

Medina Lab
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Coral sample prep for molecular work – Coral Tissue Blasting Protocol

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Samples should be at room temperature for this either freshly collected or thawed on ice.

Materials needed:

1. SCUBA tank filled with air, 1
2. Air gun, 1
3. 1 ml pipette tips (1 per sample)
4. 1 dive octopus
5. Plastic bags to collect the coral homogenate slush (1 per sample). We use Whirlpack brand.
6. Tubes to collect your sample (labeled).
7. Scoop
8. Forceps
9. Ethanol
10. RNase away
11. Kimwipes

Directions:

1. Clean the work area, scoops, and forceps with ethanol and RNase Away.
2. Connect the airgun to the SCUBA tank using the octopus.
3. Fit a 1mL pipette tip onto the air gun.
4. Place the sample inside the bag and hold the fragment with one hand.
5. Use your other hand to blast air at the fragment separating the coral tissue from the skeleton. Do your best at getting all the coral tissue off the skeleton (rotate the sample as you blast it).
6. Transfer the coral slush into the collection tube. Use a scoop if needed.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 for all samples. Clean materials and put them away.