

Isolation of wild yeast strains – collaborator version

Protocol from Jason Tsai's lab

Version 2025.04

Part I: Sample isolation

Substrate to focus on: fallen leaf litters and tree fruits.

Things to bring / potentially useful

1. Disposable laboratory gloves
2. Plastic Ziplock bags
3. Camera
4. Global Positioning System (GPS)
5. Marker pen
6. Tweezers (optional)
7. Alcohol wipes (optional)

Steps:

1. **Select the tree** you intend to sample.
2. **Photograph** the tree's characteristics clearly for later identification and record the photo numbers.
3. **Record** the date, sample ID, and GPS coordinates.
4. Collect leaf litter samples:
Collect freshly fallen leaves (preferably **dry and greenish**; Aim for **around 20+**) around the selected Fagaceae tree and store them in a Ziplock bag (see the attached image for reference). Place leaf litter from the same tree into one Ziplock bag.
 - **Method 1** (most convenient): Put your hand into the Ziplock bag, collect leaves by grabbing them, then turn the bag inside out and seal it. This prevents direct contact with the sample.
 - **Method 2**: Use tweezers to pick leaves and place them directly into the Ziplock bag. Sterilize tweezers with alcohol wipe after each tree.
 - **Method 3** (optional, more formal): Use either method above while additionally wearing disposable laboratory gloves to avoid cross-contamination. Disinfect gloves with alcohol after sampling each tree.

Recommendation: Start from one point and collect leaves in a clockwise circle around the tree to ensure thorough sampling.

5. Give a **sample ID** for this litter bag using marker pen. The bag can be stored under room temperature.

Litter Ziplock bag example:



Fallen leaf example (leaves will be greener during summer time):



Part II: Sample delivery

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