

Product Manual

AgraQuant® Mollusk ELISA test kit **Article number 10006023**

Intended use

The AgraQuant® Mollusk ELISA test kit is an immunoassay designed for the quantitative analysis of traces of mollusk tropomyosin in food samples. Samples can vary from raw to processed foods, from environmental swabs to rinse water. This product is intended for laboratory use.

Minimum performance characteristics

Limit of detection (LOD): 1.7 ppb (1.7 µg/kg) mollusk tropomyosin

Limit of quantification (LOQ): 10 ppb (10 µg/kg) mollusk tropomyosin

Range of quantification: 10 – 400 ppb (10 - 400 µg/kg) mollusk tropomyosin

Plate format: 48 wells

Assay time: sample preparation – 25-30 minutes (approx.)
total incubation time – 60 minutes

About Mollusks

Mollusks are one of the largest groups of invertebrates and along with crustaceans, comprise the group known colloquially as “shellfish”. They include sea and fresh water clams and snails, squids, octopuses and oysters. A handful of allergens have been identified in mollusks, with the most prominent of them being the major panallergen Tropomyosin. This allergen is responsible for cross-reactivity between mollusks, between mollusks and crustaceans and even mollusks and fish. Tropomyosin is usually highly resistant to heat and different production processes, which explains why it can be found in a variety of end products that use mollusks or ingredients derived from them. Moreover, many mollusks are consumed as raw food. Since even trace amounts of mollusks are enough to cause serious allergic reactions, it is important for those suffering from allergies to mollusks to avoid all foods containing mollusk. Furthermore, cross-contamination during food manufacturing can occur, representing a real threat for allergic individuals. The detection of mollusks in food products and production lines is therefore of utmost importance to ensure that allergic individuals are protected.

Product information

About the ELISA test kit

The AgraQuant® Mollusk test kit is an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) sandwich used for the quantification of mollusk tropomyosin in food samples. This product is a very sensitive detection system and utilizes highly purified polyclonal antibodies raised against mollusk tropomyosin (*Helix aspersa*) for the quantification of mollusk traces in a variety of food products. With AgraQuant® Mollusk, raw materials and finished food samples can be tested for the presence of mollusk. AgraQuant® Mollusk can also be used to validate cleaning procedures and to test for the presence of allergenic traces via rinse waters or environmental swabs.

Storage information

Always store the AgraQuant® Mollusk ELISA Test kit at 2-8°C (35-46°F) when not in use. Do not freeze. Do not use the kit after the expiration date indicated on the package.

Content of the kit

The AgraQuant® Mollusk ELISA test kit contains the following items:

- 48 antibody-coated microwells (6 eight-well strips) in a microwell holder, sealed in a foil pouch
- 5 vials of 2 mL of ready-to-use standard solutions (0, 10, 40, 100 and 400 ppb of tropomyosin)
- 1 green-capped bottle of 7.5 mL of enzyme-conjugate solution (detection antibody)
- 1 blue-capped bottle of 7.5 mL of substrate solution
- 1 red-capped bottle of 7.5 mL of stop solution
- 1 bottle of 120 mL of 10X concentrated extraction buffer
- 1 bottle of 60 mL of 10X concentrated wash buffer

Materials required but not included

For extraction:

- Blender, mortar and pestle, or homogenizer
- Analytical balance
- Graduated cylinder, 100 mL
- Distilled or deionized water for diluting concentrated buffers
- Container with a minimum capacity of 20 mL
- Water bath (40°C/104°F)
- Centrifuge, micro-centrifuge (or filter and funnel) and centrifuge tubes
- Vortex

For assay:

- Calibrated 8-channel and single-channel pipettes with 100 µL disposable plastic tips
- Timer
- Plate washer or wash bottle
- Distilled or deionized water
- Absorbent paper towels
- 3 reagent boats for use as reagent containers for an 8-channel pipette
- Microwell reader with 450 and 630 nm filters

Visit www.romerlabs.com or get in touch with your technical sales representative to find out which of these items are also available from Romer Labs.

