

## **Freshwater Rotifer culturing instruction:**

### **Equipment needed:**

- Culture container of about 1 to 5 liters, (can be plastic or glass). Size varies according to the amount of rotifers you wish to produce, the larger the container, the better the water quality will be and the more rotifers it can house and produce.
- Light source with a 8-10 watt size light bulb, can be a small desk or clamp lamp
- Plastic siphon tube for harvesting the rotifers, a ¼" / 6mm clear plastic hose bought from aquarium shop or hardware store works well
- Declinator if your water has chlorine in it
- A harvest Sieve 37um

### **Hatching procedure for rotifer eggs:**

1. Fill culture container with fresh DE chlorinated water (sterilized tank water) R.O. water or bottled water (70-80 degrees/ 21-26<sup>c</sup>) 77 degrees/ 25<sup>c</sup> is optimal volume of about 1-3 liters. Water from an established aquarium is not recommended since it could contain predatory infusoria that may eat all the baby rotifers as they hatch
2. Sprinkle a small amount of rotifer eggs onto the water surface in the culture container allow contents to slowly absorb the water
3. Shine the light on the cultures water surface at least 1 foot away for 24 consecutive hours (not necessary, if you start hatching early in morning between 8.00 am – 12.00 am)
4. The eggs will begin hatching in 20-24 hours and stop between 24-48 hours incubation
5. After they have hatching you can siphon the rotifers into a small container to set up a continuous culture for producing larger amounts of rotifers as needed

### **Feeding:**

- To feed the rotifers – mix a small amt. of rotifer food into about 1-4 teaspoon of clean water and feed them one time per day (not much)  
(Bottled spring water can be used and removes the need to DE chlorinate)  
Only feed as much as they can eat in 1 day to prevent fouling of water, which can cause the culture to crash

#### **For continuous culturing:**

Slowly and carefully increase the amt. of food fed to the culture as the number of rotifers increases

Minimum of 20 % water changes every 2 days depending on culture density

### **Helpful tips and info:**

Store any unused rotifer eggs in a clean, dry zip lock bag in the refrigerator till needed

Storage in a cold, dry, dark place aids the eggs to hatch

Since eggs are then stimulated by those conditions changing to warm water with light (70-80 degrees 21-26<sup>c</sup> recommended)

They can tolerate temperatures of between 60-87 degrees (15-30<sup>c</sup>)

Their optimal temp is 77 degrees (25<sup>c</sup>)

Their pH range is 6-8 optimal pH is 7.0 since ammonia is less toxic at neutral, but keep the pH the same as your fry tank this will prevent you from shocking them when you add them to the tank

Remember that uneaten food turns into ammonia so keep eye on the ammonia levels as more people tend to kill rotifers with kindness by over feeding.

**Rotifer Food:** [Algae live](#) or [powder](#), any fish food (pill or powder)