucrose	0.8 mL
L-Cysteine/Ascorbic Acid Solution	0.2 mL
CPMB-2 Basal Solution	6.0 mL
HIBS	2.0 mL

##### CPMB-2 Basal Solution

Yeast Extract	60.0 g
K <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub>	1.0 g
KH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	0.6 g
NaCl	2.0 g
Distilled water	1.0 L

Autoclave for 15 minutes.

##### L-Cysteine/Ascorbic Acid Solution

L-Cysteine-HCL	1.0 g
Ascorbic Acid	0.1 g
Distilled water	10.0 mL

Add 9.0 mL of distilled water to a 20 mL beaker and dissolve the first two components. While stirring, adjust the pH to 7.2 with 10N NaOH (approximately 0.7 mL). Adjust final volume to 10 mL with distilled water and filter sterilize. Solution should be used soon after preparation. Discard any unused solution.

#### Harvest and Preservation

1. Harvest cells from several cultures which are in the late logarithmic to early stationary phase of growth. Place culture vessels on ice for 10 min.
2. Invert tubes 20 times and centrifuge at 200 x g for 5 min.
3. While cells are centrifuging, prepare the cryoprotective solution.
  1. Place the DMSO in a 16 x 125 mm screw-capped tube and ice until solidified.
  2. Add 0.8 mL of the 2.5 M Sucrose solution, remove from ice and invert until the DMSO is liquefied. Return to ice bath.
  3. Add 0.2 mL of the L-Cysteine/Ascorbic Acid solution to the DMSO solution and mix.
  4. Add 6.0 mL of the CPMB #2 Basal solution and mix.
  5. Add 2.0 mL heat-inactivated bovine serum and mix.
4. Resuspend the cell pellets and pool to a final volume of approximately 10 mL with the supernatant. Make a determination of the cell density and adjust the concentration of the cells between 5 x 10<sup>5</sup>/mL - 1 x 10<sup>6</sup>/mL using fresh medium. If the cell concentration is below 5 x 10<sup>6</sup>/mL, centrifuge the cell suspension and resuspend the pellet in a volume that will yield the desired concentration.
5. After the cell concentration is adjusted, centrifuge as in step 2.
6. Remove as much supernatant as possible and determine the volume removed.
7. Resuspend the cell pellet with a volume of the cryoprotective solution equal to the volume of the supernatant removed. Invert the tube several times to obtain a uniform cell density.
8. Dispense 0.5 mL aliquots into 1.0 - 2.0 mL plastic sterile cryovials (special plastic vials for cryopreservation).
9. Place vials in a controlled rate freezing unit. From room temperature cool at -1°C/min to -40°C. If freezing unit can compensate for the heat of fusion, maintain rate at -1°C/min through heat of fusion. At -40°C plunge ampules into liquid nitrogen.
10. Store ampules in a liquid nitrogen refrigerator until needed.
11. One day before thawing a frozen ampule inoculate two tubes of ATCC medium 1171 with the bacterial flora only. Incubate the tube on a 15° horizontal slant at 35°C.
12. On the following day combine 4.1 mL of the bacterized medium 1171 prepared in step 11 with 0.9 mL of HIBS (heat-inactivated bovine serum) to produce 5 mL of medium enriched with 20% serum. Invert gently several times to mix.
13. Remove the frozen ampule from liquid nitrogen and flame gently at the base of the cap. Remove the cap and aseptically add 0.5 mL of the serum-enriched medium prepared in step 12. Place in a 35°C water bath until thawed (2-3 min). **Note:** Manipulations of the ampule before placing in the water bath should be done as quickly as possible to avoid warming of the contents at a suboptimal rate.
14. Transfer contents of the thawed ampule to a one-dram screw-capped vial (vial holds approximately 4.0 mL).



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15. Add 2.5 mL of serum-enriched medium prepared in step 12 to the vial in dropwise fashion. Tighten the cap and incubate on a 15° horizontal slant at 35°C for 2-3 hours.
16. Ice the vial for 10 minutes, then invert gently 10 times. Centrifuge the vial at 100-200 x g for 5 min.
17. Aspirate the supernatant leaving approximately 0.5 mL. **Note:** Do not aspirate the pelleted material.
18. Replace the supernatant with 3.0 mL of the bacterized medium 1171 prepared in step 11.
19. Incubate the vial on a 15° horizontal slant at 35°C with the cap screwed on tightly. Observe the culture daily and transfer when many trophozoites are observed (i.e., early stationary phase).



### References

References and other information relating to this product are available online at [www.atcc.org](http://www.atcc.org).



### Biosafety Level: 2

Appropriate safety procedures should always be used with this material. Laboratory safety is discussed in the current publication of the *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes for Health.

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Additional information on this culture is available on the ATCC web site at [www.atcc.org](http://www.atcc.org).

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