

1    **Optimized DNA isolation method for microbiome analysis of human tissues**  
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26

27

28 **Abstract**

29 Recent advances in microbiome sequencing have rendered new insights into the role of the  
30 microbiome in human health with potential clinical implications. Unfortunately, developments in the  
31 field of tissue microbiomes have been hampered by the presence of host DNA in isolates which  
32 interferes with the analysis of the bacterial content. Here, we present a DNA isolation protocol from  
33 tissue samples including reduction of host DNA without distortion of microbial abundance profiles. We  
34 evaluated which concentrations of Triton and saponin lyse host cells and leave bacterial cells intact,  
35 which was combined with DNase treatment to deplete released host DNA. We applied our protocol to  
36 extract microbial DNA from *ex vivo* and *in vivo* acquired human colon biopsies (~2-5 mm in size) and  
37 assessed the relative abundance of bacterial and human DNA by qPCR. Saponin at a concentration of  
38 0.0125% in PBS lysed host cells, resulting in a 4.5-fold enrichment of bacterial DNA while preserving  
39 the relative abundance of *Firmicutes*, *Bacteroidetes*,  $\gamma$ -*Proteobacteria* and *Actinobacteria*. Our  
40 protocol combined with shotgun metagenomic sequencing revealed a colon tissue microbiome profile  
41 with a Shannon diversity index of 3.2 and an UniFrac distance of 0.54, which is comparable to reported  
42 numbers based on amplicon sequencing. Hereby, we present the first protocol for enriching bacterial  
43 DNA from tissue biopsies that allows efficient isolation of rigid Gram-positive bacteria without  
44 depleting the more sensitive Gram-negative bacteria. Our protocol facilitates analysis of a wide  
45 spectrum of bacteria of clinical tissue samples improving their applicability for microbiome research.

46

47

48 **Introduction**

49 The rapidly growing field of microbiome research is steadily revealing a role of the microbiome in  
50 human health and diseases. Functions of the gut microbiome are diverse and essential for many  
51 biological processes involved in metabolism, tissue homeostasis and immunity (1). Changes in  
52 microbiome composition have been associated with a wide variety of diseases, ranging from intestinal  
53 inflammatory diseases to colorectal cancer to diseases outside the gastrointestinal tract (1). Such  
54 compositional changes are well-studied by microbiome profiling through sequencing of DNA isolates.  
55 While a vast amount of research has been performed on stool, recent technologies have facilitated  
56 bacterial profiling on colon tissues, which allows more localized analysis (2) and may be more accurate  
57 in differentiating between healthy and diseased states (3). Importantly, DNA isolation methods have a  
58 major impact on the evaluation of microbiota composition (3-11). Hence, a well-developed and  
59 standardized protocol for stool and tissues will contribute to consensus in microbiome research.  
60

61 The study of microbiome composition of solid tissue samples however, does not come without  
62 challenges. Whole tissue isolates contain large bulks of host DNA, overshadowing the presence of  
63 single-cell organisms and viruses. While polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is a valuable technique to  
64 identify minority sequences, the field of microbiome research is slowly moving towards shotgun  
65 metagenomic sequencing as a preferred method. Shotgun metagenomic sequencing allows analysis of  
66 all sequences in the DNA isolate, resulting in an increased species detection with higher accuracy (12).  
67 Another major advantage of this technique is the ability to discriminate between microbial species and  
68 analyze its gene content including potential virulence factors (12). This may be crucial to discriminate  
69 between a pathogen and a commensal bacterium at species level (13). Unfortunately, the application  
70 of shotgun metagenomic sequencing to study the microbiome of human tissue is complicated due to  
71 the large amount of human DNA: large amounts of input DNA are required to reach enough depth for  
72 sequence analysis of the microbial DNA fraction. Reduction of human DNA in tissue isolates is required  
73 to increase sensitivity of shotgun metagenomic sequencing microbiome analysis of tissue.  
74

75 Various methods have been developed to improve the bacterial to human DNA ratio. These methods  
76 include filtering out human cells by cell size (14), antibody-mediated filtration of human DNA by  
77 targeting non-methylated CpG dinucleotide motifs (14, 15) and human-specific cell lysis followed by  
78 DNA degradation (7, 11, 14, 15), of which the latter results in most efficient bacterial DNA enrichment  
79 (11, 14). Hence, bacterial DNA enrichment contributes to the identification of minority species and to  
80 a higher resolution of the microbial genomes present in the sample, rendering improved bacterial  
81 classification and analysis of genes of interest.  
82

83 One of the caveats of bacterial DNA enrichment is that the method of DNA isolation affects the  
84 microbiome profile (7, 9, 11, 14-17). Bacteria differ in their susceptibility to lysis, resulting in the  
85 tendency of some bacteria to lyse too early during the isolation method (15, 16), while other bacteria  
86 may require extra steps to release their DNA, e.g. by mechanical lysis through bead-beating (10, 18).  
87 Addition of mechanical lysis has improved isolation of Gram-positive bacteria (4, 9, 16), without  
88 impairing the isolation of Gram-negative bacteria (19). Additionally, enzymatic lysis with mutanolysin  
89 may help to identify more Gram-positive bacteria (4, 20). The ultimate goal is to increase the bacterial  
90 to human DNA ratio and have a DNA isolate that closely reflects the bacterial composition of the  
91 sample.

92 The immense improvement by shotgun metagenomic sequencing in the field of the microbiome has  
93 been based on clinical stool samples; not tissue. Thereby, the study of the bacteria that reside in closest  
94 proximity to the host are left outside consideration, along with crucial information about their  
95 localization in the gut (e.g. colonic segment or localization to tumors). Current protocols can be  
96 optimized for analysis of the tissue microbiome, for which we present our improved method in this  
97 paper. Our method combines important elements of the currently best performing methods for DNA  
98 isolation so far: bacterial DNA enrichment, mutanolysin treatment, heat-shock and bead-beating. Our  
99 protocol is designed for an unbiased isolation of diverse microbes rendering efficient lysis of Gram-  
100 positive bacteria, while maintaining efficient isolation of Gram-negative bacteria. The inclusion of our  
101 fine-tuned microbial DNA enrichment strategy enriches the bacterial content and results in a  
102 reproducible analysis of microbial profiles of biopsies ranging from ~2-5 mm. Thus, this method will  
103 contribute to reproducible research in the field of microbiome composition and functionality and will  
104 be of value not only for gut-related tissue microbe analysis, but also for those tissues where microbes  
105 are underrepresented (e.g. fish gills).

106

107 **Methods**

108

109 *Collection of human colon biopsies*

110 *Ex vivo* residual resected colon material was obtained at the department of pathology of the  
111 Radboudumc in Nijmegen between 2017 and 2018, in accordance with Dutch legislation. No approval  
112 from a research ethics committee was required for the study of residual colon resections, because  
113 anonymous use of redundant tissue for research purposes is part of the standard treatment agreement  
114 with patients in the Radboudumc, to which patients may opt out. None of the included patients  
115 submitted an objection against use of residual materials and all material was processed anonymously.  
116 Biopsies were resected with a scalpel, resulting in biopsies up to an estimated size of 5 mm.  
117 Alternatively, a biopsy forceps was used to make biopsies of about 2 mm that were used as a proxy for  
118 biopsies taken during colonoscopy. After collection, biopsies were snap-frozen in cryo-tubes in liquid  
119 nitrogen and stored at -80°C.

120

121 *In vivo* collected forceps biopsies for shotgun metagenomic sequencing were obtained from patients  
122 that came for a screening colonoscopy and participated in either of the two studies: the BBC study  
123 (NL57875.091.16), which were solely genetically confirmed Lynch syndrome patients, the BaCo study  
124 (NL55930.091.16) which included ulcerative colitis patients and patients without known colon  
125 diseases. Samples were collected between 2017 and 2018 in Radboudumc Nijmegen. Both studies  
126 were approved by the Internal Revenue Board CMO-Arnhem Nijmegen (CMO 2016-2616 and CMO  
127 2016-2818) and the board of the Radboudumc. Patients whom had taken antibiotics within the last 3  
128 months prior to the colonoscopy were excluded. All patients were older than 18 years and signed an  
129 informed consent. Biopsies were snap-frozen in cryo-tubes in liquid nitrogen instantly after collection  
130 and stored at -80°C.

131

132 *Bacterial DNA isolation protocol*

133 The bacterial DNA isolation strategy involved bacterial DNA enrichment through human cell lysis and  
134 DNase treatment (see figure 1, upper part), which was followed up by our previously optimized bead-  
135 beating protocol (see figure 1, lower part) (21). Whereas the bead-beating protocol remained  
136 unchanged throughout this paper, two alternative strategies were tested for the bacterial DNA  
137 enrichment. For the first strategy, the Molzym DNA isolation (Ultra-Deep Microbiome prep, Molzym)  
138 kit was used. The manufacturer's protocol was followed until and including the moldNAse inactivation  
139 step. Subsequently, the bead-beating protocol was applied to assist in mechanical bacterial cell lysis,  
140 because this was shown to result in a higher bacterial signal in qPCR (supplementary figure 1). For the  
141 second strategy, we established our own alternative protocol including proteinase K (19133, Qiagen)

142 for tissue digestion, Phosphate buffered saline (PBS) (Braun, 220/12257974/1110) containing saponin  
143 (47036-50G, Sigma-Aldrich) or Triton for selective lysis, and TurboDNase (AM2239, Qiagen) for host  
144 DNA removal. We evaluated the effect of Triton or saponin at different concentrations for human cells  
145 and experimented what was the best moment to include the biopsy wash (point A or B) in the DNA-  
146 isolation process (Figure 1).

