Paramecium spp.

Note: The culturing conditions below are not necessarily the optimal growth conditions for each strain, as much variation is found between strains, and cultures are not always kept in optimal growth conditions at CCAP for practical reasons. There may be more info in the individual strain data on the website.

This group includes *Paramecium aurelia, P. biaurelia, P. primaurelia, P. tetraurelia*

On receipt of culture: cultures should be subcultured into fresh sterile medium as described below, ideally within a few days of receipt. If the culture vessel is very full on receipt and subculturing cannot be done immediately, we advise transferring half of the culture to a sterile container to provide air space.

ACDP Hazard Gp: 1 - Non pathogenic / non hazardous. Unlikely to cause human disease.

Culture Medium: S/W (soil/water biphasic medium) and a wheat or barley grain
Media recipes can be found on our website: www.ccap.ac.uk/index.php/media-recipes/

Lighting: Not necessary, low light is fine

Light Cycle: -

Temperature: 15 degrees C

Sub Interval: 6 weeks

Culture Vessel: Glass tubes

Culture Method:

Prepare media, roughly 10ml per tube. To encourage growth of the bacteria on which the ciliate feeds, either a wheat or barley grain can be added to each tube before autoclaving.

Tubes containing the media are stored at 4 degrees C. One hour prior to use the required number of tubes are transferred to 15 degrees C.

To inoculate the fresh media, a dense culture is chosen from existing stocks. The state of the culture is ascertained by microscopical examination using an inverted microscope, x120 magnification. The ciliates swim close to the meniscus.

To sub-culture, the inoculating tube is gently agitated to mix the cells evenly and 1-2ml is poured, aseptically into each of the tubes.

Use strict aseptic techniques throughout and if possible carry out all subculturing within a laminar flow cabinet.