Preparation of GFD Assay Reagents and Standards for qPCR Analysis

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR) assay targets a 16S rRNA gene of *Helicobacter* spp. This marker is avian specific and targets gulls, geese, chickens, ducks, and other bird species. The PCR product size is 123 bp. A gBlock® fragment containing a 160 bp GFD qPCR target sequence is used as a standard in the GFD assay, which generates a standard curve for determination of performance characteristics of the qPCR assay.

1.2. Extraction control and third well spike: The extraction control contains an added known concentration of gBlock® DNA that is extracted and analyzed along with environmental samples. The third well spike also contains an added known concentration of gBlock® DNA and is added as a third replicate well to each environmental sample during reaction plate setup. Both extraction control and third well spikes are used as positive controls for the GFD 16S rRNA gene target sequence and qPCR assay.

2. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

2.1. Gloves, latex or nitriles

2.2. Tube racks

2.3. Centrifuge tubes: 0.5mL, 1.5 mL, and 2.0 mL

2.4. Brady FreezerBondz Laboratory Labels (Cat#19-140-586)

2.5. Micropipettes with sterile PCR grade filter tips

2.5.1. Calibrate and use per SOP PCR-2.4.

2.6. CBS Optimizer PCR Workstation #1 (S/N 007631)

2.7. CBS Optimizer PCR Workstation #2 (S/N 007632)

2.8. Fisher Mini Vortexer

2.9. Fisher Minicentrifuge

2.10. Eppendorf Centrifuge Model 5418 (S/N 5418AG715992)

2.11. Qubit 2.0 Fluorometer (S/N 1301008411)

2.11.1. Calibrate and use per SOP PCR-2.0

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2.12. PCR#9, Thermo Refrigerator Isotemp (S/N TR15622511012), maintained at 4ºC ± 2ºC, Room B246A

2.13. PCR#2, Thermo Freezer (S/N 0121174101121218), maintained at -20ºC ± 10ºC, Room B246A

2.14. PCR#4, Thermo Freezer (S/N 0121174201121218), maintained at -20ºC ± 10ºC, Room B246B

2.15. PCR#7, Thermo Ultra Low Freezer (S/N 128473401090813), maintained at -80ºC ± 10ºC, Room B246

2.16. Incubating mini shaker (S/N 150747)

3. REAGENTS AND CHEMICALS

3.1. Molecular Biology grade water. Corning Molecular Biology Grade Water tested to USP Sterile Water (Cat. # MT46000CV)

3.2. Bleach solution, 10% (v/v)

3.3. Ethanol 80% (v/v)

3.4. TE Buffer (Cat. # BP2473)

4. GFD PRIMER STOCK

4.1. Always purchase primers/probe together as a set. Primers should be dry, salt free, and at a 1 µmol scale. Keep stored at -20°C. The probe should be dry, HPLC purified and at a 1 µmol scale. The probe should be ordered with the 5' 6-FAM dye and 3' Zen-Iowa Black FQ quencher from IDT.

4.1.1. Forward Primer GFDFor: 5'- TCGGCTGAGCACTCTAGGG - 3'

4.1.2. Reverse Primer GFDRevMOD: 5'- GCGTCTCTTTGTACATCCCATTG - 3'

4.1.3. Taqman® Probe GFDProbe: 5'- /56-FAM/ACG TCA AGT /ZEN/ CAT CAT GGC CCT TAC GC/3IABkFQ/ -3'

4.2. Each order includes an Oligonucleotide Data Sheet. Record received date on this sheet and review the sequences on the sheet for correctness. Scan the data sheet into the following folder: \\floridadep\data\DEAR\Labs\Lab5\Biology\MolecularBiology\Certificates of Analysis\Oligo Data Sheet

4.3. Record each preparation in Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) Standard Preparation Tracker module (**Laboratory/Technical/Standard Preparation Tracker**).

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4.3.1. In LIMS select **Laboratory/Technical/Standard Preparation Tracker** from the menu. Choose **BIO-PCR** from the "Group" drop down list.

4.3.2. Select **Purchased/New Reagent/Material** from the menu. If a similar reagent exists, select **Purchased/Duplicate Reagent/Material** from the menu and choose the reagent to duplicate from the list.