147 The lysis of bacterial cells included treatment with 0.5 KU/mL mutanolysin (SAE0092, Sigma Aldrich),  
148 heat-shock and buffer C1 of the DNAeasy powerlyzer Powersoil kit from Qiagen (previously known as  
149 the MoBio Powerlyzer PowerSoil DNA isolation kit from MoBio). Bead-beating was performed in the  
150 Magnalyser (Roche) at 6400 rpm for 20 seconds twice, with 30 seconds on ice in between. After  
151 bacterial lysis the manual of the DNA-isolation kit was followed. The final protocol is provided in  
152 supplementary file 1. Our final bacterial enrichment protocol (figure 1, upper part and supplementary  
153 file 1) was also tested by an independent laboratory (Institute for Water and Wetland Research,  
154 Radboud University) for isolation of bacteria from zebrafish gills, but in combination with CTAB  
155 extraction instead of the MoBio DNA isolation kit (supplementary file 2).

156

#### 157 *Bacterial culturing*

158 *Collinsella intestinalis* (DSM13280), *Bacteroides vulgatus* (3775 SL(B)10), *Escherichia coli* (NTB5) and  
159 *Streptococcus gallolyticus* subsp. *gallolyticus* (UCN34) were cultured on Brain-Heart-Infusion agar  
160 plates supplemented with yeast extract L-cysteine Vitamin K, and Hemin (BHI-S; ATCC medium 1293).  
161 *C. intestinalis* and *B. vulgatus* were grown on plates for 48 hours under anaerobic conditions before  
162 transfer to liquid medium for 48-72 hours at 37°C. *E. coli* and *S. gallolyticus* were grown overnight on  
163 plated under aerobic conditions before transfer to liquid culturing in BHI for 24 hours at 37°C. Bacteria  
164 were pelleted by centrifugation at 4600 rpm for 10 minutes and frozen at -20°C. Bacterial pellets were  
165 thawed and dissolved in PBS until 1 optical density (OD at 620 nm) of which 50 µL was used for  
166 experiments to determine bacterial DNA release by Triton and saponin treatment.

167 To create a mock community, 1 OD bacterial PBS suspensions were mixed in 400 µL (40% *B. vulgatus*,  
168 30% *E. coli*, 20%, *S. gallolyticus* and 10% *C. intestinalis*) and were pelleted for each experimental  
169 condition.

170

#### 171 *Bacterial DNA release by treatment with Triton and saponin*

172 Bacteria were dissolved in PBS with final concentrations of Triton or saponin of 0.1%, 0.025%, 0.0125%  
173 and 0.006%. Bacteria were incubated for 30 minutes at 37°C with a soap or PBS only. Samples were  
174 centrifuged at 10000 x g for 10 minutes and the DNA concentration was measured with Qubit  
175 Fluorometer 2.0 (Thermofisher scientific) using the Qubit dsDNA HS assay kit (Q32856, Thermofisher).

176 A Mann-Whitney U-test was used to compare the DNA in the supernatants of samples exposed to a  
177 soap versus PBS.

178

179 *Effects of Saponin 0.0125% on human tissue lysis*

180 To test whether saponin 0.0125% was able to induce human cell lysis, resected human colon biopsies  
181 of an estimated size of 5 mm were processed according to our optimized protocol up to the step of  
182 selective cell lysis using saponin (see figure 1 and supplementary file 1). During this last step, cell pellets  
183 were incubated with either 0.0125% saponin or PBS in turboDNase buffer, but without turboDNase  
184 enzyme. Samples were incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes to lyse the cells and the supernatant was  
185 cleared from cell debris by two centrifugation cycles of 10 minutes at 10000 x g at 4°C. DNA in the  
186 supernatant was precipitated with 100% ethanol and centrifuged at 10000 x g at 4°C for 20 minutes.  
187 Precipitated DNA was washed with 70% ethanol and centrifuged at 10000 x g at 4°C for 20 minutes.  
188 Lastly, DNA was air dried and resuspended dH<sub>2</sub>O.

189

190 *Quantitative Real-time PCRs for 16s rRNA*

191 Each reaction for qPCR consisted of 0.4 µM forward primer, 0.4 µM reverse primer, 1X Power SYBR  
192 Green (A4368702, Applied biosystems). The amount of DNA in each reaction was 1 ng and 0.1 ng for  
193 biopsies that were ~5 mm and ~2 mm, respectively. Primers for host (human or zebrafish) and bacteria  
194 (all bacteria, *Firmicutes*, *Bacteroidetes*,  $\gamma$ -*Proteobacteria* and *Actinobacteria*) were used and evaluated  
195 before (21-23) and are reported in our Supplementary table 1 (22-27). qPCRs were performed with a  
196 7500 Fast Real-Time PCR system (Applied Biosystems®). Samples were heated to 50°C for 2 minutes,  
197 95°C for 10 minutes, 30 cycles of 95°C for 15 seconds and 60°C for 1 minute, followed by a continuous  
198 sequence of 95°C for 15 seconds, 60°C for 1 minute, 95°C for 30 seconds and 60°C for 15 seconds.  
199 Melting curves were generated to evaluate the specificity of the PCR-product.

200 DNA isolated from the mock community (described above) was used as a positive control. Only for  
201 supplementary figure 1, a human fecal isolate was used as a positive control. DNA isolated from human  
202 blood served as a negative control.

203

204 *Statistical analysis of qPCRs*

205 To evaluate differences in bacterial content between samples, the universal 16S rRNA signal of the  
206 sample was calibrated using the universal 16S rRNA signal of the positive control ( $\Delta Ct$ ); a mock  
207 community isolate that resembles the gut microbiome. Fold difference was calculated by  $2^{\Delta Ct}$ . To  
208 study bacterial composition, the 16S rRNA signal of *Firmicutes*, *Bacteroidetes*, *Actinobacteria* or  $\gamma$ -  
209 *Proteobacteria* was calibrated with the 16S rRNA signal of the Universal signal of the same sample  
210 ( $\Delta Ct$ ). Subsequently, the  $\Delta Ct$  was compared to the  $\Delta Ct$  in a control sample ( $\Delta\Delta Ct$ ). Fold difference was

211 calculated by  $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ . Paired samples were analysed with a paired-T test. In case of unmatched samples,  
212 the Mann-Whitney U-test was used for comparison.  
213 A Friedman test was used to evaluate which soap resulted in the most similar bacterial composition to  
214 PBS. All statistical tests were performed using Graphpad Prism version 5.0.

215

216 *Shotgun metagenomic sequencing of human colon biopsies*

217 DNA was isolated using the DNeasy Powerlyzer Powersoil kit (Qiagen), as described in supplementary  
218 file 1. DNA concentration was measured as described previously 521 human colon tissue DNA isolates  
219 were sent to Novogene Bioinformatics Technology Co., Ltd in Hongkong for sequencing. Samples were  
220 processed using low input NEBnext library preparation and paired-end sequencing was performed on  
221 the Illumina Novaseq 6000 with 350 bp insert size and a read length of 150 bp. 1.2 GB output data in  
222 FastQ format was guaranteed per sample. Samples were measured for DNA concentration, construct  
223 length and a quality check was performed on the library preparation. 13 samples were not sequenced  
224 due to failed library preparation.

225

226 *Bioinformatics analysis*

227 Quality control, trimming, and removal of adaptors was performed using FastQC version 0.11.9 and  
228 trimmomatic version 0.35. An assembly dataset was generated by filtering out the human reads using  
229 BBMap version 38.84 with the GRCh38 version of the human genome. Filtered reads were assembled  
230 with metaSPAdes version 3.13.1. The taxonomic classification of contigs was determined with CAT v.  
231 4.6 (PMID:31640809) using the NCBI NR as database for taxonomic assignments. bwa version 0.7.17  
232 and samtools version 1.9 were used to map all the reads to the classified contigs and the human  
233 genome and to estimate the coverage statistics. Only samples with more than 2.0e04 bacterial reads  
234 were used, resulting in 225 metagenomes derived from human colon biopsies with an average of 11  
235 million reads per sample. Shannon diversity (alpha) and the UniFrac diversity (beta)(28) were  
236 estimated from the taxonomic distribution of reads at the genus level. Diversity indices and phylum-  
237 level classifications were compared to values obtained from literature (29-32)

238

239

240 **Results**

241

242 *Whole tissue digestion including PBS wash is required to capture the collective tissue microbiome*

243 It is hypothesized that a major bulk of human DNA in the microbial DNA isolate could be avoided by  
244 only isolating DNA from washed tissue (biopsy wash). To test this, the biopsy and biopsy wash were  
245 isolated separately with the Ultra-Deep Microbiome prep-kit (Molzym) in combination with our bead-  
246 beating protocol. While biopsies were isolated with the full protocol including tissue digestion,  
247 selective lysis and removal of human DNA using strategy 1 (see methods), these steps were omitted  
248 for the biopsy wash (path A in Figure 1). Similar universal bacterial 16S rRNA signals were obtained  
249 from DNA isolates of the biopsy wash and biopsies (Figure 2). This suggests that isolating DNA from  
250 the biopsy wash would only represent a selective part of the microbial community and hence isolation  
251 of the whole biopsy including the biopsy wash is necessary to capture the collective tissue microbiome.

252

253 *DNA-isolation using strategy 1 changes microbial composition*

254 Interestingly, the biopsy wash appeared to have relatively more Gram-positive and fewer Gram-  
255 negative bacteria compared to the microbiota remaining in the matched biopsy. This difference was  
256 significant for *Bacteroidetes* ( $p=0.02$ ) and *Actinobacteria* ( $p=0.02$ ) (figure 2). Theoretically, this  
257 discrepancy could be caused by isolation of different bacterial populations: e.g. bacteria in the outer  
258 mucus layer (biopsy wash) and inner mucus layer or within the tissue (biopsy) of which the latter may  
259 remain attached to the biopsy after vortexing in PBS. Alternatively, we hypothesized that one of the  
260 buffers in the Ultra-deep microbiome prepkit could cause premature lysis of especially Gram-negative  
261 bacteria to which the biopsy washes were not exposed. Therefore, we tested the effect of strategy 1  
262 on bacterial composition by applying DNA isolation on a pure bacterial culture; a mock community.  
263 We compared the full protocol (similarly to the biopsy) or a part of the protocol (similarly to the biopsy  
264 wash, Path A in Figure 1). We found that the full strategy 1 protocol, which includes selective cell lysis  
265 and DNase treatment, resulted on average in a 15-fold lower signal of  $\gamma$ -Proteobacteria ( $p=0.03$ ) and  
266 a 27-fold lower signal of *Bacteroidetes* ( $p=0.03$ ) as opposed to the incomplete protocol (see  
267 supplementary figure 2). This suggests that strategy 1 disfavors isolation of Gram-negative bacteria  
268 versus Gram-positive bacteria.

