YCT (Yeast, Cereal Leaves, Flake-Fish Food, or Trout Chow) and Artemia Suitability Tests

1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

   1.1. This SOP is based on EPA 821-R-02-013 and EPA 821-R-02-014. It is used to determine suitability of YCT (yeast, cereal leaves, and trout chow) and *Artemia*, for use in feeding *Ceriodaphnia dubia* and *Americamysis bahia,* respectively, in cultures and tests.

2. SUMMARY OF METHOD

   2.1. A new batch of food is compared to a known reference batch of food by running a side by side 7-day chronic survival and reproduction screening test with *Ceriodaphnia dubia* and a 7-day chronic survival and growth screening test with *Americamysis bahia* using the known reference food and the new food. If minimum test acceptability requirements are not met, the new food is discarded, and another batch is prepared and tested. If the second test also fails, the current organism supplier lab is contacted and "good" food is purchased.

   2.2. Testing should be done before known reference food is completely depleted. However, if old food is not available for concurrent testing, new food can be tested (single concentration-chronic bioassay) and is considered acceptable if the test acceptability criteria (survival and reproduction for *Ceriodaphnia dubia*, and survival and growth for *Americamysis bahia*) are met. The performance of cultures and/or control results in PT, SRT or facility bioassays can substitute for the direct comparison tests.

   2.3. New batches of YCT and *Artemia* can be used if determined to be suitable for *Ceriodaphnia dubia* and *Americamysis bahia*.

3. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

   3.1. Chronic *Ceriodaphnia dubia* and *Americamysis bahia* SRT Bench Sheets

   3.2. Known reference YCT and new YCT

   3.3. Known reference *Artemia* and new *Artemia*

   3.4. Materials as noted in TA-07.05 for the YCT test and as noted in TA-07.15 for the *Artemia* test

4. REAGENTS AND STANDARDS

   4.1. Materials as noted in TA-7.05 for the YCT test and as noted in TA-07.15 for the *Artemia* test

5. TEST PREPARATIONS

   5.1. YCT

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5.1.1. This test can be performed whenever a batch of YCT chow is prepared or purchased, regardless of whether the ingredients are from the same lot as was used to produce the previous batch. Testing should be done before known reference food is completely depleted. Supervisor should be notified of any problems.

5.1.2. Record test in *Ceriodaphnia dubia* Chronic SRT Bench Sheets

5.1.3. Follow the test methods for SOP TA-07.05, *Ceriodaphnia dubia Chronic Toxicity Testing Methods,* for a chronic screening test.

5.1.3.1. Label one concentration "Reference YCT" and one concentration "New YCT." Use the same synthetic moderately hard water for *Ceriodaphnia dubia* (MHWCD) for the two concentrations.

5.1.3.2. Use YCT (the current batch of reference food), in addition to *Pseudokirchneriella subcapitata*, as food for the Reference YCT concentration.

5.1.3.3. Use the new batch of YCT (freshly prepared and untested), in addition to *Pseudokirchneriella subcapitata*, as food for the New YCT concentration.

5.2. *Artemia*

5.2.1. This test should be performed whenever a new lot of cysts is purchased and before the last lot is depleted. *Artemia* is cultured (hatched) per TA-01.03. Supervisor should be notified of any problems.

5.2.2. Record test in *Americamysis bahia* Chronic Bioassay Bench Sheets.

5.2.3. Follow the test methods for SOP TA-07.15, *Americamysis bahia Chronic Toxicity Testing Methods* for a chronic screening test.

5.2.3.1. Label the old concentration "Reference Artemia" and the new concentration "New Artemia."

5.2.3.2. Use the same batch of artificial seawater (ASW) for the two concentrations.

5.2.3.3. Use current lot of *Artemia* as food for the Reference *Artemia* concentration.

5.2.3.4. Use the newly purchased, untested lot of *Artemia* as food for the New *Artemia* concentration.

6. TEST ANALYSIS

6.1. YCT

6.1.1. Terminate the test when the endpoint of the 3rd brood of neonates in 60% of surviving females is reached, in either concentration.

