



TECO[®] Multi Species Vitellogenin ELISA

For Serum, Plasma, WBH & Mucus

Multi Species Vitellogenin ELISA

Japanese rice fish (*Oryzias latipes*)

Rainbow fish (*Melanotaenia praecox*)

Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*)

Common dab (*Limanda limanda*)

European plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)

European flounder (*Platichthys flesus*)

Instructions for Use English

Catalogue No. TE1042
For Research Use Only

Symbol Description



Kit Instructions



Lot Number



Expiry Date



96

Tests



Storage Temperature



Manufacturer



Intended use



TE1042



Attention

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Contents of the TECO® Multi Species Vitellogenin ELISA-Kit:

SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT
1	96-well plate coated with mVTG Antibody 12 break apart strips of 8 wells (12 x 8 in total), in a frame. Ready to use.	1 plate
S	Standard Stock lyophilized 105 ng	2 x
C1	Control C1 lyophilized Concentration see Certificate of Analysis.	2 x
C2	Control C2 lyophilized Concentration see Certificate of Analysis.	2 x
2	Wash Buffer 50x Dilute 1:50 with deionized water.	1 x 30 ml
3	Dilution Buffer Ready to use.	1 x 55 ml
4	Matrix Solution Ready to use.	1 x 7 ml
5	Biotinylated Antibody (Biotin-AB) Ready to use.	1 x 12 ml
6	Streptavidin Peroxidase Conjugate (SA- HRP Conj.) Ready to use.	1 x 12 ml
7	TMB Substrate Ready to use.	1 x 12 ml
8	Stop Solution – 1 M HCl 1 M hydrochloric acid, ready to use.	 1 x 12 ml
	Kit instruction	1 x

Storage

The kit has to be stored at 2-8 °C until expiry date. Do not freeze. Store unused reagents at 2-8 °C.

Instruction for Use

The TECO® Multi Species Vitellogenin ELISA Kit is a sensitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay for the quantitative determination of vitellogenin (VTG) in fish serum, plasma whole body homogenate (WBH) and mucus.

Background

In oviparous animals, vitellogenin (VTG) is an estrogen induced yolk precursor protein mainly synthesized in the liver to be deposited in the maturing oocytes, where it is split in the yolk proteins lipovitellin 1, lipovitellin 2 and phosvitin. These yolk proteins serve as nourishment storage for the developing embryos. Non-physiological induction of vitellogenin in males or in juvenile fish is thought to indicate an estrogen mediated endocrine disruption. Therefore VTG determination is one of the core endpoints in screening and testing for endocrine disrupting chemicals standardized in the OECD Guidelines for the testing of chemicals for estrogenic activity (1,2,3).

Normally vitellogenin is measured in blood samples or whole body homogenate (WBH) - both sample types require invasive and destructive treatment of the fish. Blood is difficult to collect, in particular where very small fish are concerned, or in approaches where the animals must survive sampling. This is particularly important in field monitoring in order to avoid impact on the population under investigation (5).

Recently, several cell types have been shown to produce VTG after estrogen stimulation, including those of the epidermal mucosa (4). Further studies showed that both VTG and estrogen receptor genes are expressed in epidermal cells. Immunoaffinity and mass fingerprint analysis showed induction of identical VTG peptides in liver and epidermis (6). VTG contents in the serum demonstrated a similar dose-response pattern in the epidermis and the blood using the TECO®Cyprinid Vitellogenin ELISA (6) and TECO Perch (Perciformes) Vitellogenin ELISA. Even though the VTG concentration in the skin mucus is an order of magnitude lower than in blood serum or in body homogenates (containing liver tissue), the skin mucosa is very well suited as a matrix to determine exogenous VTG induction caused by environmental chemicals with affinity to estrogen receptors. By using a highly sensitive ELISA in combination with an unique sampling and extraction system the determination of mucosa born VTG determination has the following advantages:

- Simple and highly standardized sampling technique and sample preparation.
- Strictly defined matrix without protease contamination caused by non-target tissues or lymphatic fluid.
- Non-destructive and thereby allowing several subsequent samplings in order to record a kinetic of VTG induction with a maximum known to appear within 1-2 weeks after exposure. Therefore mucosa tests are compatible with acute as well as chronic OECD test methods.
- Epithelial organized epidermis is directly exposed to exogenous estrogens and thereby allowing a direct comparison with in vitro test using estrogen sensitive vitellogenin producing fish cell lines.
- Lower degree of interference with endogenous VTG production (in females) and bio concentration or enterohepatic circulation of the effective estrogen (xenoestrogen) and thereby showing a clear dose response relationship.
- Stability of standards and samples if prescribed storage conditions are observed.

