



Instant Flightless Fruit Fly Culture Medium Instructions

The enclosed culture medium is a proprietary lab mix from Southern Biological and Carolina Biological used for culturing drosophila (fruit flies/vinegar flies). These instructions have been altered and adapted by Sans Vertigo for the everyday user and pet owners.

Instant medium is highly convenient for those who do not want to work with preparing a homemade mix, which can take some time. This instant medium contains mould inhibitor, eliminating any possible problems that are commonly experienced in homemade mixes.

Depending on the temperature and climate, a single culture set up with this medium will start producing adult flies in 2-3 weeks. Cultures can last as long as 1-2 months, but it is recommended to start a new culture using existing flies at least once a week if you are raising them to feed pets.

For general care, we recommend reading our online drosophila melanogaster care sheet:

<https://sansvertigo.com.au/blogs/resources/care-sheet-flightless-fruit-fly-drosophila-melanogaster>

For original source information and MSDS on drosophila instant medium, please visit www.southernbiological.com

Recommended Measurements

Raising for Pet Use			
Container	Medium	Tap Water	Baker's Yeast
250-500ml cup/jar	10g	20-25ml	15-20 grains
Raising for Study			
Container	Medium	Tap Water	Baker's Yeast
25mm wide vial	2.5g	5-7ml	4-6 grains
250ml jar	10g	20-25ml	15-20 grains

Preparing the medium

1. Prepare the medium on the day of use.
2. Place the medium into a clean and dry culture vial/jar/cup.
3. Carefully pour water over the entire surface of the media. The aim is to wet the entire medium, but not saturate it with excess water.
4. Allow 5 minutes of the medium to fully absorb the water. If there are any dry spots, add a little bit of water to the area.
5. Sprinkle dry baker's yeast onto the surface.
6. The flies may be added to the vial/jar/cup.
7. Plug or seal the vial/jar/cup tightly with a ventilated lid, foam or mesh/gauze covering-ensuring that the flies cannot escape any small holes or gaps.

Increasing longevity

- If at any point of the lifecycle of the colony the medium looks very dry, add a small amount of water to rehydrate it. It is normal for the media to look somewhat slimy, but not runny.
- Optionally, sprinkling in yeast on a weekly basis can extend the lifespan of the culture.
- Store the fruit flies between 22-24C for best results.
- Yeast packets must be refrigerated or frozen once opened. They will keep well for up to 6 months.