extract DNA by using appropriate commercial DNA extraction kit.

2.4. Purification of PCR products

Various methods are available for removing unreached substances (dNTP, prime, etc.). Purify according to the protocol of the method adopted.

2.5. Quantification of purified DNA

When purified DNA is measured by spectrophotometer, calculate 1 $OD_{260\,nm}$ as 50 μg/mL.

2.6. Labeling of PCR products with sequencing reagents

Use an appropriate fluorescence-labeled sequencing reagent suitable for the available DNA sequencer or its program and label the PCR products according to the instructions provided with the reagent.

2.7. Purification of sequencing reagent-labeled PCR products

Transfer the product in 75 μL of diluted ethanol (7 in 10) into a 1.5 mL centrifuge tube, keep in an ice bath for 20 minutes, and centrifuge at 15,000 rpm for 20 minutes. After removal of supernatant, add 250 μL of diluted ethanol (7 in 10) to the precipitate and centrifuge at 15,000 rpm for 5 minutes. Remove the supernatant and dry the precipitate.

2.8. DNA homology analysis

Place sequencing reagent-labeled PCR products in the DNA sequencer and read the nucleotide sequences of the PCR products. Compare the partial nucleotide sequence with those in the BLAST database.

3. Judgment

If sequencing data show over 90% identity with a sequence in the database, in general, judgment may be made as follows.

(i) In the case of bacteria, compare the nucleotides in the product obtained with the 10F primer (the 800F primer when 800F/1500R primers are used) with the BLAST database. Higher ranked species are judged as identified species or closely related species.

(ii) In the case of fungi, compare sequencing data for the product obtained with the ITS1F primer with the BLAST database. Higher ranked species are judged as identified species or closely related species.

4. Reagents, Test Solutions

(i) 0.5 mol/L Disodium dihydrogen ethylenediamine tetraacetate TS: Dissolve 18.6 g of disodium dihydrogen ethylenediamine tetraacetate dihydrate in water to make 100 mL.

(ii) 1 mol/L Tris buffer solution (pH 8.0): Dissolve 24.2 g of 2-amino-2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-propanediol in a suitable amount of water, adjust the pH to 8.0 with 0.2 mol/L hydrochloric acid TS, and add water to make 200 mL.

(iii) TE buffer solution: Mix 1.0 mL of 1 mol/L tris buffer solution (pH 8.0) and 0.2 mL of 0.5 mol/L disodium dihydrogen ethylenediamine tetraacetate TS, and add water to make 100 mL.

(iv) DNA releasing solution: Divide TE buffer solution containing 1 vol% of polyoxyethylene (10) octylphenyl ether into small amounts and store frozen until use.

(v) PCR reaction solution

10-fold buffer solution*	5 μL
dNTP mixture**	4 μL
10 μmol/L Sense primer	1 μL
10 μmol/L Anti-sense primer	1 μL
Heat-resistant DNA polymerase (1 U/μL)	1 μL
Water	36 μL

* Being composed of 100 mmol/L 2-amino-2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-propanediol hydrochloride (pH 8.4), 500 mmol/L potassium chloride, 20 mmol/L magnesium chloride and 0.1 g/L gelatin.

** A solution containing 2.5 mmol/L each of dGTP (sodium 2′-deoxyguanosine 5′-triphosphate), dATP (sodium 2′-deoxyadenosine 5′-triphosphate), dCTP (sodium 2′-deoxycytidine 5′-triphosphate) and dTTP (sodium 2′-deoxythymidine 5′-triphosphate). Adequate products containing these components as described above may be used.

(vi) Sequencing reagent: There are many kinds of sequencing methods, such as the dye-primer method for labeling of primer, the dye-terminator method for labeling of dNTP terminator and so on. Use an appropriate sequencing reagent kit for the apparatus and program to be used.

(vii) 50-Fold concentrated TAE buffer solution: Dissolve 242 g of 2-amino-2-hydroxymethyl-1,3-propanediol in 57.1 mL of acetic acid (100) and 100 mL of 0.5 mol/L disodium dihydrogen ethylenediamine tetraacetate TS, and add water to make 1000 mL.