References

- [1] **OECD (2009), Test No. 229**
Fish Short Term Reproduction Assay. OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals Section 2, OECD Publishing.
- [2] **OECD (2009), Test No. 230**
21-day Fish Assay: A Short-Term Screening for Oestrogenic and Androgenic Activity, and Aromatase Inhibition. OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals, Section 2, OECD Publishing.
- [3] **OECD (2011), Test No. 234**
Fish Sexual Development Test. OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals, Section 2, OECD Publishing.
- [4] **Moncaut, N., Lo Nostro, F., Maggese M. C. (2003)**
Vitellogenin detection in surface mucus of the South American cichlid fish *Cichlasoma dimerus* (Heckel, 1840) induced by estradiol-17 β . Effects on liver and gonads. *Aquatic Toxicology* 63, 127-137.
- [5] **Allner B., Gönnä von der S., Griebeler E.M., Nikutowski N., Schaaf A., Stahlschmidt-Allner P.(2010)**
Reproductive functions of wild fish as bioindicators of reproductive toxicants in the aquatic environment. *ESPR Environ. Sci. Pollut. Res.*, 17, 505-518
- [6] **Allner B., Hennies M., Lerche C.F., Schmidt T., Schneider K, Willner M, Stahlschmidt-Allner P. (2016)**
Kinetic determination of vitellogenin induction in the epidermis of cyprinid and perciform fishes: Evaluation of sensitive Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assays (ELISAs). *Environ Toxicol Chem.* 2016 May 6. DOI: 10.1002/etc.3475. [Epub ahead of print]

Assay Principle

The TECO®Multi Species Vitellogenin ELISA kit is a 96 well homologue immuno-capture ELISA product using homologue antibodies and homologue VTG standard material. Samples are incubated with the vitellogenin specific antibody coated microtiter plate. After unbound material is washed out, a polyclonal biotinylated antibody binds to the vitellogenin. In the following incubation step, a streptavidin-peroxidase conjugate binds to the biotinylated antibody. In the final substrate reaction, the color development is directly proportional to the amount of vitellogenin in the sample.

Materials required and not supplied

- Pipettes 10 µl – 1000 µl
- Multichannel pipettes for 50 µl – 100 µl
- Graduated cylinders for reconstituting or diluting reagents
- Manual aspiration system or automatic washer for ELISA plates
- Aqua dest
- Vortex mixer
- ELISA plate reader suitable for 96 well formats and capable of measuring at 450 nm (Reference: 590-650 nm).
- ELISA plate shaker (500 rpm) (orbital shaker)
- Software package for data generation and analysis

For mucus samples:

Extraction Buffer and validated Sampling Swabs are not part of this kit. Please order “TECO® Mucus Collection Set, TE1034” separately.

Warnings and Precautions

This kit is for *in vitro* use by professional persons only.

Follow the instructions carefully.

Observe expiration dates stated on the labels and the specified stability for reconstituted reagents. Refer to “Materials Safety Data Sheet” for more detailed safety information. Material of animal origin used in the preparation of this kit has been obtained from animals certified as healthy but these materials should be handled as potentially infectious.

TECOmedical AG is not liable for loss or harm caused by non-observance of the kit instructions.

1. For research use only.
2. Treat all specimen samples as potentially biohazardous material. Follow General Precautions when handling contents of this kit.
3. Disposal of containers and unused contents should be done in accordance with federal and local regulatory requirements.
4. Use the supplied reagents as an integral unit prior to the expiration date indicated on the package label.
5. Store assay reagents as indicated.
6. Do not use coated strips if pouch is punctured.
7. Test each sample in duplicate.
8. Use of multichannel pipettes or repeat pipettors is recommended to ensure the timely delivery of liquids.
9.
 - a. 1 M hydrochloric acid is caustic and can be harmful for skin, eyes and mucosae.
 - b. Handle TMB with care. Do not ingest. Avoid contact with skin, eyes, or clothing. Should there be any contact, wash with water. If ingested, call a physician.
10. A mercury-free preservative is used. Incidental contact with or ingestion of buffer solutions may cause irritation of skin, eyes or mouth. Should there be any contact, wash with water. If ingested, call a physician.

