

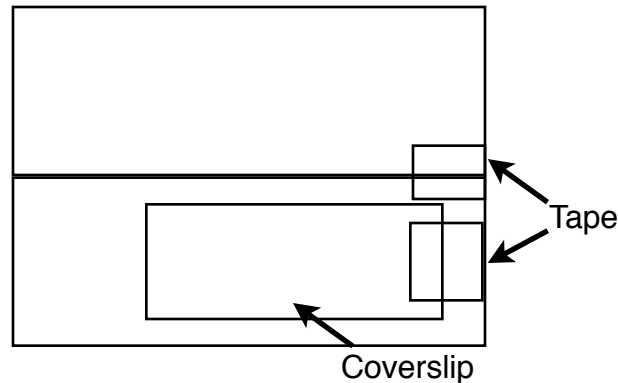
Mounting *Drosophila* embryos in araldite

For this procedure, you'll need the following:

- (a) Stained embryos - make sure that they have sunk in the araldite/acetone
- (b) Microscope slides
- (c) Microscope coverslips
- (d) A P1000 with pipette tip - cut the tip off of the pipette tip before using
- (e) Embryo hooks
- (f) Scotch tape

Procedure:

1. Using a small piece of tape, tape a coverslip to a microscope slide.
2. Using another small piece of tape, tape a second microscope slide to the slide with the coverslip. Tape them together along the long edge.



3. Using a pencil, label both slides with the cross, the antibodies used for the staining, and the date of staining. Record this information in your notebook for record keeping purposes.
4. Working under the scope, use the P1000 (with the cut tip) to remove all of the embryos and place them on the slide *without* the coverslip.
5. Wait a minute for all of the acetone to evaporate and the embryos to settle down.
6. Using an embryo hook, gently pick up an embryo from the puddle of araldite, and place it on the coverslip.
7. Working carefully with the embryo hook, position the embryo on the coverslip in the desired orientation. Try to avoid destroying the embryo with the hook.
8. Repeat again until all of your desired embryos are positioned and arranged on the coverslip. I like to arrange them in a grid, with rows of 10-20 embryos, and 4-6 rows per slide.
9. When all of the embryos are positioned on the coverslip, carefully remove the piece of tape that holds the two slides together. Try not to jostle the slide/coverslip with your mounted embryos.

10. Carefully place the slide and coverslip with the embryos on the slide warmer (make sure the slide warmer is turned on all the way).
11. For the slide with the puddle of araldite and remaining embryos, place a coverslip over the puddle of araldite. The coverslip should settle down over the embryos.
12. Place this slide on the slidewarmer.
13. Leave the slides on the slidewarmer overnight, and no longer than 24 hours.
14. Remove an araldite-filled syringe from the freezer and let it warm for 10-15 minutes.
15. Working carefully, remove the tape holding the coverslip on the microscope slide, and place the microscope slide back on the slide warmer.
16. Place a large diameter washer on the microscope slide, and place a smaller diameter washer on the larger one.
17. Balance the coverslip with the embryos on the two washers
18. Working carefully, use the syringe to place a large(ish) drop of araldite on top of the embryos on the coverslip. Do not use too much araldite!
19. Place a new coverslip over the drop of araldite/embryos. You should see that the araldite covers the mounted embryos and “fills in the cracks”.
20. Place a small diameter washer on top of the coverslip sandwich.
21. Place a large diameter washer on top of the smaller diameter washer
22. Carefully balance a glass brick (one of those glued-together stacks of slides on the benchtop) on top of the washers (see below for diagram).
23. Leave this whole assembly on the slide warmer for at least 24-48 hours.
24. When dried, disassemble the stack, and tape the coverslip/embryo sandwich to the bottom microscope slide. Use a razor blade to gently remove any dried clumps of araldite.
25. Store the mounted embryos in a slide box until ready for viewing/photographing.

