

Harvesting Paramecia from Cages II

Concentrated Paramecia Preparation

Paramecia need to be thoroughly filtered and rinsed before they can be concentrated and fed to the nursery.

- Pour each cage through the 105 micron strainer (See figure 2), collecting the liquid and paramecia in a container below and discarding the debris caught in the strainer. Rinsing the strainer between cages will make this process quicker and easier.
- Pour the filtered paramecia into the paramecia collector (See figures 3-4), making sure that both valves are shut, and top off with fish water.
- Let the collector sit for 15-20 minutes. This will allow the paramecia to gather at the top of the collector.
- To collect the paramecia, put a large container under the top valve. Open the valve and allow all of the paramecia off the top of the collector to drain into the container. Shut the top valve and refill the collector with fish water. Repeat these steps until you have retrieved the majority of the paramecia. This usually takes 2-3 times.
- After the last collection, the collector can be emptied and the remaining liquid discarded by opening the bottom valve and allowing it to drain.

The last step in the filtration process is to remove any residual ammonia in the water from the paramecia and replace it with ammonia free fish water. This process is done by pouring the previously collected paramecia into a 23 micron strainer (see figure 2). The paramecia are too large to fit through the 23 micron material. Unlike the 105 micron strainer, the 23 micron strainer withholds the paramecia in the strainer and discards the liquid.

- After the majority of the water is drained, using fish water, rinse the paramecia to remove any remaining ammonia.
- After rinsing, pour the paramecia into a clean container.
- Fill the container with clean fish water until a concentration of 100-150 paramecia/1ml fish water is achieved and feed.

Note: It is recommended that you check the ammonia level with a test kit. If it shows any trace of ammonia, repeat the 23um mesh straining process.