4.3.3. In the "Purchased Material" pop-up window, enter the following information:

4.3.3.1. For Forward Primer GFD: Identity: = GFDFor; Description = GFD Assay Forward Primer; Entered by: = Analyst Name; Type: = Powder; Grade: = blank; Purity: = Salt-free; Received: = Date of receipt; Expires: = 1 year from receive date; Manufacturer: = Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT); Lot # = Barcode ID from data sheet; Storage Location: = B246A; Storage Temperature: = Freezer at <-10 degC; Container Size: = weight in mg (shown on data sheet in µg); Units: = mg;

4.3.3.2. For Reverse Primer GFD: Identity = GFDRevMOD; Description = GFD Assay Reverse Modified Primer; Entered by = Analyst Name; Type = Powder; Grade = blank; Purity = Salt-free; Received: = Date of receipt; Expires: = 1 year from receive date; Manufacturer = Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT); Lot # = Barcode ID from data sheet; Storage Location = B246A; Storage Temperature = Freezer at <-10 degC; Container Size = weight in mg (shown on data sheet in µg); Units = mg;

4.3.3.3. For GFD Probe: Identity = GFDProbe; Description = GFD Assay Probe GFDP; Entered by = Analyst Name; Type = Powder; Grade = HPLC Grade; Purity = HPLC; Received: = Date of receipt; Expires: = 1 year from receive date; Manufacturer = IDT DNA; Lot # = Barcode ID from data sheet; Storage Location = B246A; Storage Temperature = Freezer at <-10 degC; Container Size = weight in mg; Units = mg;

4.3.3.4. Select "Yes" for the "Has Certificate of Analysis" drop-down list.

4.3.4. If a component is not already in the components list, click **Add**, and "Identity" name will self-populate in the "Components" table.

4.3.5. Double click the component and add the concentration of the reagent. Use the concentration in nmol from the data sheet. The **Add** or **Remove** buttons can be used to add or remove components.

4.3.6. Click **OK** to save the entry and receive a serial number. Open the LabelMark6 software and create labels (see SOP PCR-5.0 for details). Print labels with the reagent name, serial number, and expiration date and affix labels to the side of each tube. The top label should include the reagent name. Place labels on all aliquoted tubes. Place the label on the Oligonucleotide Data Sheet, before scanning it (from Step 4.2).

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4.3.7. The concentration of primers/probe will vary with each order. This is listed in the "nmol" column of the data sheet. The data sheet will list how much TE buffer is needed to reconstitute the primer to a 100 µM concentration in the "Add X µL for 100 µM" column. GFD primers will be reconstituted at a 250 µM concentration. For a 250 µM concentration, divide this number by 2.5. The GFD probe is used at 100 µM.

4.4. All primer mixing and pipetting must be completed in PCR Workstation #1 (DNA free) using sterile, DNA free supplies. Use only aerosol barrier tips for micropipettes. Before opening the dry oligonucleotide tube, pulse centrifuge to make sure all the oligos are at the bottom of the tube and help prevent a spill. Oligos are shipped by the manufacturer as dried content and appear either as a translucent film or a white powder in a centrifuge tube.

4.5. For each primer, pipette appropriate amount of TE buffer into the tube containing the dried primer to make a 250 µM concentration. Dissolve by tapping the tube. Allow the solution to equilibrate for 5 minutes. Mix again and pulse centrifuge to coalesce droplets. Aliquot 6 µL volumes into green 0.5 mL centrifuge tubes. Label clearly and affix labels to the top and side of each tube.

4.6. For the probe, pipette appropriate amount of TE buffer into the tube containing the dried probe to make a 100 µM concentration. Dissolve by tapping the tube. Allow the solution to equilibrate for 5 minutes. Mix again and pulse centrifuge to coalesce droplets. Aliquot 6 µL volumes into green 0.5 mL centrifuge tubes. Label clearly, and affix labels to the top and side of each tube.

4.7. Group in sets of forward primer, reverse primer, and probe in a freezer box and store at -20°C.

4.8. Record each primer preparation in Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) Standard Preparation Tracker module (**Laboratory/Technical/Standard Preparation Tracker**).

4.8.1. In LIMS select **Laboratory/Technical/Standard Preparation Tracker** from the menu. Choose **BIO-PCR** from the "Group" drop down list.

4.8.2. Select **Prepared/New Reagent** from the menu. If a similar reagent exists, then select **Prepared/Duplicate Reagent** from the menu and choose the reagent to duplicate from the list.