Preparation of Reagents

1 **Microtiter plate**

12 break apart strips of 8 wells (96 in total) in a frame and sealed in a foil bag. Fit strip wells firmly into the frame. After opening, return any unused wells to the original foil package and seal.
Store at 2-8 °C until expiration date.

S **Standard Stock – 105 ng**

2 vials of lyophilized standard containing stabilized vitellogenin.
Store at 2-8 °C until expiration date.

C **Vitellogenin Controls 1 and 2**

2 vials each of Control 1 and Control 2 containing vitellogenin (Concentration see Certificate of Analysis).
Store at 2-8 °C until expiration date.

2 **Wash Buffer (50x) concentrated**

1 vial of 30 ml Wash Buffer concentrate. Dilute the 50 times concentrate with deionized water up to 1500 ml. The diluted washing solution is stable for 4 weeks at 2-8 °C.
Store undiluted at 2-8 °C until expiration date.

3 **Dilution Buffer**

1 vial of 55 ml, ready for use. Store at 2-8 °C until expiration date.

4 **Matrix Solution**

1 vial of 7 ml, ready for use. Store at 2-8 °C until expiration date.

5 **Biotinylated Antibody (Biotin-AB)**

1 vial of 12 ml, ready for use. Store at 2-8 °C until expiration date.

6 **Streptavidin Peroxidase Conjugate (SA-HRP Conj.)**

1 vial of 12 ml, ready for use. Store at 2-8 °C until expiration date.

7 **TMB Substrate**

1 vial of 12 ml of H₂O₂ - stabilized Tetramethylbenzidine.
Ready for use. Store at 2-8 °C until expiration date.

8 **Stop Solution – 1 M HCl**

1 vial of 12 ml of 1 M hydrochloric acid. Ready for use.
Store at 2-8°C until expiration date.

Preparation Standard curve

Standards have to be prepared freshly before use. Add 420 µl **Dilution Buffer 3** to the vial. Let it stand for 15-30 minutes and then vortex.

Now, the Standard stock contains 250 ng/ml of stabilized vitellogenin (Standard A, Std A). Preparation of the standard curve with **Dilution Buffer 3**

ID	Concentration (ng/ml)	Dilution Buffer µl	Standard solution
Std A	250	Add 420 ul	
Std B	83.3	200	100 µl Std A
Std C	27.8	200	100 µl Std B
Std D	9.3	200	100 µl Std C
Std E	3.1	200	100 µl Std D
Std F	0	200	

Preparation Kit Controls

Vitellogenin Controls 1 and 2 have to be prepared freshly before use. Add 500 µl **Dilution Buffer 3** to the vial. Let it stand for 15-30 minutes and then vortex.

Reconstituted and diluted standards and controls are for single use only and are stable for 4 hours at room temperature (20-28°C). Do not store reconstituted standards and controls.

Preparation and Stability of Samples

Preparation of Samples

Serum and Plasma

Store fresh samples immediately after collection at -20°C or lower until assayed. Recommended sample thawing: A simple and fast method is to place the frozen serum or plasma samples in normal tap cold water (15- 20°C). They should be thawed within 10 to 15 minutes. For assay, samples should be pre-diluted dependent on fish species with **Dilution Buffer 3**, e.g 1: 10 000 (two times 1:100). Optimal sample dilution for other species may differ. Mature female fish may have elevated vitellogenin.

Whole Body Homogenate (WBH)

Store fresh WBH samples immediately after preparation below -20°C until assayed. For assay, WBH samples should be pre-diluted dependent on fish species with **Dilution Buffer 3**, e.g 1:10 000 to 1: 1 000 000.

Mucus

Collect mucus as described in the TECO® Mucus Collection Set TE1034. For assay, add 500 µl Extraction Buffer (**TECO® Mucus Collection Set, TE1034**) to the swab 15-30 min before vortex. For more determinations (e.g. total protein, Cortisol etc.) the swabs should be removed from each vial and discarded before vitellogenin measurement. Before pipetting sample into wells repeat vortexing the sample. For female fish, dose response curves or if concentrations of estrogenic induced fish are required, a further pre-dilution of mucus samples of 1:10 to 1:100 with **Dilution Buffer 3** may be necessary.