ELISA kit – Assay principle

Agra Quant® ELISA test kits are based on solid phase sandwich ELISA technology. Antibodies raised against the allergen of interest are pre-coated onto each well of the plate that comes with the kit. During the first incubation, both samples and standards of known concentrations are added to the coated wells to allow any allergen present in the sample to bind to the immobilized antibodies.

After washing, the enzyme-conjugated solution (detection antibody) is added to the microwells and binds to the allergens captured during the first incubation forming a "sandwich". After a second washing step to remove excess detection antibodies, the substrate solution is added, which results in color development. The intensity of the color that develops is proportional to the concentration of allergen present in each microwell.

A stop solution is then added, which changes the color from blue to yellow. The absorbance of each well is measured at 450 nm with the differential filter set at 630 nm as reference. The measurement must take place within 10 minutes after adding the stop solution.

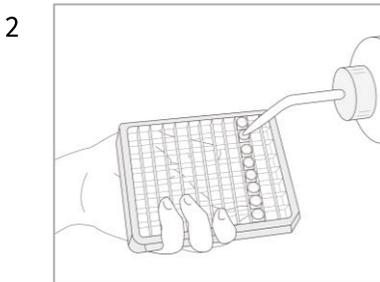
To analyze the results, please refer to *Results analysis* at the end of this product manual.

Protocol at a glance

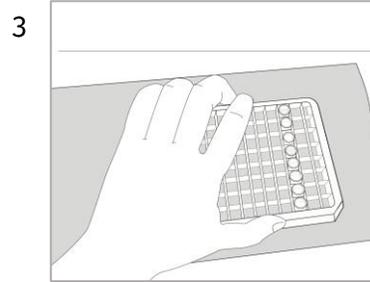
The following section gives only an overview of the ELISA procedure. Before performing the assay, carefully read through this product manual.



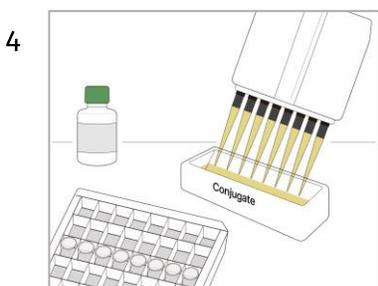
Dispense **samples** and **standards** into the antibody-coated wells. **Incubate for 20 min**



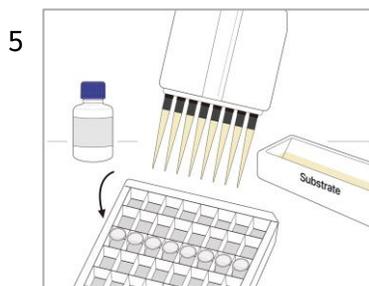
Carefully empty the microwells and wash **5 times** with diluted wash buffer.



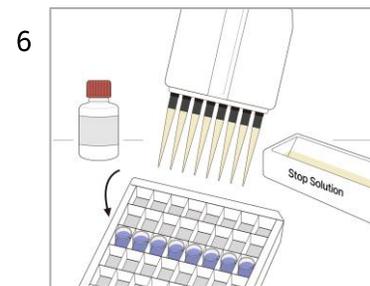
Tap the microwell strips onto absorbent paper towels to remove any residual buffer.



Pipette the **enzyme-conjugate solution** into the microwells. **Incubate for 20 min.** Wash as in steps 2 and 3.



Pipette the **substrate solution** into each well. **Incubate for 20 min** in the dark.



Stop the reaction by pipetting the **stop solution** into each microwell.

7. Read the absorbance of each well at 450 nm (reference wavelength 630 nm) with an microwell (ELISA plate) reader. Calculate results according to the *Results Analysis* section.

Reagent and sample preparation

Buffer preparation

Extraction buffer:

Calculate the amount of extraction buffer needed according to the number of samples. Prepare extraction buffer by diluting the 10X concentrated extraction buffer 1:10 with distilled water (e.g., add 10 ml of concentrated extraction buffer to 90 mL distilled water to obtain a final volume of 100 ml extraction buffer). Heat to 40°C (104°F) using a water bath. Label as extraction buffer.