(viii) 1-Fold concentrated TAE buffer solution: Diluted 50-fold concentrated TAE buffer solution (1 in 50) prepared before use is referred to as 1-fold concentrated TAE buffer solution.

(ix) Agarose gel: Mix 1.5 g of agarose, 2.0 mL of 50-fold concentrated TAE buffer solution, 10 μL of a solution of ethidium bromide (3,8-diamino-5-ethyl-6-phenylphenanthridinium bromide) (1 in 100) and 100 mL of water. After dissolving the materials by heating, cool the solution to about 60°C, and prepare gels.

(x) Loading buffer solution (6-fold concentrated): Dissolve 0.25 g of bromophenol blue, 0.25 g of xylene cyanol FF and 1.63 g of disodium dihydrogen ethylenediamine tetraacetate dihydrate in 50 mL of water, and add 30 mL of glycerol and water to make 100 mL.

(xi) PCR primers

For	Primer	
Bacteria	10F	5′-GTTTGATCCTGGCTCA-3′
	800R	5′-TACCAGGGTATCTAATCC-3′
	800F	5′-GGATTAGATACCCTGGTA-3′
	1500R	5′-TACCTTGTTACGACTT-3′
Fungi	ITS1F	5′-GTAACAAGGT(T/C)TCCGT-3′
	ITS1R	5′-CGTTCTTCATCGATG-3′

(xii) Polyoxyethylene(10)octylphenyl ether: A pale yellow, viscous liquid.

Rapid Counting of Microbes using Fluorescent Staining <*G4-8-152*>

This chapter provides rapid methods using fluorescence staining for the quantitative estimation of viable microorganisms. Incubation on an agar medium has been widely used for quantitative estimation of viable microorganisms, but a number of environmental microorganisms of interest are not easy to grow in culture under usual conditions, thus new microbial detection methods based on fluorescence or luminescence have been developed. In the fluorescence staining method, microorganisms are stained with fluorescent dye, and can easily be detected and counted with various sorts of apparatus, such as a fluorescence microscope or flow cytometer. Methods are available to detect total microorganisms, including both dead and viable cells, or to detect only cells with a specified bioactivity by choosing the dye reagent appropriately. Nucleic acid staining reagents, which bind with DNA or RNA, detect all cells containing

nucleic acids, whether they are live or dead. This technique is the most fundamental for the fluorescence staining method. On the other hand, fluorescent vital staining methods target the respiratory activity of the microorganism and the activity of esterase, which is present universally in microorganisms. In the microcolony method, microcolonies in the early stage of colony formation are counted. The CFDA-DAPI double staining method and the microcolony method are described below. These methods can give higher counts than the other techniques, because these rapid and accurate techniques provide quantitative estimation of viable microorganisms based on a very specific definition of viability, which may be different from that implicit in other methods. The procedures of these methods described here may be changed as experience with the methods is accumulated. Therefore, other reagents, instruments and apparatus than those described here may also be used if there is a valid reason for so doing.

1. CFDA-DAPI double staining method

Fluorescein diacetate (FDA) reagents are generally used for the detection of microorganisms possessing esterase activity. These reagents are hydrolyzed by intracellular esterase, and the hydrolyzed dye exhibits green fluorescence under blue excitation light (about 490 nm). Modified FDAs such as carboxyfluorescein diacetate (CFDA) are used because of the low stainability of gramnegative bacteria with FDA. The principle of the CFDA-DAPI double staining method, which also employs a nucleic acid staining reagent, 4′,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI), is as follows. The nonpolar CFDA penetrates into cells and is hydrolyzed to fluorescent carboxyfluorescein by intracellular esterase. The carboxyfluorescein is accumulated in the living cells due to its polarity, and therefore green fluorescence due to carboxyfluorescein occurs when cells possessing esterase activity are illuminated with blue excitation light. No fluorescent carboxyfluorescein is produced with dead cells, since they are unable to hydrolyze CFDA. On the other hand, DAPI binds preferentially to the adenine and thymine of DNA after penetration into both viable and dead microorganisms, and consequently all of the organisms containing DNA exhibit blue fluorescence under ultraviolet excitation light. Therefore, this double staining method enables to count specifically only live microorganisms possessing esterase activity under blue excitation light, and also to determine the total microbial count (viable and dead microorganisms) under ultraviolet excitation light.

