



DNA human identification from bone fragments

Instituto de Criminalística do Paraná; Universidade Positivo

- Brazil

CONTEXT

Bone fragment is the most common sample used for DNA human identification from carbonized bodies or corpses, for the lack of any other organic material on these evidences. The scarce DNA in these evidences is the main reason why not always a conclusive result is achieved by traditional methodologies for DNA extraction and purification, such as phenol chloroform with Proteinase K digestion.

The new methodology based on Precellys®24 is a new alternative to achieve conclusive results on DNA extraction and purification, in cases where the sample does not have enough organic material¹⁾.

MATERIAL

- Precellys®24 vs conventional method (CM).
- Precellys® kit: 03961-1-002 (ceramic beads 2.8mm).
- Sample: ~200 mg of bones fragments first grinded in liquid nitrogen on a freezer mill 6750 (Spex, Certiprep).
- Buffer: 400 µl extraction buffer.

PROTOCOL

- Precellys®24: 5900 rpm, 2x30sec, 15s break.
- Conventional method: overnight incubation at +56°C with 15µl of Proteinase K.
- Phenol-chloroform extraction and DNA purification on Microcon columns.
- DNA analysis tests: amplification by PCR (GeneAmp System), visualization on ABI PRISM 310 analyzer.

1) Daphne Manuela Toledo, Hemerson Bertassoni Alves; Precellys®24 forensics practice, Curitiba 2009

Corresponding Author: Prof. Hemerson Bertassoni Alves (farmacia@up.edu.br)



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RESULTS

Seven samples were analyzed from bone fragments, from carbonized bodies and corpses.

In all cases, DNA extraction by conventional protocol did not give a good result (15 autosomic loci). In these cases, all results were considered inconclusive.

The genetic profile was achieved in six out of seven inconclusive tests, giving a genetic profile positive result of 85,7% of the samples processed on Precellys®24 (Tab.1). Only one case was not concluded, due to the high level of sample degradation.

Case	Type of sample	Genetic relatedness	CM result	P-24 result
01	BF (Drowned)	Brotherhood	Inc.	Conc. (-2 loci)
02	BF (exhumation)	-----	Inc.	Conc. (-2 loci)
03	BF	Object with blood	Inc.	Conc. (-2 loci)
04	BF	Motherhood	Inc.	Inc.
05	BF	Motherhood	Inc.	Conc. (-2 loci)
06	BF	Motherhood	Inc.	Conc. (No loci loss)
07	BF (Cranium)	Fatherhood	Inc.	Conc. (-1 loci)

Tab.1: Result for each samples studied. CM= Conventional Method, P24= Precellys®24 method, BF= bone fragment, Inc= inconclusive result, Conc.= conclusive result

When comparing the traditional methodology, this new method with Precellys®24 is faster, more feasible, reliable and more economical. The vacuum system provides security and stability to the samples. The single tubes avoid the risk of cross-contamination.

CONCLUSION

Precellys®24 gave an optimum result, more efficient than the standard extraction protocol on a reduced amount of time, and with a higher yield and the recovery of genetic loci that could not be identified before.

Brazilian forensic laboratories can now rely on a unique technique on Precellys®24, and this equipment became a good alternative to DNA extraction from bones in forensic routines.

Problem



Solution



For more details, please contact precellys@bertin.fr