Note: diluted extraction buffer is stable for up to a week if stored at 2-8°C (35-46°F).

Wash buffer:

Dilute the 10X concentrated wash buffer 1:10 with distilled water (e.g., add 10 mL of concentrated wash buffer to 90 mL distilled water to obtain a final volume of 100 mL wash buffer). Label as wash buffer.

Note: Diluted wash buffer is stable for four weeks if stored at 2- 8°C (35-46°F).

If crystals form in any of the concentrated buffers during cold storage, they should be warmed up to 37°C (98°F) until they dissolve.

Sample preparation

Solid samples:

1. Obtain a representative sample of the specimen you want to analyze and homogenize a minimum of 5 g in a mortar or blender.
2. Weigh **1 g** homogenate in a 50 mL centrifuge tube and add **20 mL extraction buffer**. Vortex until all the solid is suspended.
3. Incubate the suspension for **15 minutes** in a pre-heated water bath at 40°C (104°F). Shake the suspension during incubation. If continuous shaking is not possible, then vigorously shake the tube every two minutes.
4. Centrifuge samples for **10 minutes** at 2000 g to obtain a clear supernatant. If there still are particles in the supernatant, filter it and collect the filtrate.
Note: If a centrifuge is not available, filter the extract with filter paper and collect the filtrate.
5. Samples are ready for testing. For each well, apply 100 µL of the particle-free sample extract obtained. Please read the *ELISA procedure* section and carefully follow the protocol.

Liquid samples:

1. Obtain a representative sample of the specimen you want to analyze.
2. Take a **1 mL** aliquot of the liquid sample and transfer it into a 50 mL centrifuge tube. Add **19 mL extraction buffer**. Vortex the solution/mixture.
3. Incubate the suspension for **15 minutes** in a pre-heated water bath at 40°C (104°F). Shake the suspension during incubation. If continuous shaking is not possible, then vigorously shake the tube every two minutes.
4. Centrifuge samples for **10 minutes** at 2000 g to remove any particles.
Note: If a centrifuge is not available, filter the extract with filter paper and collect the filtrate.
5. Samples are ready for testing. For each well, apply 100 µL of the particle-free sample extract obtained. Please, read the *ELISA procedure* section and carefully follow the protocol.

Swab samples:

AgraQuant® Allergen ELISA test kits can be used to analyze environmental samples obtained with the AgraQuant® Allergen Swabbing kit.

Carefully read and follow the instructions of the AgraQuant® Allergen Swabbing kit. Samples obtained this way are ready to use and do not require further extraction. They can be directly pipetted into the wells.

Different ranges of quantification apply for the swabs. For more details, please refer to the package insert of the AgraQuant® Allergen Swabbing Kit.

Notes:

If the sample is expected to be highly contaminated, further dilution can be carried out using extraction buffer. The additional dilution factor must be considered when calculating the final concentration. For more details, see section *Results Analysis*.

It is possible for some samples to return negative results while still containing the target allergen, albeit below the limit of detection of the test kit. The food matrix of certain foods and high degree of processing can influence the results of the test.

The AgraQuant® Mollusk ELISA test kit uses the same extraction buffer as the AgraQuant® Crustacean ELISA test kit. This allows you to use the same sample extract for both allergen tests. Sample extracts obtained with AgraQuant® ELISA test kits cannot be used with AgraQuant® Plus ELISA test kits.

Sample specifications and storage

Effect of pH: Performing the assay within a pH around 8 will lead to reliable results. Highly acidic or alkaline samples may lead to false positive or false negative results. If you suspect that your samples might have extreme pH values, please check the pH after sample extraction. Where needed, the pH may be adjusted by adding NaOH or HCl.

Effect of polyphenols: Some matrices may contain high percentages of tannins or other polyphenols. In this case, the addition of fish gelatin (5%) or other binding agent to the extraction buffer, prior to the extraction, is recommended. Examples of matrices with high polyphenol content are buckwheat, chestnut flour, chocolate, cocoa, coffee, millet, spices among others. Contact your technical sales representative for more details.

