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Axenic culture of marine harpacticoida copepod, *Tigriopus japonicus* Mori

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This report introduces to a axenic culture method (bacteria-free culture) of the common marine harpacticoida copepod, *Tigriopus japonicus* Mori. This axenic copepod culture method is based on the washing and transferring of copepod ovisac with sterilized sea water and modified antibiotic mixture AM9 solution. We used modified Erd-schreiber and Agar medium for establishing axenic culture of copepod food (*Nannochloropsis oculata*). Protocol for obtaining axenic culture of copepod, *T. japonicus* was follow ; 1) Establish mono species culture of copepod, 2) Collection of ovisac from maternal female, 3) Rinse ovisac with sterilized sea water and 10% AM9 solution, 4) Repetition of 3), 5) Soak ovisac in the 100% AM9 solution for 90 minutes, 6) Rinse ovisac with sterilized sea water, 7) Repetition of 6) for 60 minutes, 8) shake ovisac every 10 minutes, 9) Rinse ovisac with sterilized sea water, 10) Transfer culture to food suspension medium (axenic cultured *N. oculata*), 11) Sterility test with modified STP medium after 7 days. This axenic copepod culture method was applied for the investigation on the roles of aquatic

bacteria and copepod, in the parts of aquatic micro-ecosystem structure, copepod feeding behavior, interspecific relationships between copepod and bacteria, copepod culture for marine fish larvae cultures, etc.