

***Plasmodium berghei*, Strain Rec5**

Catalog No. MRA-675

For research use only. Not for human use.

Contributor:

Mark F. Wiser, Associate Professor, Department of Tropical Medicine, Tulane University School of Public Health, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Manufacturer:

BEI Resources

Product Description:

Protozoa Classification: *Plasmodiidae*, *Plasmodium*

Species: *Plasmodium berghei*

Strain: Rec5 (also referred to as Pyr^R)¹

Original Source: *Plasmodium berghei* (*P. berghei*), strain Rec5 is a highly pyrimethamine-resistant line derived from *P. berghei*, strain ANKA, between 1990-1992, by treating infected mice with high doses of pyrimethamine and selecting for recrudescence for five rounds.^{1,2} *P. berghei*, strain ANKA was isolated in July 1965 from *Anopheles durenii millecampi* mosquitoes collected in the River Kasapa, Democratic Republic of Congo.³

Comments: *P. berghei*, Rec5 exhibits similar characteristics to the highly virulent and lethal parental ANKA line, except that it proceeds through sporogonic development more slowly than the pyrimethamine-sensitive parental line.^{1,2} The complete genome of the parent strain, *P. berghei* ANKA, has been sequenced (BioProject: [PRJNA317456](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/PRJNA317456)).^{4,5}

P. berghei is a protozoan parasite that infects mammals other than humans, especially rodents, and is commonly used in rodent model studies of malaria.⁴ *P. berghei* preferentially invades reticulocytes, typically producing infections in mice that induce severe pathology.⁵

Material Provided:

Each vial contains approximately 0.5 mL of *P. berghei*-infected mouse blood in Glycerolyte 57 solution (1:2). **This item is host restricted and must be amplified in rodents.** Please refer to Appendix I for cryopreservation instructions.

Packaging/Storage:

MRA-675 was packaged aseptically in cryovials. The product is provided frozen and should be stored at -80°C or colder immediately upon arrival. For long-term storage, the vapor phase of a liquid nitrogen freezer is recommended (-130°C or colder). Freeze-thaw cycles should be avoided.

Growth Conditions:⁶

In vivo, Swiss Webster mouse

Note: Some strains of mice may require dietary or drug pretreatment protocols for successful infection as *P. berghei* strains have a strong predilection for invasion of reticulocytes.

Inoculation:

1. Thaw a frozen cryovial of MRA-675 in a 35°C to 37°C water bath for approximately 2 to 3 minutes. Do not allow the vial to immerse near the cap line seal while thawing.
2. Once thawed, wipe the outside of the vial with 70% ethanol before opening. Using a 1 mL syringe equipped with a 27-gauge 1/2-inch needle, remove approximately 200 µL to 300 µL from the vial.
3. Wipe the injection site of the mouse with 70% ethanol and inject the sample intraperitoneally at 50 µL to 100 µL per mouse (approximately 3 mice for most applications).

Monitoring parasitemia:

1. Starting 3 days post-inoculation, monitor the growth of parasites by tail vein bleed sampling and Giemsa-stained thin blood smear microscopy at 1- to 2-day intervals.
2. Passage the strain when the infection is at or near the first peak of parasitemia (> 5%). This will normally occur within one week of inoculation.

$$\% \text{ parasitemia} = (\text{Infected RBC} / \text{Total RBC}) \times 100$$

Passaging:

1. Anesthetize infected mice by CO₂/O₂ inhalation. Collect the blood by orbital bleeding or from the tail vein into 25 mL of cold 1× PBS-heparin anticoagulant solution (please refer to Appendix I for preparation instructions).
2. Inject the sample into each of the uninfected mice (approximately 10 mice) as described in Inoculation step #3 above.
3. Monitor parasitemia as described above and passage as needed.

Please refer to Appendix I for cryopreservation instructions.

Note: Do not directly inject freshly thawed parasites from cryopreserved stocks by the intravenous (IV) route, as these samples contain cryoprotectant, anticoagulant and may contain traces of lysed or coagulated red blood cells. Direct IV inoculation from cryopreserved stock may result in pulmonary embolism or shock in mice.

Citation:

Acknowledgment for publications should read “The following reagent was obtained through BEI Resources, NIAID, NIH: *Plasmodium berghei*, Strain Rec5, MRA-675, contributed by Mark F. Wiser.”

Biosafety Level: 1

Appropriate safety procedures should always be used with this material. Laboratory safety is discussed in the following publication: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Institutes of Health. Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories. 5th ed. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2009; see www.cdc.gov/biosafety/publications/bmb15/index.htm.