Cross-reactivity: Brown sugar 0.0000014%, Clove 0.000002%, Cocoa 0.000002%, Raw Crab 0.000007%, Cooked Crab 0.000006%, Nutmeg 0.000002%, Raw Shrimp, 0.000005%, Cooked Shrimp 0.000004%. These cross-reactivity values were determined with the pure food commodity treated as the sample.

Storage: Sample extracts can be stored at 2–8°C (35–46°F) for up to 24 hours before running the assay. If longer storage is required, extracts can be stored at -20°C (-4°F) for up to 2 weeks.

Always equilibrate the samples to room temperature and vortex them or mix them by shaking before pipetting them into the ELISA plates.

ELISA procedure

Before starting

Procedural guidelines:

- Make sure you have everything you need ready before starting the assay.
- All reagents and kit components must be equilibrated to room temperature, i.e., 18-30°C (64-86°F), before use.
- It is good laboratory practice to run standards and sample extracts in duplicates.
- Run a standard curve with each assay.
- Adhere to the incubation times stated in the procedure. Use of incubation times other than those specified may give inaccurate results.
- It is strongly recommended that the assay be performed with an 8-channel pipette.
- The wash procedure is critical and therefore must be performed accurately.
- Do not run more than 6 eight-well strips in one experiment when using an 8-channel pipette.

Precautions:

- Do not mix or interchange reagent lots from different kits lots.
- Due to the high risk of cross-contamination, all used instruments must be cleaned thoroughly before sample preparation and running the assay. Follow the instructions for test procedures.
- Cover or close all reagents when not in use.
- Wear protective gloves and safety glasses when using the kit.
- The stop solution contains acid. Avoid contact with skin or eyes. If exposed, flush with water.
- Dispose of all materials and containers properly after use.

Assay protocol

Optional Transfer well method:

1. Place an adequate number of **transfer wells** in a microwell strip holder and then add **150 µl of each ready-to-use standard and prepared sample** into them. Use a fresh pipette tip for each standard and sample. Make sure to empty the pipette tip completely each time.
2. Place an appropriate number of **antibody-coated microwells** in a microwell strip holder and, using an 8-channel pipette, transfer **100 µl of each ready-to-use standard and prepared sample** from the transfer wells to the corresponding antibody-coated microwells.

Continue with step 3 of the standard assay protocol.

Standard assay protocol:

1. Place an appropriate number of **antibody-coated microwells** in a microwell strip holder. Once the desired number of strips are removed from the foil pouch, reseal the bag and store it at 2-8°C (35-46°F) to preserve it.
2. Using a single channel pipette, add **100 µL of each ready-to-use standard and prepared sample** into the appropriate well. Use a fresh pipette tip for each standard or sample. Make sure to empty the pipette tip completely.

3. Incubate at room temperature for **20 minutes**.
Note: Do not attempt to mix the content of the microwells by shaking the plate as this may cause well-to-well contamination.
4. **Washing:** Empty the content of the microwell strips into a waste container. Wash by filling each microwell with wash buffer (prepared as stated in the “Buffer preparation” section) and then discarding it again. Repeat this step 4 times, for a total of **5 washes**.
Note: Take care not to dislodge the strips from the holder during the wash procedure.
5. After the fifth wash, lay several layers of absorbent paper towels on a flat surface and tap the microwell strips on top of them to remove any residual buffer.
Note: Never insert absorbent paper directly into the wells.
6. Measure the required amount of enzyme-conjugate solution from the green-capped bottle (~120 μL /well or 1 mL/strip) and dispense it into a separate container (e.g., reagent boat). Pipette **100 μL of enzyme-conjugate solution** into each microwell with an 8-channel pipette.
7. Incubate at room temperature for **20 minutes**.
8. **Washing:** Perform the washing step as described above at steps 4 and 5.
9. Measure the required amount of substrate solution from the blue-capped bottle (~120 μL /well or 1 mL/strip) and dispense it into a separate container (e.g., reagent boat). Pipette **100 μL of the substrate solution** into each microwell with an 8-channel pipette.
10. Incubate at room temperature for **20 minutes** and allow the reaction to develop **in the dark** (e.g., cover completely, or carefully place in a cupboard or drawer).
11. Measure the required amount of stop solution from the red-capped bottle (~120 μL /well or 1 mL/strip) and dispense it into a separate container (e.g., reagent boat). Stop the reaction by pipetting **100 μL of stop solution** into each microwell by using an 8-channel pipette. The color will change from blue to yellow.
12. Read the absorbance of each well **within 10 minutes** after the addition of the stop solution at 450 nm (reference wavelength 630 nm) with a microwell reader. Carefully remove any air bubbles prior to reading the absorbance as they may affect the result.
Note: Do not return unused reagents to their original bottles. Carefully note which rows/strips contain standards or samples during the assay.