269

270 *The microbial community composition is preserved with 0.0125% saponin while selectively lysing*  
271 *human cells*

272 Because strategy 1 changed microbial composition, strategy 2 was established using similar, but  
273 tweakable steps, including tissue digestion with proteinase K, selective human cell lysis with soaps and  
274 DNase treatment to remove host cell DNA after lysis. First, we tested which soap would effectively lyse

275 human cells without affecting the composition of the microbiome. Hence, we tested whether  
276 treatment with different concentrations of Triton and saponin would result in bacterial DNA release  
277 (eDNA).

278 First, pure bacterial cultures of *Streptococcus gallolyticus* (*Firmicutes*), *Bacteroides vulgatus*  
279 (*Bacteroidetes*), *Escherichia coli* ( $\gamma$ -*Proteobacteria*) and *Collinsella intestinalis* (*Actinobacteria*) (figure  
280 3a) were exposed to Triton and saponin. While *C. intestinalis* was resistant to lysis under all conditions,  
281 *B. vulgatus* and *S. gallolyticus* were susceptible to lysis in the presence of Triton, with higher  
282 concentrations leading to more eDNA. Triton did not affect the amount of eDNA of *E. coli* and *C.*  
283 *intestinalis*. Saponin was shown to be a milder soap, as it only increased eDNA of *E. coli* at a  
284 concentration of 0.1%.

285 Secondly, it was tested whether Triton and saponin would change the bacterial composition of tissue  
286 from 2 patients (patient 1 and patient 2). DNA was isolated using the protocol including either saponin  
287 (0.0125% or 0.025%) or Triton (0.025% or 0.006%) and the relative abundance of *Firmicutes*,  
288 *Bacteroidetes*, *Actinobacteria* and  $\gamma$ -*Proteobacteria* was compared to isolations performed without  
289 soap (PBS). For each phylum, the soap creating the lowest distance to PBS was ranked 1, followed by  
290 rank 2, 3, and 4 (supplementary figure 3). Saponin 0.0125% led to the smallest difference in abundance  
291 with PBS across all bacterial phyla (supplementary figure 3, figure 3b). Triton 0.006% and Triton 0.025%  
292 ranked significantly higher ( $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.001$  respectively) (figure 3b). Additionally, the *Firmicutes*  
293 to *Bacteroidetes* ratio was only maintained in the saponin 0.0125% condition (supplementary figure  
294 4). Thus, saponin 0.0125% preserved relative bacterial composition within the samples.

295 Thirdly, we tested whether saponin 0.0125% would mediate human cell lysis by exposing 2 sets of 3  
296 tissue homogenates (size: ~5 mm) to either PBS or saponin 0.0125%. The tissue supernatant treated  
297 with saponin contained more than twice the amount of eDNA compared to tissue in PBS only ( $p = 0.05$ )  
298 (figure 3c). This shows that exposure of tissue to saponin 0.0125% induces selective lysis of host cells,  
299 while keeping bacterial cells intact and maintaining bacterial composition.

300

301 *Strategy 2 increases the bacterial to human signal*

302 After specific eDNA release of human tissue, DNase treatment should be performed to degrade the  
303 released human DNA. Degradation of eDNA significantly reduced free DNA in the supernatant (figure  
304 4b). The significant lower DNA yield after DNase treatment was associated with an increased bacterial  
305 signal in qPCR ( $p = 0.004$ ) (figure 4a), which is indicative of a greater bacterial to human DNA fraction in  
306 the tissue DNA isolate.

307 Next, we validated our protocol on biopsies from resected colons, which were taken using a forceps to  
308 represent clinical biopsies taken during colonoscopy (size: ~2 mm). 20 biopsies of 2 different patients

309 were taken; patient 1 and 2. Each biopsy was matched with a biopsy that was isolated under similar  
310 conditions, but without DNase treatment. DNase treatment reduced the human signal in qPCR to 0.53  
311 (CI:0.42-0.65), but increased the bacterial signal 6.8-fold (CI: 2.2-10.52) (figure 3d). Triton 0.006% and  
312 saponin 0.0125% gave an enrichment of greater than 4 in both patients (figure 3c). Interestingly, also  
313 in absence of soap (PBS control) DNase treatment resulted in bacterial signal enrichment. This could  
314 be explained by the presence of human eDNA due to human cell lysis that may occur during repetitive  
315 heating and centrifugation. Ultimately, the bacterial enrichment protocol of strategy 2 was applied in  
316 an independent laboratory to isolate bacterial DNA from fish gills. Use of saponin 0.0125% and DNase  
317 treatment doubled the bacterial in qPCR and reduced host signal by factor 135 times, indicating that  
318 our enrichment protocol is reproducible and applicable for a wider variety of tissues (see  
319 supplementary table 2).

320 Taken together, our results show that strategy 2, including host cell lysis with 0.0125% saponin and  
321 DNase treatment, successfully decreases human DNA in the sample and boosts the bacterial signal.

322

323 *Bacterial composition of human colon tissue by shotgun metagenomics resembles that previously  
324 reported by 16S rRNA analysis*

325 Finally, we applied our newly developed approach to clinically acquired colonic biopsies that were  
326 isolated using our optimized bacterial DNA isolation protocol (supplementary file 1). After degradation  
327 of the human DNA, remaining DNA was extracted and analysed with shotgun metagenome  
328 sequencing. Metagenomic analysis revealed that the most common phyla were *Firmicutes* (49.5%),  
329 *Bacteroidetes* (22.2%), *Actinobacteria* (10.3%), *Proteobacteria* (7.7%), *Verrocumicrobia* (0.6%) and  
330 others (9.7%). We compared our data to bacterial composition of human colon tissues reported in  
331 literature. Thus far, shotgun metagenomics of microbiomes from tissue samples has been impeded by  
332 lack of DNA yield, so shotgun metagenomics has not been reported for colonic biopsies before. Here,  
333 we compared our data to samples sequenced by 16S rRNA sequencing (table 1). We found a  
334 comparable distribution of bacterial phyla. Furthermore, the Shannon diversity of our study (3.2) was  
335 within range of other studies (2.4-3.7). Lastly, our study resulted in an average pairwise UniFraq  
336 distance of 0.54 (Fig 5b) which was similar to the UniFraq distance reported in Momozawa *et al.* (0.55).  
337 Taken together, with our optimized bacterial DNA isolation protocol (strategy 2) in combination with  
338 shotgun metagenomic sequencing, we were able to reproduce previously reported tissue microbial  
339 profiles. To our knowledge, this is the first time that colon tissue profiles have been reported with  
340 shotgun metagenomics and whereby PCR-induced bias has been omitted.

341

342 **Discussion**

343 Bacterial DNA isolation from tissues is complicated by large amounts of host DNA. While several  
344 strategies, protocols and commercial kits have been developed to tackle this problem, so far none of  
345 these considered all elements that we considered important for analysis of tissue microbiomes. In this  
346 study we developed a protocol, inspired by Molzym (33), Hasan *et al.* (8), and the Human microbiome  
347 project (HMP) (21), that enriched bacterial DNA through selective lysis of host DNA with 0.0125%  
348 saponin and subsequent DNase treatment. This resulted in a bacterial DNA isolate in which all bacterial  
349 subsets were represented, without inducing lysis of bacterial cells or skewing bacterial composition in  
350 clinical samples. Of note, our strategy was shown to work also on fish gills and hence can be applied  
351 or tailored to other tissues in a similar manner.

352 We started out testing the Ultra-Deep Microbiome prep-kit (Molzym) in combination with bead-  
353 beating (strategy 1), because both methods perform well in microbiome research (4, 9, 11, 14, 16, 34).  
354 The inclusion of bead-beating enhanced isolation of all bacterial phyla, particularly *Actinobacteria*  
355 (supplementary figure 1). Furthermore, we noticed that the detection of Gram-negative bacteria could  
356 be improved by introducing a PBS wash, which we suspect to be caused by the premature lysis of  
357 Gram-negative bacteria during the bacterial enrichment steps of this kit (supplementary figure 2). This  
358 important limitation has been suggested before (35).

359 The protocol that we set-up (strategy 2) is an extended version of the protocol that we developed for  
360 processing fecal samples (21). This protocol has been modified from the HMP protocol and includes an  
361 enzymatic lysis step with mutanolysin, heat-shock and bead-beating. Our bead-beating process has  
362 been optimized on a cultured mock community that includes gut bacteria with different susceptibility  
363 to lysis. Importantly, fine-tuning of bead-beating speed and duration may be required for each specific  
364 bead-beater. It has been questioned whether bead-beating improves bacterial DNA isolation from  
365 tissues (36), because it may contribute to some level of DNA degradation (20, 36). However, according  
366 to more recent studies, bead-beating does not cause DNA shearing (6, 10) and results in identification  
367 of extra species in tissue isolates (18). In our protocol and other studies, bead-beating has proven to  
368 result in higher DNA yields (36), more efficient isolation of Gram-positive bacteria (9, 16), a community  
369 structure that most closely resembles bacterial input (4), and higher microbial diversity (10). Together,  
370 these findings suggest that bead-beating should be included, however it has to be performed with the  
371 right type of beads under the right conditions.

