



Video transcript
How to Preserve Hydroids
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- Hi, today I'm going to show you how to preserve hydroids for morphology and for molecular work.
- Let's start with morphology.
- You are going to need formalin 4% you are going to find the recipe for this formalin on the protocol below. Vials of different sizes depending on your colony, menthol crystals, and tweezers.
- This is a colony of hydroids that I collected in the field and I want to preserve in formalin.
- We are going to add just one small crystal, a menthol crystal.
- Menthol crystals will relax the polyps.
- Then drop it in the water and let it sit for a while.
- You will see that the polyps will relax and will be unresponsive.
- You can check under the microscope and under the stereoscope to make sure they are completely relaxed.
- This can take up to half an hour or so.
- Once you are sure that the polyps are completely relaxed, you can now preserve them in formalin.
- I have already prepared the vial with the label, of course you can label, the vial as is more convenient for you.
- You can take the colony and drop it in formalin, your vial is now ready.
- Now we are going to preserve part of this colony in ethanol for molecular analysis.
- You will need ethanol 96% to 100% and tweezers.
- It is very important that the tweezers, as well as the glassware and the plasticware have never been in contact with formalin, because formalin can interfere with molecular work.
- I have ready a vial with a label, and it is already filled with ethanol.
- You can label of course, the sample in other ways more convenient for you.
- You can get your polyps and drop them directly into the ethanol.
- You don't need to relax them because all you need is the tissue for your molecular analysis.
- You can drop them there, you want to make sure they are not too full on polyps and there is enough ethanol for the tissue you are preserving.
- Your sample is now ready.
- I suggest you prepare two vials for each species you collect, one in formalin for further morphological analysis and to identify the species and one in ethanol for molecular analysis.