Results analysis

The content of mollusk in your samples can now be determined. The ready-to-use standards at known concentrations allow for the determination of the concentration of the unknown samples.

Calculate the mean value of the optical density (OD) of the duplicates for each standard. Build a dose-response curve by plotting the mean OD obtained for each of the five standards (y-axis) against its concentration in ppb (x-axis). Determine the corresponding concentration of mollusk tropomyosin in ppb by interpolation from the standard curve using a point-to-point calculation. If you are using a software-based quantification system, the four-parameter logistic curve (4PL) is recommended.

Alternatively, results can be easily calculated using the **Romer Labs spreadsheet** that is provided free of charge upon request. With the Romer Labs spreadsheet you only need to insert the obtained OD values and the mollusk tropomyosin amounts in your samples are calculated automatically using a point-to-point curve fitting.

When working according to the *sample preparation* section described in this package insert, a **dilution factor of 20** is applied during sample extraction. This dilution factor of 20 is already taken into account, thus the allergen concentration can be read directly from the standard curve obtained.

If the amount of allergen contained in a sample exceeds the value of the highest standard (mollusk tropomyosin >400 ppb), the sample extract should be further diluted by using extraction buffer and then re-analyzed by performing a new assay. The dilution should be done such that the diluted sample results are within the AgraQuant® Mollusk ELISA test kit range (10 - 400 ppb). The dilution factor of this additional dilution step must be applied when the result is calculated.

Notes: An OD value of less than 1.1 absorbance units for the highest standard may indicate the deterioration of reagents. If the percent coefficient of variation (%CV) of the duplicate readings of the standards or of the samples exceeds 20%, the result of your test might be inaccurate. It is recommended to repeat the assay.

Swab samples: When running a swab sample, you can calculate the concentration of your sample, by using the concentration you read off the curve, as in the following example:

Value for swab sample read off curve: 200 ppb.

This value expressed as ng/ml: 200 ng/ml

Since there was no dilution performed during preparation nor extraction, divide this value by the dilution factor considered in the curve (20): $200 \text{ ng/ml} \div 20 = 10 \text{ ng/ml}$

The AgraQuant® Mollusk ELISA Test kit detects the amount of mollusk tropomyosin contained in your sample. To calculate the corresponding amount of whole mollusk, you can use the following conversion factors that were experimentally calculated using whole commodities (wet weight): abalone (raw) 200; abalone (cooked) 580; blue mussel (raw) 14990; blue mussel (cooked) 16740; carpet mussel (raw) 4965; carpet mussel (cooked) 6190; grapewine snail (*aspersa*, blanched) 550; grapewine snail (*pormatia*, blanched) 860; green lipped mussel (raw) 8620; green lipped mussel (cooked) 11230; octopus (raw) 1360; octopus (cooked) 1360; scallop (raw) 4850; scallop (cooked) 6580; squid (raw) 700; squid (cooked) 670.

Technical support

Not sure if the test works with your specific samples or matrices? Let our longstanding experience in food allergen testing work for you. Contact our technical sales representative in your region to know more.

Visit www.romerlabs.com to find worldwide contact information.

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