

***B.glabrata* growth conditions until patency**

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Introduction

The length of the prepatent phase of *S. mansoni* in *B. glabrata* is highly dependent on maintenance temperature. If the snails are maintained continually at 26°C, some snails can begin to liberate (shed) cercariae by 28-30 days after they are exposed to miracidia.

Equipment

Incubator or modified room that can hold a steady temperature ~ 26°C.

Materials and reagents

Aquaria or suitable pans for maintaining snails
Lettuce, algae, gel snail food, dry fish food

Procedure

- Maintain snails in shallow containers or aquaria
- For a food source, use fresh lettuce, small amounts of lettuce that have been wilted by heat, or combinations of these with other nutritious food sources
- Change the aquarium water periodically, especially if water becomes cloudy or a foul odor is detected

Recommendations

The greatest amount of cercarial shedding typically occurs 1-2 weeks after initial shedding, but absolute numbers of cercariae vary between snails and are dependent upon many factors.

References

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