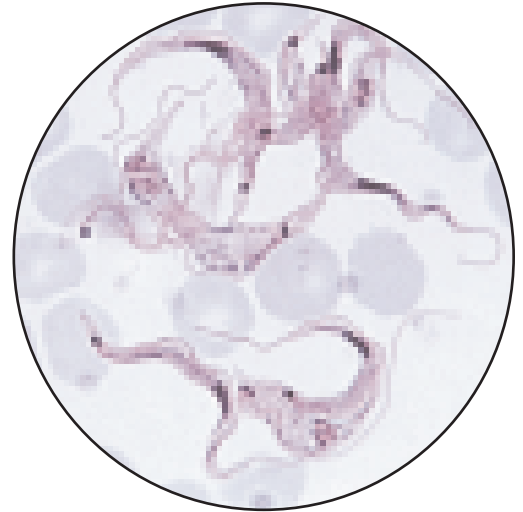


# *Crithidia fasciculata*

87 W 0415

**Family:** Trypanosomatidae  
**Order:** Trypanosomatida  
**Class:** Kinetoplastida  
**Phylum:** Euglenozoa  
**Kingdom:** Protista



## **Conditions for Customer Ownership**

We hold permits allowing us to transport these organisms. To access permit conditions, [click here](#).

**Never purchase living specimens without having a disposition strategy in place.**

There are currently no USDA permits required for this organism. In order to protect our environment, never release a live laboratory organism into the wild.

## **Primary Hazard Considerations**

- Always wash your hands thoroughly after working with your organism.
- *Crithidia* is generally a parasite in the digestive tracts of insects. It has not been found to infect humans.

## **Availability**

- *Crithidia* is grown in our labs and is available year-round. *Crithidia* is an excellent example of a parasite that is easily isolated and cultured outside of its normal host organism. It will arrive in a glass test tube with growth medium. A culture of *Crithidia* will retain its high quality for 4–7 days at room temperature with the cap loosened half a turn. If held up to the light, the tube will look turbid. If the tube is completely transparent, the culture may have died.

## **Captive Care**

- If the cultures are needed for a longer than a week, it may be subcultured. They may be subcultured in sterile *Crithidia* media. About 1 ml of week-old culture is added to a sterile tube of about 10 ml of medium and incubated upright at room temperature. This may be repeated weekly.

## **Information**

- Method of Reproduction: fission/mitosis

## **Life Cycle**

- At different points in its life-cycle, it passes through amastigote (stage with no flagella, multiplies in mosquito digestive system), promastigote, and epimastigote phases; stages with flagella.

## **Wild Habitat**

- *Crithidia* normally spends at least part of its life cycle in the digestive system of mosquitoes and their larvae.

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## **Special Notes**

- *Crithidia fasciculata* is a non-pathogenic relative of *Trypanosoma brucei*, a causative agent of African sleeping sickness. *Crithidia* has very similar cell structures to other trypanosomatids, but is not as dangerous, so it is used as a model organism to study parasitology. It is also beneficial because it can survive and be cultured outside of its host organism.

## **Disposition**

- Please dispose of excess living material in a manner to prevent spread into the environment. Consult with your schools to identify their preferred methods of disposal.
- You can safely use one of the following methods:
  - Treat culture with a 10% bleach solution for 24 hours (1 part bleach to 9 parts culture medium or water culture medium removed). Then rinse bleach solution down the drain with water until you can no longer smell bleach. Rinse remaining materials and containers with water and dispose of them in a general garbage container.
  - Carefully wrap specimens and their containers in a biohazard bag (without containing anything sharp that might puncture the bag) and tie closed (a twist tie works well). Autoclave the bag for 30 minutes at 121° C and at a pressure of 15 lbs. per square inch. Dispose of autoclaved bag as your school recommends.