

Planaria

A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

Immediate Care and Handling

As soon as your shipment arrives, open the shipping container and inspect the jars. Once you have verified that the shipment is okay, loosen the lids. If the water in the jars is clear and you plan to use the cultures that day or the next, little additional care is needed. However, planarians foul their water rapidly, so it is good practice to pour off the shipping water and replace it with fresh spring water. Continue to check the condition of the water until the lab. If the water is at all cloudy, you should transfer the organisms to fresh spring water immediately.

Habitat Setup and Maintenance

Although planaria are not suitable for culturing, with diligence you can maintain them for several weeks. You will need an 8" culture dish (item #741006) or another shallow, soap-free container made of glass, plastic, enameled steel, or stainless steel. Pour 2 to 5 cm of fresh spring water into the container. Use a dropping pipette to move the planarians (it may be necessary to carefully dislodge some individuals with your finger). Maintain at 21 to 23° C (70 to 73° F). Higher temperatures may damage them, but they will tolerate temperatures down to 9° C (48° F).

Each day, transfer the organisms to a fresh dish of spring water. Dislodge the slime and pour it out along with the water. Rinse the dish (avoid soap) and air dry.

Feed once a week. Suitable foods include fresh beef liver, hard-boiled egg yolk, *Lumbriculus*, pieces of earthworm, crushed aquarium snails, etc. For up to 50 planarians, feed a pea-sized portion. After 30 minutes, transfer the worms to a fresh dish of spring water.

FAQ's

Can I use tap water with planarians?

No. Tap water often contains metal ions that are detrimental to planarians.

Our planaria broke into bits. What happened?

During their sexual period, generally February or March, black and brown planarians are fragile. Do not handle or feed them during this time. They may deposit cocoons on the bottom of the culture dish. If maintained in fresh spring water, the cocoons will hatch in 2 to 3 weeks, giving rise to several small planaria.

Why have our planarians lost their heads?

The anterior end of the planarian is more sensitive to toxins; if a toxic substance is in the water, the anterior end will degenerate first. Use spring water, not tap water. If you are using "spring water" from a grocery store, there may be a problem with it. Locally collected spring or pond water may contain a pollutant, or your containers may have soap or detergent residue in them.

Which planarians should I use for regeneration experiments?

Black and brown planaria are your best choice. It will take them about 2 weeks to regenerate at room temperatures. White planaria will regenerate, but they take longer.

I ordered black planaria but I got brown. Why?

Black planaria are difficult to find in the spring, so we may substitute brown for black.

Problems? We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

Orders and replacements: 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

Technical Support and Questions: caresheets@carolina.com



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