372 Another important step in our protocol is the removal of human DNA from the isolate. Previous studies  
373 have reported human DNA removal (by qPCR) of roughly >90% in saliva and subgingival plaque samples  
374 with Molysis (15) and >90% in nasopharyngeal aspirate using TurboDNase (8). Our results showed a

375 reduction of human DNA (by qPCR) of roughly 50% in tissue biopsies. To test whether TurboDNase was  
376 working well, we tested whether TurboDNase was able to remove DNA in DNA isolates. These results  
377 (not shown) showed that TurboDNase decreased the DNA concentration by 94%. We conclude that a  
378 large amount of human DNA is still inaccessible for DNase-mediated degradation during our protocol.  
379 Interestingly, the use of TurboDNase without detergent, also increased the bacterial to human DNA  
380 ratio. This was also observed before (8). In the study of *Hasan et al.*, the use of detergent resulted in a  
381 higher pathogen to host DNA ratio, while the attributable effect of detergent was not evident in our  
382 study (figure 4c). We suspect that our results are impacted by variety in tissue biopsy size and hence  
383 total amount of human DNA. A 2-fold decrease of human DNA signal was associated with an ~7-fold  
384 increase in bacterial DNA signal in qPCR, indicating that human DNA content interferes strongly with  
385 the bacterial DNA signal. While it is evident that human DNA remains in the isolate, we have chosen  
386 to stick to a mild detergent (saponin 0.0125%) to prevent distortion of the microbiome profile, which  
387 may come at cost of complete human cell lysis.

388 While our protocol is optimized for our research goal, it may require small adaptations for other  
389 research objectives. For example, since an important part of our protocol is a DNase step in which  
390 bacterial DNA is still protected by cell wall separation, this DNA isolation protocol may not be optimal  
391 to detect bacteria without a cell-wall, like mycoplasma. Study of these types of bacteria requires a  
392 different approach, of which antibody mediated filtering of bacterial DNA may still be an option. Small  
393 adaptations in the protocol may also improve the detection of certain bacterial subtypes, albeit at the  
394 cost of less efficient isolation of others. For example, Streptococci DNA-yields may be even higher with  
395 more intense bead-beating than in the current protocol. However, we chose to analyze the  
396 microbiome as unbiased as possible.

397 Our shotgun metagenome sequencing results showed that we were able to produce bacterial profiles  
398 with Shannon diversity and UniFrac distance that is comparable to 16S rRNA sequencing data of colon  
399 tissues, indicating that this sequencing method can be used for tissue microbiome profiling.  
400 Nevertheless, small differences were observed between the bacterial composition of our study  
401 (shotgun) and three other studies (16S rRNA); we observed fewer *Bacteroidetes* and more  
402 *Actinobacteria*. Importantly, similar differences were found in another study comparing shotgun  
403 metagenomics with 16S rRNA in stool samples. Ranjan *et al.* reported fewer *Bacteroidetes* with  
404 shotgun metagenomics (14-21%) than with 16S rRNA sequencing (34%) and more *Actinobacteria* with  
405 shotgun metagenomics (4-7%) than with 16S rRNA sequencing (0.4%) (12). Hence, the differences  
406 observed between the colon tissue microbiomes of our and other studies, may be caused by  
407 amplification biases.

408 Taken together, here we show for the first time a protocol to be used for tissue shotgun metagenomics  
409 of colon biopsies that omits 16S rRNA amplification steps. Our protocol is mild enough to maintain  
410 isolation of Gram-negative bacteria, while it also includes steps that facilitate isolation of sturdy  
411 bacteria like *Actinobacteria* and *Firmicutes*. Importantly, our protocol can also be tailored to isolate  
412 microbiomes from other tissues, as has been demonstrated by its application to fish gills by an  
413 independent laboratory. In other words, our protocol can be immediately used for analysis of stool  
414 and colon tissue samples, but may also serve as a foundation for isolation protocols of other study  
415 material. Moreover, while we chose shotgun metagenome sequencing, our protocol may also be used  
416 in combination with 16S rRNA amplicon sequencing. Thereby our protocol is applicable to many  
417 different research settings where it contributes to improved bacterial detection and facilitates analysis  
418 of a wide spectrum of bacteria. This way our protocol may contribute to both fundamental and clinical  
419 microbiome research, further illuminating the role of microbiome in health and disease.

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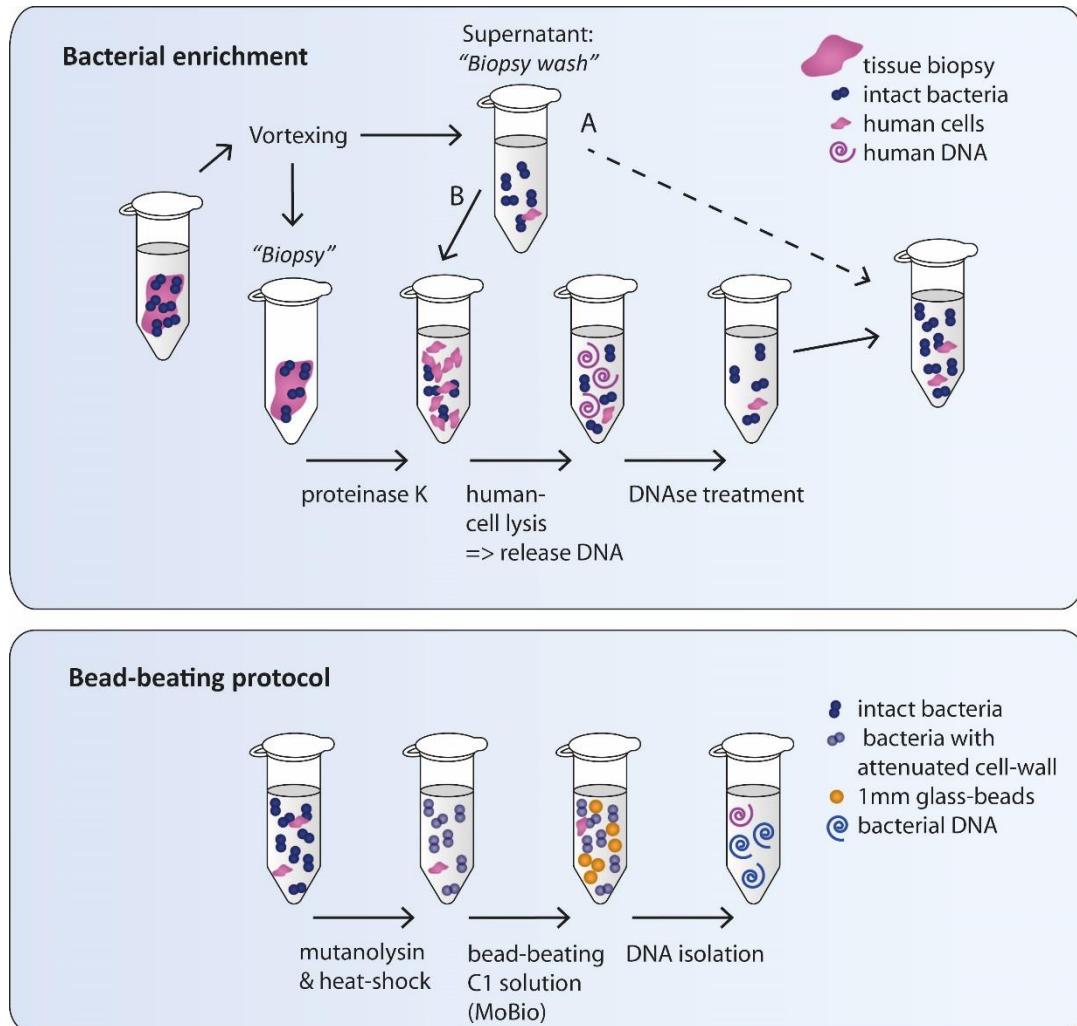
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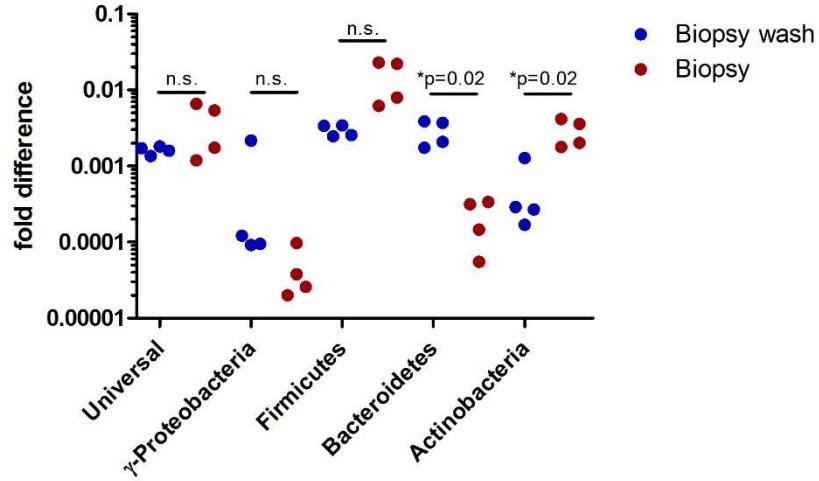


529

530 **Figure 1. Schematic drawing of DNA isolation protocol strategy 2.**

531 **A. Bacterial enrichment:** A tissue biopsy is vortexed in PBS to separate bacteria from the biopsy. The biopsy is  
532 retrieved for digestion with proteinase K, while the supernatant (biopsy wash) is saved on ice and added back for  
533 DNA isolation at a later timepoint (timepoint A or B; B in the final protocol). Bacteria in the biopsy wash are  
534 thereby minimally exposed to reagents that could cause possible lysis. Subsequently, 0.0125% saponin in PBS is  
535 added to the cell suspension inducing lysis of human cells, but not bacterial cells. DNA in the supernatant is  
536 depleted through DNase treatment. The remaining sample has reduced human DNA content and still intact  
537 bacteria.

