**Equipment**

· Beakers or plastic containers
· A tea strainer or cheesecloth
· Measuring cylinder
· Stirring device (fork, tongue blade)
· Test tubes
· Test tube rack
· Methylene blue
· Microslide, coverslips
· Balance or teaspoon
· Microscope

**Procedure**

[(a) Weigh or measure approximately 3 g of faeces into Container 1.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0p.jpg)

[(b) Pour 40-50 ml of tap water into Container 1.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0q.jpg)

[(c) Mix (stir) thoroughly with a stirring device (fork, tongue blade).](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0r.jpg)

[(d) Filter the faecal suspension through a tea strainer or double-layer of cheesecloth into Container 2.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0s.jpg)

[(e) Pour the filtered material into a test tube.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0t.jpg)

(f) Allow to sediment for 5 minutes.

[(g) Remove (pipette, decant) the supernatant very carefully.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0u.jpg)

[(h) Resuspend the sediment in 5 ml of water.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0v.jpg)

[(i) Allow to sediment for 5 minutes.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0w.jpg)

[(j) Discard (pipette, decant) the supernatant very carefully.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0x.jpg)

[(k) Stain the sediment by adding one drop of methylene blue.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0y.jpg)

[(l) Transfer the sediment to a microslide. Cover with a coverslip.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0z.jpg)

**Microscopical examination of prepared samples**

The prepared samples on microslides from the simple test tube flotation method, the simple flotation method and the sedimentation method are examined under a microscope at different magnifications.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Magnification** | **Parasites** |
| 10 x 10 | Nematode and cestode eggs |
| 10 x 40 | Coccidia oocysts |
| 10 x 4 | Trematode eggs |