1.1. Apparatus

1.1.1. Fluorescence microscope or fluorescence observation apparatus

Various types of apparatus for counting fluorescencestained microorganisms are available. Appropriate filters are provided, depending on the fluorescent dye reagents used. A fluorescence microscope, laser microscope, flow cytometer, and various other types of apparatus may be used for fluorescence observation.

1.2. Instruments

(i) Filtering equipment (funnels, suction flasks, suction pumps)

(ii) Membrane filters made of polycarbonate (poresize: 0.2 μm); A suitable filter that can trap particles on the surface can be used other than polycarbonate filter.

(iii) Glass slide

(iv) Cover glass

(v) Ocular micrometer for counting (with 10 × 10 grids)

1.3. Procedure

An example of the procedure using a fluorescence microscope is described below.

1.3.1. Preparation of samples

Prepare samples by ensuring that microbes are dispersed evenly in the liquid (water or buffer solution).

1.3.2. Filtration

Set a membrane filter made of polycarbonate (poresize: 0.2 μm) on the funnel of the filtering equipment. Filter an appropriate amount of a sample to trap microbes in the sample on the filter.

1.3.3. Staining

Pour sufficient amount of buffer solution for CFDA staining, mixed to provide final concentration of 150 μg/mL of CFDA and 1 μg/mL of DAPI, into the funnel of the filtering equipment and allow staining in room temperature for 3 minutes, then filter the liquid by suction. Pour sufficient amount of aseptic water in the funnel, filter by suction, and remove excess fluorescent reagent left on the filter. Thoroughly dry the filter.

1.3.4. Slide preparation

Put one drop of immersion oil for fluorescence microscope on the glass slide. Place the air dried filter over it, with the filtering side on the top. Then put one drop of immersion oil for fluorescence microscope on the surface of the filter, place a cover glass to enclose the filter. Put another drop of immersion oil for fluorescence microscope on the cover glass when using an oilimmersion objective lens.

1.3.5. Counting

Observe and count under a fluorescence microscope, with 1000 magnification. In case of CFDA-DAPI double staining method, count the microorganisms (with esterase activity) exhibiting green fluorescence under the blue excitation light first to avoid color fading by the ultraviolet light, then count the microorganisms (with DNA) exhibiting blue fluorescence under the ultraviolet excitation light in the same microscopic field. Count the organisms exhibiting fluorescence on more than 20 randomly selected fields among 100 grids observed through an ocular micrometer of the microscope, and calculate the total number of organisms using the following formula. The area of the microscopic field should be previously determined with the ocular and objective micrometers. The amount of the sample to be filtered must be adjusted so that the cell number per field is between 10 and 100. It might be necessary to reprepare the sample in certain instances. (In such case that the average count number is not more than 2 organisms per field, or where more than 5 fields are found which have no organism per field, it is assumed that the microorganism count is below the detection limit.)

Number of microbes (cells/mL)
= {(average number of microbes per visual field) × (area of filtration)}/{(amount of sample filtered) × (area of one microscopic field)}

1.4. Reagents and test solutions

(i) Aseptic water: Filter water through a membrane filter with 0.2 μm pore size, then sterilize it by heating in an autoclave at 121°C for 15 minutes. Water for injection may be used.

(ii) CFDA solution, 10 mg/mL: Dissolve 50 mg of CFDA in dimethylsulfoxide to prepare a 5 mL solution. Store at −20°C in light shielded condition.

(iii) Buffer solution for CFDA staining: Dissolve 5 g of sodium chloride with 0.5 mL of 0.1 mol/L disodium dihydrogen ethylenediamine tetraacetate TS and diluted disodium hydrogen phosphate TS (1 in 3) to prepare 100 mL of solution. Add sodium dihydrogen phosphate dihydrate solution (1 in 64) to adjust the pH level to 8.5. Filter the solution through a membrane filter with a pore size of 0.2 μm.

(iv) DAPI solution, 10 μg/mL: Dissolve 10 mg of DAPI