538 **B. Bead-beating protocol:** The sample is further processed by our previously optimized bead-beating protocol.  
539 Mutanolysin treatment followed by heat-shock are applied to attenuate cell-walls of Gram-positive bacteria (e.g.  
540 *Streptococci* and *Actinobacteria*) to make them more susceptible for mechanical lysis. Subsequently, the sample  
541 is bead-beated with 1 mm glass-beads in C1 buffer of the Powerlyser powersoil DNA isolation kit and further  
542 isolated according to the manufacturer's protocol. The resulting DNA isolate is enriched for bacterial DNA.



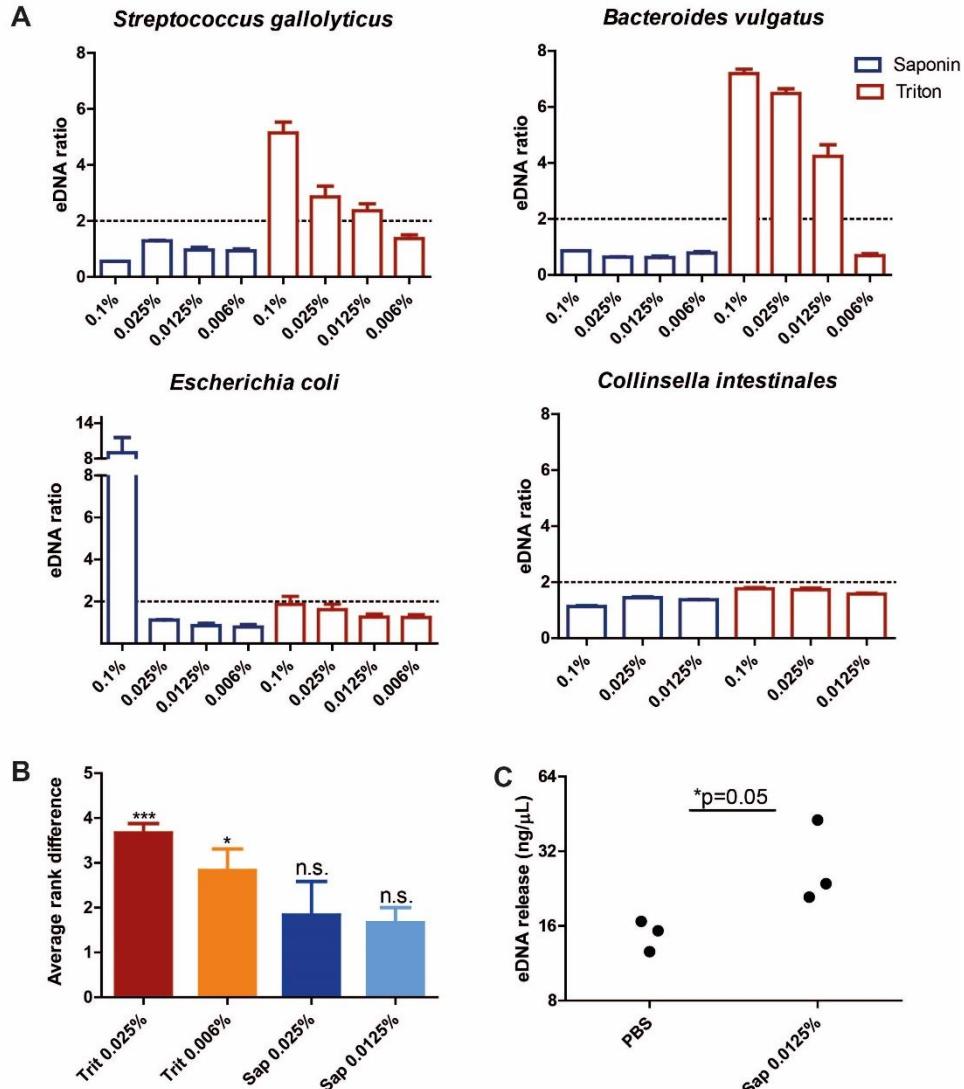
543

544 **Figure 2. Whole tissue digestion is required to isolate all bacteria.** Two matched biopsies (~5 mm) were washed  
545 in PBS, after which DNA of the Biopsy wash and the Biopsy was isolated separately. For every DNA isolate a  
546 duplicate was run, of which each value is plotted relative to the mock community ( $\Delta Ct$ ). Paired T-tests revealed  
547 that DNA from the biopsy isolates contained a similar bacterial fraction, albeit with fewer *Bacteroidetes* and more  
548 *Actinobacteria*. Hence, whole tissue digestion is required to analyze the complete bacterial component of the  
549 tissue.

550

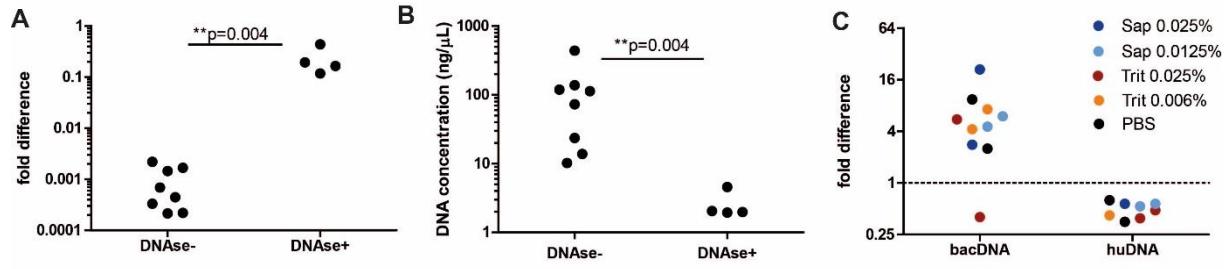
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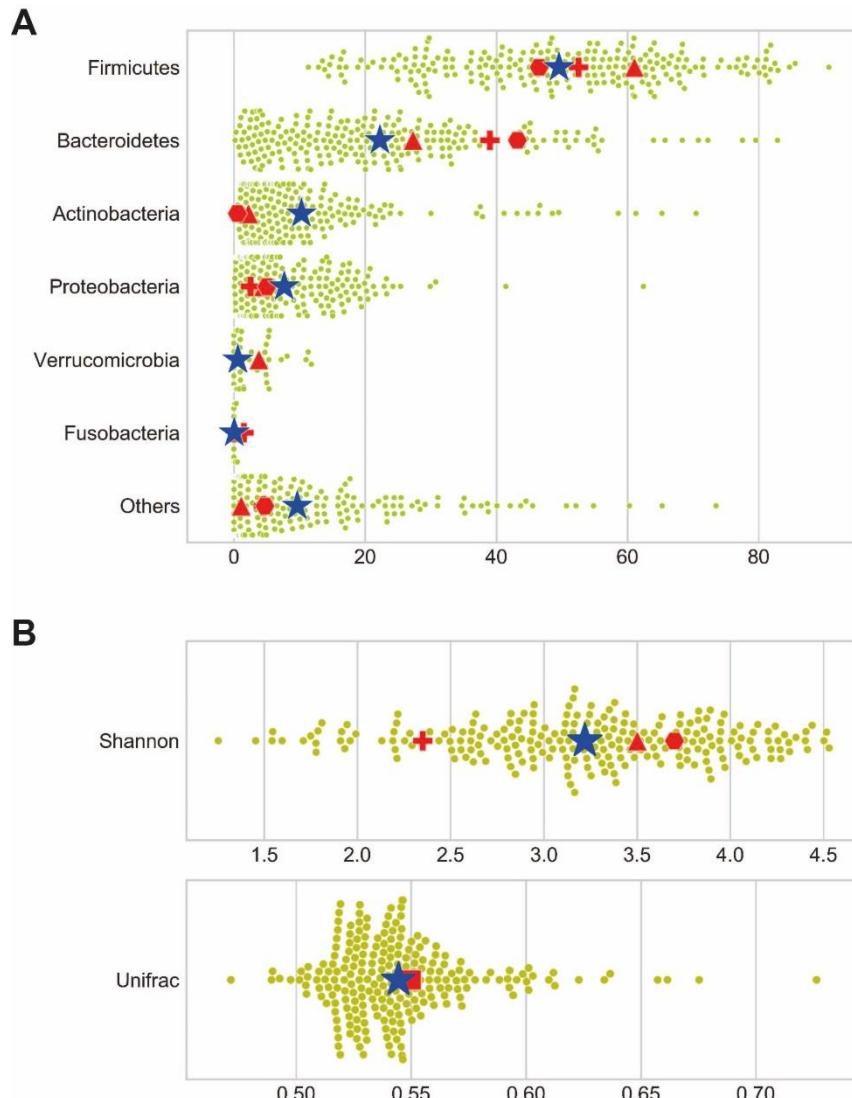
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554 **Figure 3. Saponin 0.0125% induces human cell lysis, without inducing bacterial cell lysis.** The effect of Triton  
555 and saponin on bacterial cell lysis was measured. This experiment was performed for *Streptococcus galolyticus*  
556 (*Firmicutes*), *Bacteroides vulgatus* (*Bacteroidetes*), *Escherichia coli* ( $\gamma$ -*Proteobacteria*) and *Collinsella intestinalis*  
557 (*Actinobacteria*). An increase of more than 2 was considered relevant. Results show that Triton affects bacterial  
558 cell lysis in *Streptococcus galolyticus* and *Bacteroides vulgatus*, but not in *Escherichia coli* and *Collinsella*  
559 *intestinalis*. Saponin only induced cell lysis at 0.1% in *E. coli*. B) Biopsies were isolated with strategy 2 in  
560 combination with Triton (Trit) and saponin (Sap) at different concentrations. The relative bacterial signal for  
561 *Firmicutes*, *Bacteroidetes*, *Actinobacteria* and  $\gamma$ -*Proteobacteria* was calibrated with the universal 16S rRNA signal  
562 ( $\Delta Ct$ ) and was compared to PBS ( $\Delta\Delta Ct$ ). Similarity to PBS was calculated through ranking using the Friedman test.  
563 Both saponin concentrations most closely resembled bacterial composition in PBS and hence preserved bacterial  
564 composition at phylum level in the colon biopsies. C) DNA release of biopsies was measured after exposure to  
565 either PBS or saponin 0.0125%. More external DNA (eDNA) was measured after incubation with saponin 0.0125%  
566 ( $p=0.05$ ), suggesting that human cell lysis was induced, although eDNA was also detected in the sample with PBS  
567 alone.