4.8.3. In the "Prepared Reagent" pop-up window, enter the following information:

4.8.3.1. <u>For GFD Forward Primer</u>: Identity: = GFDFor; Type: = Working Reagent; Entered by: = Analyst Name; Holding Time: = 365 Days; Prepared = Date/Time of preparation and Analyst; SOP: = PCR-3.4; See Also: = leave blank; Location: = B246A; Description = GFD Assay Forward Primer 250 µM concentration; Storage Temperature = Freezer at <-10 degC; Additional Information: = TE Buffer S#; Solvent Used: =

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AE Buffer; Final Volume: = final total volume of preparation in µL; Units: = uL;

4.8.3.2. For GFD Reverse Primer: Identity = GFDRevMOD; Type: = Working Reagent; Entered by: = Analyst Name; Holding Time: = 365 Days; Prepared = Date/Time of preparation and Analyst; SOP: = PCR-3.4; See Also: = leave blank; Location: = B246A; Description = GFD Assay Reverse Modified Primer 250 µM concentration; Storage Temperature = Freezer at <-10 degC; Additional Information: = TE Buffer S#; Solvent Used: = AE Buffer; Final Volume: = final total volume of preparation in µL; Units: = uL;

4.8.3.3. For GFD Probe: Identity = GFDProbe; Type: = Working Reagent; Entered by: = Analyst Name; Holding Time: = 365 Days; Prepared = Date/Time of preparation and Analyst; SOP: = PCR-3.4; See Also: = leave blank; Location: = B246A; Description = GFD Probe 100 uM concentration; Storage Temperature = Freezer at <-10 degC; Additional Information: = TE Buffer S#; Solvent Used: = AE Buffer; Final Volume: = final total volume of preparation in µL; Units: = uL;

4.8.4. Click **Add**. Choose the **Purchased Materials** radio button in the "Select Source:" section. In the "Enter Serial #" pop up window, choose the primer that was used to make the preparation being entered from the list, or enter its serial number in the text box. In the "Enter Amount & Units for." pop up window, enter weight of the primer added in µg and choose "ug" from the "Added Units:" drop down list. Click **OK**.

4.8.5. Click **OK** to save the entry and receive a serial number. Open the LabelMark6 software and create labels. Print labels with the reagent name (GFDFor, GFDRevMOD, or GFDProbe), serial number, and expiration date and affix labels to the side of each tube. The top label should include the primer name and serial number. Place labels on all aliquoted tubes before storage at -20° C.

5. GBLOCK STANDARD

5.1. A gBlock® gene fragment is ordered from Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT) and is used as a standard for the GFD assay. The target sequence for the GFD assay is a 160 bp fragment (bold sequences show location of primer binding):

5' –
GTCCTTAGTTGCTAACAGT**TCGGCTGAGCACTCTAGGG**AGACTGCCTTCGT
AAGGAGGAGGAAGGTGAGGACGACGTCAAGTCATCATGGCCCTTACGCCTA
GGGCTACACACGTGCTA**CAATGGGATGTACAAAGAGACGC**AATACCGCGA
GGTGGAGC – 3'

5.2. This sequence is combined with the target sequences for the HF183 and Gull2 assays to generate a standard that can be used for all three assays. This gBlock fragment is named HFG2GD gBlock and is a 725 bp fragment:

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5’ –
CAAAACTTTTAACTGATGCTATCATGAGTTCACATGTCCGCATGATTAAAGGT
ATTTTCCGGTAGACGATGGGGATGCGTTCCATTAGCTCGAGATAGTAGGCGG
GGTAACGGCCCACCTAGTCAACGATGGATAGGGGTTCTGAGAGGAAGTGCAT
CGACCTAAAGTTTTGAGTGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAACACGTGGGTAACCTGCC
CATCAGAGGGGGACAACACTTGGAAACAGGTGCTAATACCGCATAATACAG
AGAACCGCATGGTTCTTTGTTGAAAGGCGCTTCTGGTGTCGCTGATGGATGGA
CCCGCGGTGCATTAGCTAGACGGTGAGGTAACGGCTCACCGTGGCAATGATG
CATAGCCGACCTGAGAGGGTGATCGGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCCA
AACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTAGGGAATCTTCGGCAATGGACGAAAGTCTG
ACCGAGCAACGCCGCGTGAGTGAAGAAGGTTTTCGGATCGTAAAACTCTGTT
GTTAGAGAAGAACAGGAGCGATAGTAACTGCTCGCTCTTTGACGGTATCTAA
CCAGAAAGCCA**TCGGCTGAGCACTCTAGGG**AGACTGCCTTCGTAAGGAGG
AGGAAGGTGAGGACGACGTCAAGTCATCATGGCCCTTACGCCTAGGGCTACA
CACGTGCTA**CAATGGGATGTACAAAGAGACGC**AATACCGCGAGGTGGAGC
– 3’

5.3. There are no modifications or purifications needed, and 500 ng of the gBlock arrives as a dried content and appears either as a translucent film or a white powder in a centrifuge tube. Record the gBlock in LIMS Standard Preparation Tracker module (Laboratory/Technical/Standard Preparation Tracker).

