

Filter Paper Use

Wildlife Conservation Society, Apr 2014

Note that collection of blood samples requires a research permit from the country in which the research is being conducted. In addition all *Cyclura* species are CITES Appendix I listed. This means that you must have both an import and export permit when moving these samples from one country to another. The IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group has a blanket US CITES import permit for *Cyclura*, which can be used upon request and by authorized users. The format for obtaining CITES export permits varies and must be obtained from the respective country. *Iguana* species are CITES Appendix II listed and thus only requires an export permit, although if importing to the United States, a USFWS 3-177 importation declaration form is required.

Filter paper can be used to store whole blood for later testing for genetics, disease screening (PCR), contaminant testing and mineral determination, and stable isotope testing (see SI protocol).

Supplies

Appropriate filter paper for the task: 903 Protein Saver card (Whatman) for contaminant, protein (including antibodies), and mineral determination. FTA Classic Card (Whatman) for genetics and molecular (PCR) disease screening.

Syringe for collection of blood: 1 - 3 cc syringe with 22-25 gauge needle depending on the animal's size.

Alcohol to disinfect skin lightly.

Gauze or cotton to apply alcohol and for direct compression of bleeding site.

Pencil or lab marking pen (one that chemicals will not smear).

Desiccant

Plastic bags: Ziplock or Whirl-pak types

Procedure

1. Choose the correct filter paper for the type of testing to be performed.
2. Place filter paper on flat surface.
3. Using whole blood, place blood onto the paper keeping within the circled area. Do not make the blood drop too thick. It's better to use several little drops than one or two really large drops. The reagents within the paper need to come in contact with the blood and may not do so if the blood spot is too thick.
4. Allow the blood spot to dry.
5. Place into bag with desiccant and seal.
6. Humidity indicator cards are recommended for long-term storage.
7. Label the filter paper using pencil or lab quality pen with species name, ID, and date of collection.

Source of materials

Protein Saver card pack of 100, #28170-017; VWR International

FTA Classic Card Whatman, 25/pkg, #05-715-102; Fisher Scientific

Desiccant Packs, 100/pkg #89027-024; VWR International

Humidity Indicator Cards, 10-60%; Desicare.com