568  
569 **Figure 4. DNAse treatment lowers total DNA yield and improves bacterial to human DNA signal.** A+B) To test  
570 the effectiveness of bacterial DNA enrichment, isolations were performed on tissues (~5 mm) with or without  
571 the biopsy wash included in the DNAse treatment (DNAse+ and DNAse- respectively, which represent path B and  
572 A respectively in figure 1). DNAse treatment results higher bacterial signal ( $p=0.004$ ) (A) which corresponds with  
573 a lower DNA yield ( $p=0.004$ ) (B). These results suggest that DNAse treatment on the PBS wash enriches the  
574 bacterial DNA content of the isolate, illustrating that PBS wash should be included during DNAse treatment (path  
575 B in figure 1). C) To test the effect of enrichment on small-sized biopsies, 5 pairs of forceps biopsies were taken  
576 from resected colons of 2 patients. Each pair was isolated with a different soap condition of which 1 sample was  
577 isolated with DNAse and the other without. The fold difference between these samples ( $\Delta Ct$ ) is plotted. DNAse  
578 treatment resulted in a 1.9-fold reduction of human DNA signal (huDNA ratio 0.53, CI: 0.42-0.65). The bacterial  
579 signal was enriched 6.8-fold on average (CI: 2.2-10.52) upon DNA treatment. Triton 0.006% and saponin 0.0125%  
580 with DNAse rendered more than 4.3 and 4.5-fold increased bacterial signal respectively in both patients.

581



582

583 **Figure 5. Human colon tissue microbiomes of our study (shotgun metagenomics) versus other studies (16S**  
584 **rRNA).** A) The relative abundance of bacterial phyla is shown for study (dots) and the average is marked by a blue  
585 star. Averages of Diuric *et al.* (red triangle), Kiely *et al.* (red cross) and Watt *et al.* (red hexagon) are plotted in the  
586 graph. The Shannon diversity index and UniFrac distance are represented in B), in which red square represents  
587 Momozawa *et al.*

588

589 **Table 1. Microbiome profiles of human colon biopsies of our study (WGS) resemble those that have been**  
590 **previously published (16S rRNA).** We compared our microbiome profiles to those reported in Djuric *et al.*, Kiely  
591 *et al.*, Watt *et al.* and Momozawa *et al.*. These results are represented with a symbol in figure 5. In this table we  
592 report the relative abundances of bacterial phyla in percentage. Also, the Shannon index, inverse Simpson index  
593 (I. Simpson index) and UniFrac distance (UniFrac d.) are given when reported.

594

	Our study	Djuric <i>et al.</i>	Kiely <i>et al.</i>	Watt <i>et al.</i>	Momozawa <i>et al.</i>
Symbol Fig.5	Blue star	Red triangle	Red cross	Red hexagon	Red square
<i>Firmicutes</i>	49.5	61	52.5	46.5	--
<i>Bacteroidetes</i>	22.2	27.3	39	43.2	--
<i>Actinobacteria</i>	10.3	2.2	--	0.5	--
<i>Proteobacteria</i>	7.7	4.5	2.5	5.1	--
<i>Verromicrobia</i>	0.6	3.8	--	--	--
<i>Fusobacteria</i>	0.0	0.1	1.5	--	--
Others	9.7	1.1	4.5	4.7	--
Shannon index	3.2	3.5	2.4	3.7	--
I.Simpson index	5.8	20.3	--	20	--
UniFrac d.	0.54	--	--	--	0.55

595

596 **Supplementary Data**

597

598 **Supplementary Table 1. Primers for qPCR.**

599

Target	Forward primer	Reverse primer	References
Universal bacteria	926F: AAACTCAAAGAATTGACGG	1062R: CTCACRRACGAGCTGAC	Yang <i>et al.</i> & De Gregoris <i>et al.</i>
Firmicutes	928FirmF: TGAAACTYAAAGGAATTGACG	1040FirmR: ACCATGCACCACCTGTC	De Gregoris <i>et al.</i>
Bacteroidetes	Bac960F: GTTAATTGATGATACGCGAG	Bac1100R: TTAASCCGACACCTCACGG	Yang <i>et al.</i>
γ-proteobacteria	1080γF: TCGTCAGCTCGTGYGTGA	γ1202R: CGTAAGGGGCCATGATG	De Gregoris <i>et al.</i>
Actinobacteria	Act664: TGTAGCGGTGGAATGCGC	Act941R: AATTAAGCCACATGCTCCGCT	Yang <i>et al.</i>
Human KRAS	P696: AGGCCTGCTGAAAATGACTG	P488: TGGATCATATTGTCACAAAA	Bennis <i>et al.</i>
Universal bacteria (used for fish gill experiment)	616F: AGAGTTGATYMTGGCTCAG	Eub338IR: GCTGCCTCCGTAGGAGT	Juretschko <i>et al.</i> , 1998 Amman <i>et al.</i> , 1990
Zebrafish	LepA gen: GACTGCACACTGAAGGAATC	Lep A gen: GCACTGCTCTAGAAAAGC	Gorissen <i>et al.</i> , 2009

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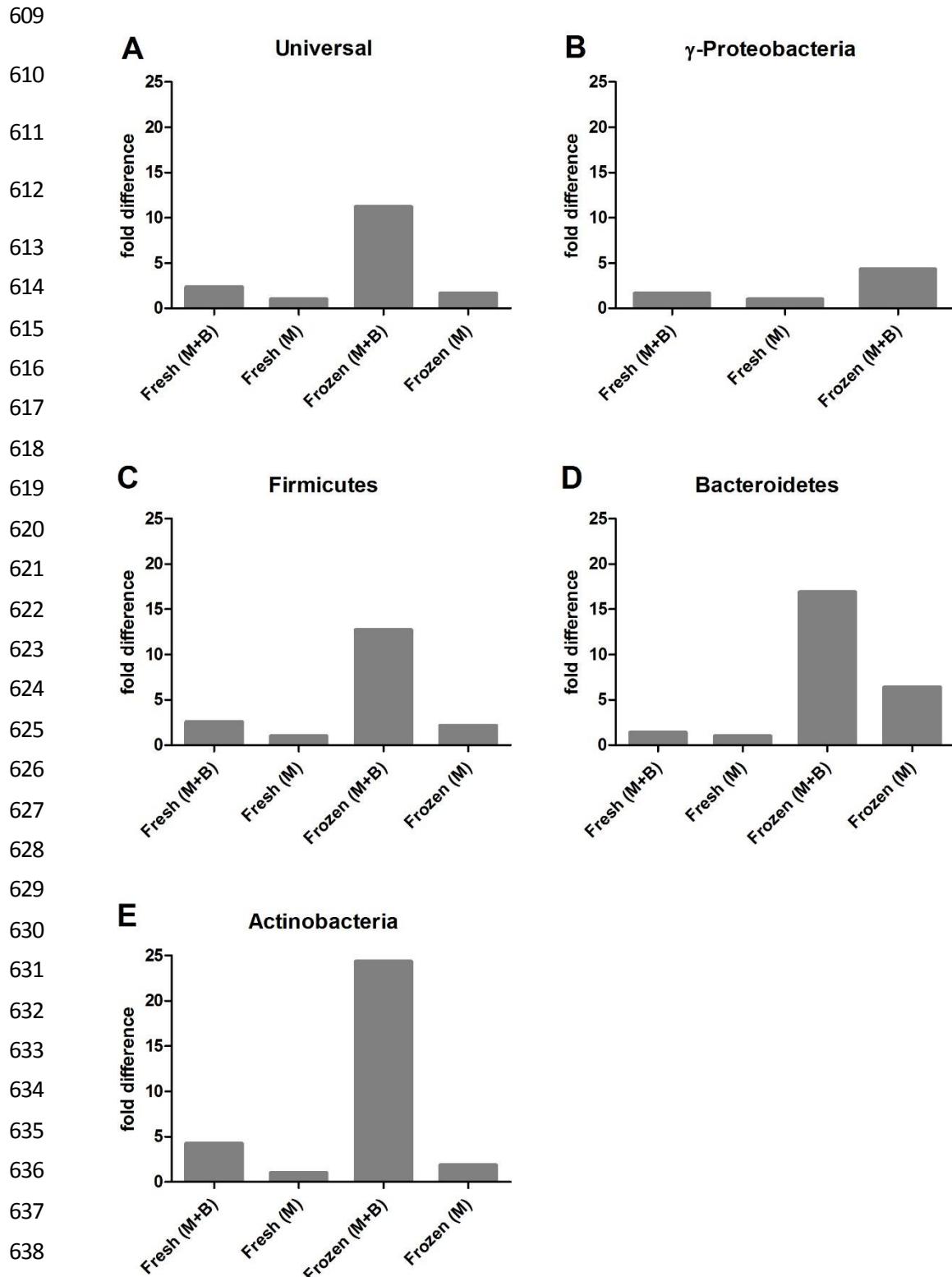
603 **Supplementary table 2. Bacterial enrichment using saponin 0.0125% and TurboDNase improves bacterial to**  
604 **fish DNA ratio in qPCR.** DNA isolations were performed with and without DNase treatment. Ct values are given  
605 in the upper part. In the lower part, the fold difference (FD) between the signal with and without DNA isolation  
606 is shown.