5.3.1. In LIMS select **Laboratory/Technical/Standard Preparation Tracker** from the menu. Choose **BIO-PCR** from the “Group” drop down list.

5.3.2. Select **Purchased/New Standard** from the menu. If a similar standard exists, then select **Prepared/Duplicate Standard** from the menu and choose the standard to duplicate from the list.

5.3.3. In the “Purchased Standard” pop up window enter the following information:

5.3.3.1. For HFG2GD gBlock: Identity: = HFG2GD gBlock; Description: = gBlock standard for HF183, Gull2, and GFD assays; Entered by: = Analyst Name; Received: = Date received; Expires: = 365 days; Type: = purchased powder; Has certificate of Analysis: = YES; Manufacturer: = Integrated DNA Technologies; Lot #: = (list number on tube); Storage Location: = B246B; Storage Temperature: = Freezer <10 degC; Additional information: = Use with SOP PCR-3.4.

5.4. To resuspend, centrifuge the tube briefly then add TE to reach a final concentration of 10 ng/µL. For 500 ng, add 50 µL TE. Vortex briefly, then incubate at 50° C for 20 minutes in benchtop incubator. Briefly vortex and centrifuge.

6. STOCK DNA AND WORKING STANDARDS

6.1. Dilute the resuspended gBlock in TE buffer to measure on the Qubit. Gently mix each dilution and pulse centrifuge to coalesce droplets.

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6.1.1. Mix 10 µL of resuspended HFG2GD gBlock with 90 µL of TE buffer to make a 1:10 dilution.

6.1.2. Mix 50 µL of the 1:10 dilution with 450 µL of TE buffer to make a 1:100 dilution.

6.2. Analyze the 1:10 and 1:100 dilutions in triplicate on the Qubit fluorometer per SOP PCR-2.0 to determine the concentration. Use 10 µL as the sample volume. The 1:10 dilution should be 10X greater than the 1:100 dilution. If this is not the case, use a more concentrated or dilute sample as needed.

6.3. Determine the concentration of stock HFG2GD gBlock in ng/mL.

6.3.1. For each dilution, multiply the stock concentration (from Qubit data file) measured on the Qubit by the dilution factor. Use the average of these as the concentration of the stock HFG2GD gBlock.

6.3.2. Compare this value to the expected concentration of 10 ng/µL. If calculated value differs greatly, recheck measurements.

6.4. Determine the concentration of the stock DNA in TSC/5 µL using the following equation with the conversion factor of 1 ng of HFG2GD double-stranded gBlock = 1.28 X 10^9 copies of GFD target sequence.

$$\frac{TSC\ HFG2GD}{5\ uL} = (Stock\ Conc.\ in\ ng/mL)\left(\frac{1\ mL}{1000\ uL}\right)\left(\frac{1.28\ \times\ 10^9\ TSC}{1\ ng}\right) \times 5$$

6.4.1. If developing a new gBlock, please refer to SOP PCR-5.4 Section 2.3.3. to determine the number of copies per nanogram.

6.5. Determine the concentrations of the dilutions in TSC/5 µL units and continue the serial dilution down to a concentration of 10^6 in 1000 µL volumes. This will be used as the working standard.

6.6. Using green 0.5 mL tubes, aliquot the 10^6 dilution in 50 µL volume for the standards and 16 µL volume for the extraction control spikes. Print labels (see 6.7.3.4) and store 10^6 tubes at -80°C.

6.6.1. The 10^6standards will be diluted further to 10^5, 10^4, 10^3 and 10^2 when setting up the reaction plate to make a standard curve for the GFD assay and as a 3rd well spike at a concentration of 10^4.

6.7. Record the stock DNA and dilutions in LIMS Standard Preparation Tracker module (**Laboratory/Technical/Standard Preparation Tracker**).

6.7.1. In LIMS select **Laboratory/Technical/Standard Preparation Tracker** from the menu. Choose **BIO-PCR** from the "Group" drop down list.

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6.7.2. Select **Prepared/New Standard** from the menu. If a similar standard exists, then select **Prepared/Duplicate Standard** from the menu and choose the standard to duplicate from the list.

6.7.3. In the "Standard Solution" pop up window enter the following information:

6.7.3.1. For Stock HFG2GD gBlock DNA: Identity: = x.xxEx HFG2GD gBlock (use measured concentration in TSC/5 µL); Type: = Stock Standard; Holding Time: = 365 days; Entered by: = Analyst Name; Location: = B246-A; Prepared = Date/time of preparation and analyst; SOP: = PCR-3.4; See Also: = leave blank; Description: = = HFG2GD gBlock reconstituted at 10 ng/uL in TE buffer; Additional Information = TE Buffer S#; Storage Temperature: = Freezer at <-10 degC; Solvent Used: = AE Buffer; Final Volume: =50; Units: = µL;

Note: The stock DNA will be used up to make working standards but still needs to be entered into LIMS. Store the original tube at -80°C.