All blood cultures should be handled with appropriate safety precautions necessary for the handling of bloodborne

pathogens. Personnel must be trained in accordance with their institutional policy regarding bloodborne pathogens.

Disclaimers:

You are authorized to use this product for research use only. It is not intended for human use.

Use of this product is subject to the terms and conditions of the BEI Resources Material Transfer Agreement (MTA). The MTA is available on our Web site at www.beiresources.org.

While BEI Resources uses reasonable efforts to include accurate and up-to-date information on this product sheet, neither ATCC® nor the U.S. Government makes any warranties or representations as to its accuracy. Citations from scientific literature and patents are provided for informational purposes only. Neither ATCC® nor the U.S. Government warrants that such information has been confirmed to be accurate.

This product is sent with the condition that you are responsible for its safe storage, handling, use and disposal. ATCC® and the U.S. Government are not liable for any damages or injuries arising from receipt and/or use of this product. While reasonable effort is made to ensure authenticity and reliability of materials on deposit, the U.S. Government, ATCC®, their suppliers and contributors to BEI Resources are not liable for damages arising from the misidentification or misrepresentation of products.

Use Restrictions:

This material is distributed for internal research, non-commercial purposes only. This material, its product or its derivatives may not be distributed to third parties. Except as performed under a U.S. Government contract, individuals contemplating commercial use of the material, its products or

its derivatives must contact the contributor to determine if a license is required. U.S. Government contractors may need a license before first commercial sale.

References:

1. Shinondo, C. J., et al. "Effect of Pyrimethamine Resistance on Sporogony in a *Plasmodium berghei*/*Anopheles stephensi* Model." Exp. Parasitol. 78 (1994): 194-202. PubMed: 8119374.
2. Wisner, M. F., Personal Communication.
3. Ramiro, R. S., S. E. Reece and D. J. Obbard. "Molecular Evolution and Phylogenetics of Rodent Malaria Parasites." BMC Evol. Biol. 12 (2012): 219. PubMed: 23151308.
4. Hall, N., et al. "A Comprehensive Survey of the *Plasmodium* Life Cycle by Genomic, Transcriptomic, and Proteomic Analyses." Science 307 (2005): 82-86. PubMed: 15637271.
5. Otto, T. D., et al. "A Comprehensive Evaluation of Rodent Malaria Parasite Genomes and Gene Expression." BMC Biol. 12 (2014): 86. PubMed: 25359557.
6. Peters, W. and B. L. Robinson (1999), "Chapter 92 -- Malaria." In Handbook of Animal Models of Infection. Eds. O. Zak and M. Sande, Academic Press: London, pp. 757-773.
7. Jennings, G. J., et al. "The Complete Sequence of *Plasmodium berghei* Merozoite Surface Protein-1 and Its Inter- and Intra-Species Variability." Mol. Biochem. Parasitol. 93 (1998): 43-55. PubMed: 9662027.

ATCC® is a trademark of the American Type Culture Collection.



APPENDIX I: CRYOPRESERVATION

Note: Only immature blood-stage parasites (rings) are viable by this method. Parasitemia of 1% or higher of ring-stage parasites is recommended for cryopreservation. All steps should be carried out in a biosafety cabinet under proper air flow.

1. Prepare a 1× PBS-heparin anticoagulant solution using sterile 1× PBS (pH ~ 7.2) without calcium or magnesium (ATCC® 30-2200™) adjusted to contain 30 Units/mL sterile heparin.
2. Harvest parasitized mouse blood into 25 × volume ice cold sterile 1× PBS-heparin anticoagulant solution and place on ice.
3. Centrifuge the diluted blood culture at 1000 × g for 5 minutes at 4°C.
4. Aspirate the supernatant carefully. Measure the volume of packed red blood cells using centrifuge tube graduations or standard volume controls.
5. To the volume of packed red blood cells, add dropwise one volume of cold (4°C) Glycerolyte 57 solution (Fenwal, Cat. No. 4A7831, or equivalent). Let stand for 5 minutes at room temperature.
6. Add dropwise an additional volume of cold Glycerolyte 57 solution to the pellet. Mix well and aliquot 0.5 mL into 1.5 mL sterile cryopreservation vials.
7. Place the vials in a controlled-rate freezing unit. From room temperature, cool the vials at -1°C/min to -40°C. If the freezing unit can compensate for the heat of fusion, maintain rate at -1°C/min through this phase. At -40°C, plunge vials into liquid nitrogen. Alternatively, place the vials in a Nalgene 1°C freezing container. Place the container at -80°C for 24 to 48 hours and then plunge vials into liquid nitrogen.
8. Store in either the vapor or liquid phase of a nitrogen refrigerator (-130°C or colder).