	Without enrichment (Ct)		With enrichment (Ct)	
	Bacterial signal	Host signal	Bacterial signal	Host signal
<b>Fish gill isolate</b>	32.08	30.45	33.01	23.47
	35.47	31.02	33.22	22.96
	35.94	31.58		
	29.13	28.25		
	27.95	30.17		
<b>Average</b>	32.114	30.294	33.115	23.215

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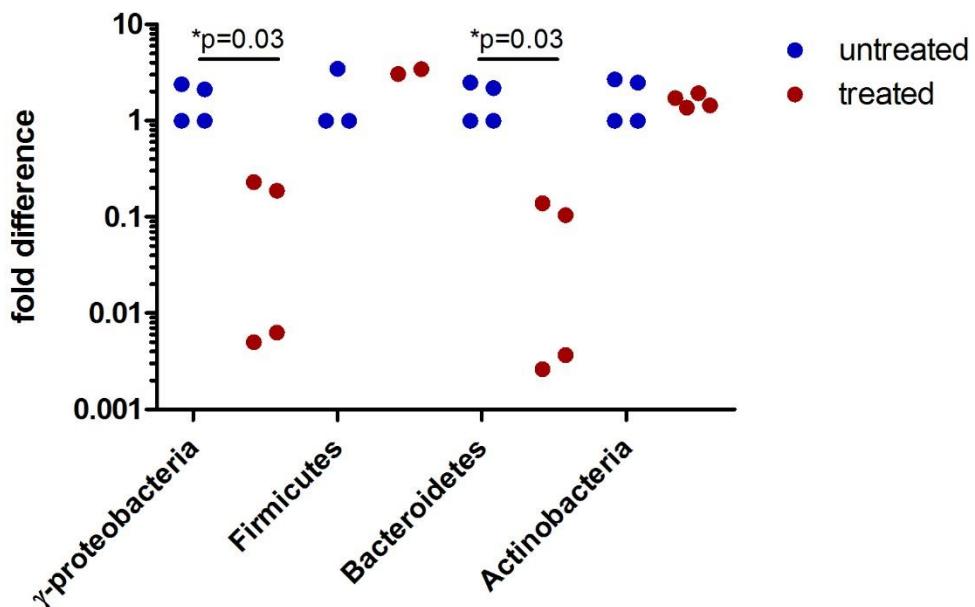
	$\Delta Ct = Ct \text{ with} - Ct \text{ without}$	
	FD Bacterial ( $2^{\Delta Ct}$ )	FD Host ( $2^{\Delta Ct}$ )
<b>FD</b>	2.001386775	0.0073962
<b>1/FD</b>	0.499653546	135.20456

608



640 **Supplementary figure 1. Ultra-deep microbiome prep kit performs better frozen tissue in combination with**  
641 **our optimized bead-beating protocol.** Healthy biopsies (~5 mm) from 1 patient were either snap-frozen (frozen)  
642 or immediately isolated with the Ultra-deep microbiome prep kit (fresh). Isolation was either performed with the  
643 full protocol provided by Molzym (M) or was combined with bead-beating (M+B). The fold difference represents  
644 the bacterial signal relative to the positive control (feces) ( $\Delta Ct$ ) and was compared to sample Fresh (M) ( $\Delta\Delta Ct$ ).

645

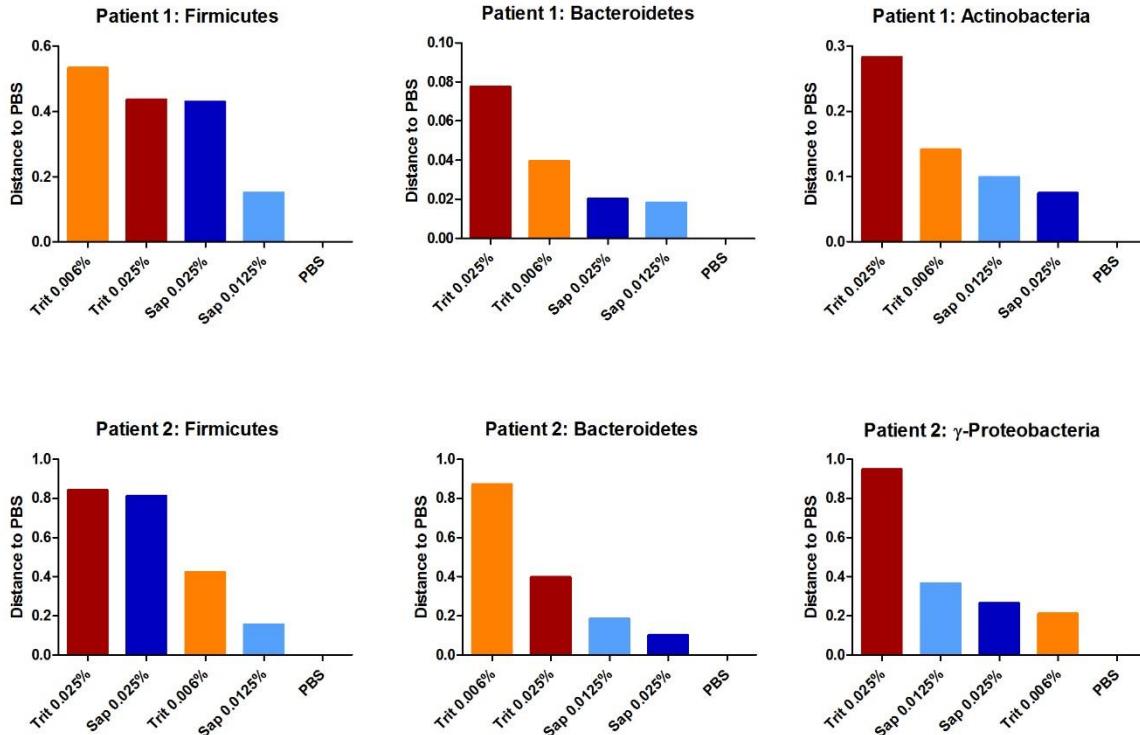


646

647 **Supplementary figure 2. Ultra-Deep Microbiome prep on bacterial mock community results in**  
648 **underrepresentation of γ-Proteobacteria and Bacteroidetes.** Two bacterial pellets (mock community) were  
649 isolated with the full protocol (treated), whereas 2 pellets were isolated skipping proteinase K, mild lysis and  
650 DNA treatment (untreated). To investigate alterations in bacterial composition, each sample was calibrated with  
651 its own universal 16s rRNA signal ( $\Delta Ct$ ) and was compared to one untreated sample ( $\Delta\Delta Ct$ ). Each sample was run  
652 as a PCR duplicate of which both data points were plotted. Mann-Whitney T-test revealed a significant decrease  
653 compared to PBS for γ-Proteobacteria and Bacteroidetes.

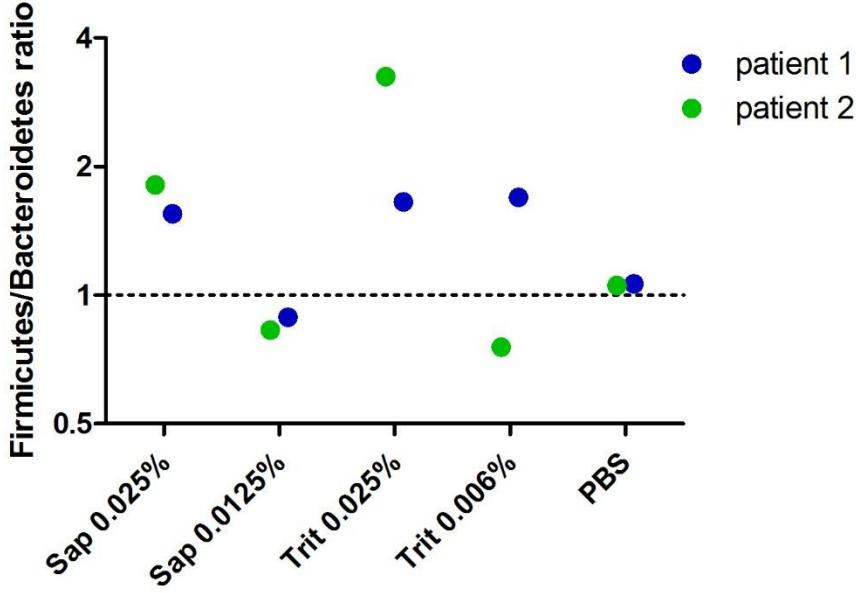
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656

657 **Supplementary figure 3. Effect of soap on bacterial composition.** Colonic biopsies (~3 mm) from 2 patients were  
658 isolated with our protocol using different soaps and concentrations. The bacterial signal for *Firmicutes*,  
659 *Bacteroidetes*, *Actinobacteria* and  $\gamma$ -*Proteobacteria* was calibrated with the universal 16S rRNA signal of the same  
660 patient ( $\Delta Ct$ ) and was compared to PBS sample of the same patient ( $\Delta\Delta Ct$ ). Difference to PBS was plotted.  
661



662

663 **Supplementary figure 4. Firmicutes to Bacteroidetes ratio is least affected by saponin 0.0125%.** This graph is  
664 extracted from the same experiment as represented in supplementary figure 4. For both *Bacteroidetes* and  
665 *Firmicutes* the signal was calibrated with the positive control (mock community) ( $\Delta Ct$ ). The enrichment ratio was  
666 calculated by  $2^{-\Delta Ct(Firmicutes)}/2^{-\Delta Ct(Bacteroidetes)}$ .

667

668

669 **Supplementary file 1: Protocol**

670 **Bacterial DNA isolation from tissue with bacterial enrichment and bead-beating.**

671

672 **Reference: Optimized DNA isolation method for microbiome analysis of human tissues.** *Carljin Bruggeling*<sup>1</sup>,

673 *Daniel R. Garza*<sup>2</sup>, *Soumia Achouiti*<sup>1</sup>, *Wouter Mes*<sup>3</sup>, *Bas E. Dutilh*<sup>2,4</sup>, *Annemarie Boleij*<sup>1</sup>\*

674

675 **Goal:**

676 This protocol is optimized for bacterial DNA isolation from human colon tissue samples (~2-5mm). During  
677 bacterial enrichment, the biopsy is vortexed in PBS to release bacteria from the biopsy. This supernatant ("biopsy  
678 wash") is added back to the sample, after the rest of the biopsy is made into a cell-suspension using proteinase  
679 K. The sample is treated with a soap to lyse human cells, which is combined with TurboDNase treatment to digest  
680 external DNA. Subsequently, intact bacteria in the sample are sensitized to lysis using Mutanolysin and heat-  
681 shock. Lastly, bead-beating is used for mechanical lysis, which is followed by standard DNA isolation procedures.

