Compound treatment assay for C. elegans

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Detailed protocol:

- 1. *C. elegans* synchronization.
 - a) Harvest gravid worms (adults full of eggs) with M9 buffer and transfer them into a 15 mL conical tube.
 - b) Wash worms with M9 buffer and spin the tubes in a table-top centrifuge for 30 seconds at 2,000 rpm to pellet the worms.
 - c) Add 1 mL of bleaching solution to the worm pellet and immediately shake vigorously for 5 mins to ensure the worms will be sufficiently dissolved.
 - d) At the end of the bleach buffer incubation, immediately add 10 mL of M9 buffer to stop the bleaching. Spin the tubes at 2,500 rpm for 1 minute.
 - e) Discard the supernatant, leaving behind the pellet of the eggs.
 - f) Wash eggs by adding 10 mL of M9 buffer and resuspend the egg pellet. Spin and discard the supernatant.
 - g) Repeat the wash step three times.
 - h) Resuspend the egg pellet in 0.5 mL M9 buffer.
 - i) Pipet the egg pellet onto NGM plates seeded with *Escherichia coli* OP50 or HT115 RNAi bacteria and grow them at 20 □ for one day.
 - j) Collect synchronized L2 worms (~24 hrs after hatching) with M9 buffer and transfer worms to a 15 mL conical tube.
 - k) Spin the tubes at 2,000 rpm for 30 seconds to pellet the worms. Repeat the wash step twice and discard the supernatant.
- 2. Prepare bacteria for worm liquid culture.
 - a) Grow a starter culture of OP50/HT115 in a 15 mL tube with 3 mL LB medium at 37 □ for 8 hrs on the day of worm synchronization.
 - b) Transfer 1 mL starter culture into a 2 L conical flask with 1 L LB medium. Shake at 37□ overnight (10-16 hrs).
 - c) Transfer the culture into two 500 mL centrifuge bottles and spin the cultures in a Beckman high-speed centrifuge at 4000 rpm for 10 mins.
 - d) Discard the supernatant and resuspend all the bacteria with 20 mL S-medium (stored at $4\square$).
- 3. Transfer 5mL S-medium/bacteria mixture obtained from step 2 into a 50 mL tube.
- 4. Add the tested compound into the 5 mL S-medium/ bacteria mixture, and mix well.
- 5. Transfer the L2-stage synchronized worms (~500 worms) obtained from **step 1** into the 5 mL S-medium/bacteria mixture containing the tested compound from **step 4**.
- 6. Incubate the cultures on an orbital shaker at 200 rpm at 20 °C for two days.
- 7. Continuously monitor until worms grow to the desired stage for testing.
- 8. Harvest and wash worms with M9 buffer before analyses.

Recipes:

- 1. **Bleaching solution** [6.25 mL 6% Sodium Hypochlorite, 3.25 mL 5M KOH, 15.5 mL sterile Milli Q H₂O.]
- 2. **M9 Buffer** [3 g KH₂PO₄, 6 g Na₂HPO₄, 5 g NaCl, 1 mL 1 M MgSO₄, H₂O to 1 liter. Sterilize by autoclaving.]
- 3. Nematode Growth Medium (NGM) plates
 - a) Add the following to a 2 L conical flask:
 - 3 g NaCl
 - 2.5 g Bacto Peptone
 - 17 g Bacto Agar

Double distilled water to 1 liter.

- b) Stir bar
- c) Autoclave for 20 min at 121 $^{\circ}$ C
- d) Wait until cooled at around 55 °C
- e) Add the following
 - 1 mL of 1 M CaCl₂ sterile
 - 1 mL of 1 M MgSO₄ sterile
 - 25 mL of 1 M KH₂PO₄ pH 6.0 sterile

1 mL of 5 mg/mL cholesterol (prepared in 95% ethanol, and stored at 4 °C)

- f) Pour onto 60 mm sterile plates.
- g) Let dry for one night
- h) Seed with appropriate bacteria.
- 4. **LB medium** [10 g Bacto-Tryptone, 5 g Yeast extract, 10 g NaCl, H₂O to 1 liter. Sterilize by autoclaving.]
- 5. **S-Medium** [1 liter S Basal, 10 mL 1 M potassium citrate pH 6, 10 mL trace metals solution, 3 mL 1 M CaCl₂, 3 mL 1 M MgSO₄. Add components using sterile technique; do not autoclave.]
 - a) S Basal [5.85 g NaCl, 1 g K₂HPO₄, 6 g KH₂PO₄, 1 mL cholesterol (5 mg/mL in ethanol), H₂O to 1 liter. Sterilize by autoclaving.]
 - b) 1 M Potassium citrate pH 6.0 [20 g citric acid monohydrate, 293.5 g tripotassium citrate monohydrate, H₂O to 1 liter. Sterilize by autoclaving.]
 - c) Trace metals solution [1.86 g disodium EDTA, 0.69 g FeSO₄ •7 H₂O, 0.2 g MnCl₂•4 H₂O, 0.29 g ZnSO₄ •7 H₂O, 0.025 g CuSO₄ •5 H₂O, H₂O to 1 liter. Sterilize by autoclaving. Store in the dark.]
 - d) 1 M CaCl₂ [55.5 g CaCl₂ in 1-liter H₂O. Sterilize by autoclaving.]

Tested compound:

Reagent	Concentration	Source	Identifier
Sodium acetate	10 mM	Sigma	Cat#791741
Sodium pyruvate	10 mM	Sigma	Cat#V900232
D-glucose	10 mM	Sigma	Cat#G7021
Sodium butyrate	50 mM	MCE	Cat#HY-B0350A

This protocol is documented by Di Zhu. 2020/10/29