6.1.2. The New YCT is deemed suitable for use if there is an average of ≥ 15 neonates per surviving organism and there is survival of ≥ 80%.

6.1.2.1. If the New YCT doesn't meet the requirements above, the batch should be discarded, and a new batch prepared and tested per this SOP.

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6.2. *Artemia*

6.2.1. Terminate the test per SOP TA-07.15.

6.2.2. The New *Artemia* is deemed suitable for use if there is an average dry weight of ≥ 0.20 mg per surviving organism and there is survival of ≥ 80%.

6.2.3. If the New *Artemia* doesn't meet the requirements above, the lot should be returned to the supplier and a new lot purchased and tested per this SOP.

7. DATA ARCHIVAL

7.1. Use a black, waterproof pen for all bench sheets and logbooks.

7.2. Record both the YCT and the *Artemia* results in control data for chronic tests and charts. \\Fldep1\dear\Labs\Lab5\Biology\Bench Common\ToxCommon\Bioassay Charts and Tables

7.3. To correct raw data entries, place a single line through the incorrect or illegible entry. Write the corrected entry near the error, and date and initial the correction. Do not overwrite entries.

7.3.1. The corrected entry is written as near as possible to the error or in the comment box on the appropriate bench sheet.

7.3.2. If the correction requires an explanation, write a comment and reference the error. Initial and date the explanation. Do not attempt to put all information (correction and comments) into a small space.

7.3.3. Use sequential alphabetical annotation to identify errors and corresponding comments (use A for first error and use A for corresponding explanatory comment; use B for second error, etc.).

8. QUALITY CONTROL

8.1. Test data should be carefully examined to ensure that poor results aren't attributable to problems within the test.

8.2. Refer to the FDEP Laboratory Quality Manual for corrective action and handling out-of-control data.

9. SAFETY/HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

9.1. Proper laboratory protection, including lab hood or ventilation system, lab coat, gloves and safety glasses, is required when working with chemicals and unprocessed samples.

9.2. Refer to the FDEP Laboratory Health and Safety Plan.

9.3. Read MSDS information for reagent handling and disposal.

10. REFERENCES

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10.1. EPA 821-R-02-013 *Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms*.

10.2. EPA 821-R-02-014 *Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Marine and Estuarine Organisms*.

10.3. DEP SOP TA-07.05. *Ceriodaphnia dubia* Chronic Toxicity Testing Methods.

10.4. DEP SOP TA-7.17. Using EPA Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Statistics for Acute and Chronic Bioassay Tests.

10.5. DEP SOP TA-04.01. Maintenance of *Ceriodaphnia dubia* Mass and Chronic-Bioassay Cultures.

10.6. DEP SOP TA-01.03. *Artemia nauplii* Culture.

10.7. DEP SOP TA-07.15. *Americamysis bahia* Chronic Toxicity Testing Methods.

10.8. DEP Laboratory Quality Manual, https://floridadep.gov/dear/florida-dep-laboratory/content/dep-laboratory-quality-assurance-manual-and-sops

10.9. DEP Laboratory Health and Safety Plan, https://www.floridadep.net/resources/health-safety-manual

Appendix of Changes

07/24/2008	Added *Scope and Application, Summary of the Method, References* and *Appendix of Changes.*
08/14/2009	Replaced reference to SOP TA-07.08 with reference to TA-07.16
07/21/2010	Removed reference to vinyl gloves in the Safety section comment and added a Caution statement
05/18/2011	Added to initial comment. 'The performance of cultures and/or control results in PT, SRT or facility bioassays can substitute for the direct comparison tests.' Corrected names of logbooks to match actual title
03/13/2013	Updated format
03/03/2014	Refined formatting
02/04/2015	Corrected numbering. Changed location of results.
03/04/2016	Updated links.
02/23/2018	Updated links. Added Hyperlinks for manuals and other SOPs.
02/12/2019	Updated links. Reworded Summary of Method for clarity.
02/12/2021	Reworded Summary of Methods, Test Preparation and Test Analysis for clarity. Edited formatting and updated links to Health and Safety Plan.
02/11/2022	Updated links and checked for grammar.

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