682 Hereby we provide a stepwise protocol, in which blue text represents suggested actions.

683

684 **Material**

- 685 ✓ PBS: Tris-HCL(220/12257974/1110, Braun)
- 686 ✓ Proteinase K (19133, Qiagen)
- 687 ✓ Saponin 0.0125% (47036-50G, Sigma-Aldrich) in PBS, 0.2µm filtered
- 688 ✓ TurboDNase with 10x buffer (AM2239, Qiagen)
- 689 ✓ Mutanolysin 10 KU in 2mL ddH2O (SAE0092, Sigma Aldrich)
- 690 ✓ DNeasy Powerlyzer Powersoil kit (Qiagen)
- 691 ✓ (previously known as MoBio Powerlyzer PowerSoil DNA isolation kit)
  - 692     ○ Bead solution
  - 693     ○ Solution C1 to C6
  - 694     ○ Beads (0.1 mm glass beads)
  - 695     ○ 3 sets of 2 mL collection tubes
  - 696     ○ 1 set of spin filters

697

698 **Preparation:**

699 Assure the following:

- 700 ✓ Clean desk with chloride
- 701 ✓ Centrifuge at 4°C
- 702 ✓ 70, 37, 65 and 95 °C incubator
- 703 ✓ Ice bucket
- 704 ✓ Bead-beater available

705

706 **Part 1: Bacterial enrichment**

707 PBS wash and host tissue digestion:

- 708 1. Prepare 2 sets of 1.5 mL Eppendorf tubes, of which 1 set with 500  $\mu$ L PBS
- 709 2. Put frozen biopsies in 500  $\mu$ L PBS in 1.5 mL tube (use pipettip)
- 710 3. Vortex tubes 5 min (speed 8/9)  
*Make PBS/Proteinase K mix*
- 712 4. Transfer the supernatant (“biopsy wash”) to a new tube and keep on ice
- 713 5. If biopsy is ~2 mm: add 197  $\mu$ L of PBS and 3  $\mu$ L of Proteinase K to biopsy  
For larger biopsies: add 180  $\mu$ L of PBS and 20  $\mu$ L of Proteinase K to biopsy
- 715 6. Short spin down
- 716 7. Incubate samples at 70°C, 400 rpm 15 minutes  
*Set incubator to 37°C*
- 718 8. Vortex shortly to assist tissue to fall apart
- 719 9. Add 700  $\mu$ L PBS to “biopsy wash” and add to matched biopsy (digested)
- 720 10. Spin at 10 000 x g for 10 min 4°C  
*Make Saponin/TurboDNase/Buffer mix*
- 722 11. Discard supernatant, save pellet

723

724 Host cell lysis and DNA digestion:

- 725 12. Add per biopsy 100  $\mu$ L mix:
  - 88  $\mu$ L Saponin
  - 10  $\mu$ L buffer 10X Turbo DNase buffer
  - 2  $\mu$ L TurboDNase (2 Units/ $\mu$ L)
- 729 13. Resuspend by vortexing 15 seconds
- 730 14. Short spin down
- 731 15. Incubate at 37°C for 30 minutes 400 rpm
- 732 16. Add 1.3 mL PBS
- 733 17. Centrifuge at 10 000 x g, 10 minutes at 4°C
- 734 18. Discard supernatant by pipetting  
*Make mutanolysin mix*
- 736 19. Add 1 mL PBS and resuspend pellet by vortexing
- 737 20. Centrifuge at 10 000 x g, 10 minutes at 4°C
- 738 21. Discard supernatant by pipetting
- 739 22. Store pellets at -20°C or go to step 23.

740 **Part 2: Bead-beating protocol**

741 Bead beating preparation:

- 742 23. Add 180  $\mu$ L of Bead solution + 20  $\mu$ L of mutanolysin per sample
- 743 24. Resuspend by vortexing
- 744 25. Incubate at 37°C for 60 minutes 400 rpm  
*Set up the heater at 65°C*
- 746 26. Put tubes in the incubator at 400 rpm:
  - 65°C for 10 minutes,
  - heat-up to 95°C (7 minutes)
  - 95°C for 10 minutes
- 750 27. Cool down to room temperature and spin down shortly

751

752 Bead-beating:

753 28. Add 550 µL of Power bead solution to the sample  
754 29. Vortex tubes for 30 to 40 seconds  
755 30. Add mixture to bead-tubes  
756 31. Add 60 µL of solution C1 (first solution of DNeasy isolation kit)  
757 *Prevent cooling the sample, but bring ice for the following step*  
758 32. Bead-beat with the MagNA Lyser:  
759 - 6400 rpm for 30 seconds  
760 - On ice for 30 seconds  
761 - 6400 rpm for 30 seconds  
762 *Keep samples on ice*  
763

764 Bacterial DNA extraction

765 33. Centrifuge at 10 000 x g for 2 minutes  
766 34. Transfer supernatant to new set of collection tubes  
767 \*Keep a maximum total volume of 500 µL  
768 35. Add 250 µL of solution C2, Vortex for 5 seconds, incubate on ice for 5 minutes  
769 36. Centrifuge at 10 000 x g for 1 minute  
770 37. Transfer up to 600 - 800 µL to the 2 mL collection tubes  
771 38. Add 200 µL of solution C3, vortex briefly, then place on ice for 5 minutes  
772 39. Centrifuge at 10 000 x g for 1 minute  
773 40. Transfer up to 750 µL of supernatant to the 2 mL collection tubes  
774 41. Add as much as possible without disturbing the pellet (~850 µL)  
775 42. Shake solution C4, add 1.2 mL (2x 600 µL), Vortex for 5 seconds  
776 43. Add as much as possible, ~1 mL, avoid that it is so full that it splashes  
777 44. Load approximately 675 µL onto a spin filter, centrifuge at 10 000 x g for 1 minute, Discard the flow (do this 3 until the sample is finished)  
779 45. Add 500 µL of solution C5, centrifuge at 10 000 x g for 30 seconds  
780 46. Discard the flow through  
781 47. Centrifuge at 10 000 x g for 1 minute  
782 48. Carefully place spin filter in new set of collection tubes  
783 49. Add 50 µL of solution C6 to the center of the membrane  
784 50. Centrifuge at 10 000 x g for 30 seconds  
785 51. Discard the Spin Filter  
786 52. Store the extracted DNA at -80°C

787

788 **Supplementary file 2: CTAB Extraction**

789

790 **Buffer**

791 100 mM Tris-HCl  
792 100 mM Na-EDTA  
793 1.5 M NaCl  
794 2% CTAB  
795 0.05 mg/ml proteinase K

796

797

798

808

809 **CTAB extraction of genomic DNA from de-enriched zebrafish gills**

810 - After the digestion of gill samples with DNase, resuspend washed pellet in 100 µL CTAB extraction  
811 buffer and incubate at 37°C for 30 min., mixing every 5 minutes by inverting the tubes  
812 - Add 25 µL 10% SDS to sample, mix well and incubate for 1 hour at 65°C. Mix every 5 minutes by  
813 inverting the tubes  
814 - Add 125 µL chloroform:isoamyl alcohol and mix thoroughly for 20 seconds  
815 - Centrifuge samples at max. speed for 15 minutes  
816 - Transfer aqueous phase into clean tubes, discard waste into container in fumehood  
817 - Add 0.6 volumes of isopropanol to samples and incubate overnight at -20°C  
818 - Centrifuge samples at max. speed for 15 minutes  
819 - Pour off isopropanol carefully (don't lose pellet)  
820 - Wash pellet with 500 µL 70% EtOH, centrifuge 10 min. at maximum g  
821 - Pour off ethanol carefully  
822 - Leave tubes open for 5 minutes to evaporate remaining ethanol  
823 - Resuspend pellet in 200 µL autoclaved milliQ  
824

825 **RNase treatment of DNA extractions**

826 - Add 1 µL (10 mg/ml) RNase A to samples, incubate at 37°C for 30 minutes  
827 - Add 200 µL phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol, mix thoroughly for 20 seconds  
828 - Centrifuge 15 min. at maximum speed  
829 - Transfer aqueous phase into new tube, discard phenol waste into container in fumehood  
830 - Add 2 volumes of 100% EtOH and 0.1 volume of NaAc, mix by inverting tube  
831 - Incubate at -20°C for 1 hour  
832 - Pellet DNA by centrifuging for 20 minutes at max. speed  
833 - Wash pellet with 500 µL 70% EtOH, centrifuge 10 minutes at max. speed  
834 - Pour off ethanol carefully, spin down the rest of the ethanol by short centrifugation  
835 - Remove residual ethanol by pipetting, without disturbing the pellet  
836 - Dry pellet until all ethanol is evaporated  
837 - Resuspend pellet in 50 µL autoclaved milliQ water  
838

839

840

799 **Material**

800 10% SDS  
801 Chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (24:1)  
802 Isopropanol  
803 Phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1)  
804 3M Na-acetate  
805 100% EtOH  
806 70% EtOH  
807 Autoclaved milliQ H<sub>2</sub>O

841 PCR

842

**qPCR programme**

3:00	96 °C	1x
0:15	96 °C	
0:20	58 °C	40x
0:30	72 °C	
2:00	72 °C	1x

843

**qPCR mix**

SYBR mix 2x	10 µL
Forward	0.6 µL
Reverse	0.6µL
H2O	... µL (upto 20 µL)
DNA	5 ng

844

845