6.7.3.2. For working HFG2GD gBlock Standard: Identity: = x.xxEX HFG2GD gBlock (use the measured concentration in TSC/5 µL); Type: = Working Standard; Holding Time = 365 days; Entered by: = Analyst Name; Location: = B246-A; Prepared = Date/time of preparation and analyst; SOP: = PCR-3.4; See Also: = leave blank; Description: = resuspended gBlock used for standards for GFD assay; Additional Information = TE Buffer S#; Storage Temperature: = Freezer at <-10 degC; Solvent Used: = AE Buffer; Final Volume: = 2000.00 ; Units: = µL;

6.7.3.3. Click **Add**. In the "Enter Serial #" pop up window, choose the reagent that was used to make the standard being entered from the list, or enter its serial number in the text box. For HFG2GD gBlock stock DNA, the standard is in the **Purchased Materials** "Select Source:" list. For the other working standards, choose **Existing Standards** for the source list. In the "Enter Amount & Units from.." pop up window, enter the amount of standard added in µL and "Final Conc. Units:" should be entered as "ng/mL". Click **OK**.

6.7.3.4. Click **OK** in the "Standard Solution" pop up window to save the entry and receive a serial number. Open the LabelMark6 software and create labels. The side label should include the serial number, name (_.__ E6 HFG2GD STD or _.__ E4 HFG2GD SPK), and expiration date. The top label should include E4 HFG2GD SPK or E6 HFG2GD STD. Print labels and affix them on the top and sides of the tubes. Store at -80°C.

7. GFD ASSAY STANDARD CURVES AND THIRD WELL SPIKE

7.1. The GFD standard curve will consist of running concentration series 10^6, 10^5, 10^4, 10^3 and 10^2 TSC/5 uL, and the 3rd well spike is run at a concentration of 10^4 TSC/5 uL.

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7.2. GFD standards and 3rd well spike will be diluted before each run from 10^6 concentration. To make the 10^5 standard, dilute by mixing 10 µL of the 10^6 dilution with 90 µL of TE buffer. 10^5, 10^4, and 10^3 will be made similarly by serially diluting.

7.3. Record the 3rd well spike standard in LIMS Standard Preparation Tracker module (**Laboratory/Technical/Standard Preparation Tracker**) as a working standard per Step 6.7.3.2, except add SPIKE to the end of the Identity name.

7.4. When new standards are needed, dilute the original gBlock stock and measure as described in Section 6.1. Reorder as needed.

8. GFD EXTRACTION CONTROL

8.1. The extraction control (EC) has a concentration of 10^6 TSC/5 uL HFG2GD gBlock.

8.2. Use the 10^7 HFG2GD gBlock stock standard to make the 10^6 EC dilution by mixing 50 µL of the 10^8 dilution with 450 µL of TE buffer.

8.3. Aliquot the EC into blue 0.5 mL tubes in 16 µL volumes and keep frozen at -80°C.

8.4. Record the extraction control spike in LIMS Standard Preparation Tracker module (**Laboratory/Technical/Standard Preparation Tracker**) as a working standard per Step 6.7.3.2, except add SPIKE to the end of the Identity name.

9. QUALITY CONTROL

9.1. Maintain control charts of GFD extraction controls. If recoveries show a decreasing trend, DNA standards may be deteriorating and need to be remade.

9.2. When new standard curve sets are made, analyze alongside an older set for comparison. New standards should perform similarly to older standards. If older standards are not available, compare to the control chart information.

10. REFERENCES

10.1. DEP Laboratory Quality Manual

10.2. Health and Safety Plan

10.3. DEP SOP PCR-2.0 *Calibration, Use and Maintenance of Qubit 2.0 Fluorometer*

10.4. DEP SOP PCR-2.4 *Calibration and Use of Mechanical Pipettes using PCS® Pipette Calibration System and Artel® Pipette Tracker™*

10.5. DEP SOP PCR-5.4 *Determining Optimal Running Conditions for qPCR Markers*

Appendix of Changes

11/30/2020 Added changes from SYBR qPCR assay to TaqMan qPCR methodology.

11/08/2021 Added changes from BRD3GD gBlock to HFG2GD gBlock.

11/03/2022 Updated to new fridge and freezer information in Equipment and Supplies.
Updated calculations for stock DNA.

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