Sample Stability

Mucus-containing swabs can be stored several months at <-20°C. After addition of Extraction Buffer the samples are stable up to 4 hours at room temperature (20-28°C).

Stability of sample vitellogenin may differ significantly between species.

Avoid repeated freeze/thaw cycles.

Correction of vitellogenin results by the protein concentration

Independently from the assay procedure, various factors may influence the final amount of biological samples added into the Vitellogenin ELISA (e.g. total amount of blood collected into the prefilled sample tubes; effectiveness of homogenization; amount of mucus on the swab etc.). In order to obtain the correct analytical result, all samples may be corrected by the protein concentration by using in parallel a colorimetric protein determination. The Dilution Buffer and the Extraction Buffers in the VTG kits are protein free and may be used as Standard buffers and for sample dilution in the protein assays. This sample dilution may differ from the optimal sample dilution in the vitellogenin assay.

Assay Procedure

All determinations (standards, controls and samples) should be assayed in duplicate. When performing the assay, the standards, controls and samples should be pipetted as fast as possible (<15 minutes). To avoid distortions due to differences in incubation times, HRP Conjugate, Substrate Solution and Stop Solution should be added to the plate in the same order and with the same time interval as the samples. A multichannel pipette is essential. Allow all reagents to stand at room temperature (20–28°C) for at least 30 minutes. During all incubation steps, plates should be sealed with the adhesive foil or a plastic cover. For light protection, incubate in a dark chamber or cover plate with aluminum foil.

1. Allocate the wells of the Microtiter plate **1** for standards, controls and samples.
2. Pipette 50 µl Matrix Solution **4** (multichannel pipette) into each well.
3. Add 50 µl of each prepared standard (**A** - **F**), prepared controls (**C1** and **C2**) and (pre-diluted) samples into the corresponding wells.
4. Cover the wells and incubate the plate for 120 ± 10 min at room temperature (20–28°C) on a shaker (500 rpm).
5. After incubation, aspirate the contents of the wells and wash 5 times with 350 µl diluted Wash Buffer **2** . The use of an automatic plate washer is recommended.
6. Following the last washing step, pipette 100 µl of the Biotinylated AB **5** in each well (multichannel pipette).
7. Cover the wells and incubate the plate for 60 ± 5 min at room temperature (20–28°C) on a shaker (500 rpm).
8. After incubation, wash the wells 5 times with Wash Buffer as described in step 5.
9. Following the last washing step, pipette 100 µl of the SA-HRP Conjugate **6** in each well (multichannel pipette).
10. Cover the wells and incubate the plate for 45 ± 5 min at room temperature (20–28°C) on a shaker (500 rpm).
11. After incubation, wash the wells 5 times with Wash Buffer as described in step 5.
12. Pipette 100 µl of the TMB Substrate Solution **7** in each well (multichannel pipette).
13. Incubate the plate for 15–30 min, in the dark, at room temperature (20–28°C) on a shaker (500 rpm).
14. Stop the reaction by adding 100 µl of Stop Solution **8** (multichannel pipette).
15. Measure the color reaction within 10 minutes at 450 nm (reference filter between 590–650 nm).
If the extinction of the Standard A (250 ng/ml) exceeds 3.0, the measurement may be repeated at 405 nm.

Result Analysis

Establishing the Standard Curve

A calibration curve can be established by plotting standard concentration on the x-axis (linear scale) against the absorbance of the standards on the y-axis (linear scale). The vitellogenin concentrations can then be read off the calibration curve. A 4-parameter curve fit should be used for automatic data reduction. If samples were pre-diluted, the concentration will be obtained by multiplying the value read off the calibration curve by the dilution factor. There is no dilution correction for mucus necessary, if the 0.5 ml Extraction Buffer is added to swabs for mucus measurement. Samples with higher absorbance values than standard A should be tested again pre-diluted with Dilution Buffer. This additional dilution has to be taken in account for the concentration calculation.

Typical Results

(Example only, not for use in calculation of actual results.)

ID	Concentration (ng/ml)	OD (450 nm)
Standard A (Std A)	250	2.720
Std B	83.3	1.184
Std C	27.8	0.502
Std D	9.3	0.224
Std E	3.1	0.131
Std F	0	0.082

Table 1
Reader values of a typical standard curve.

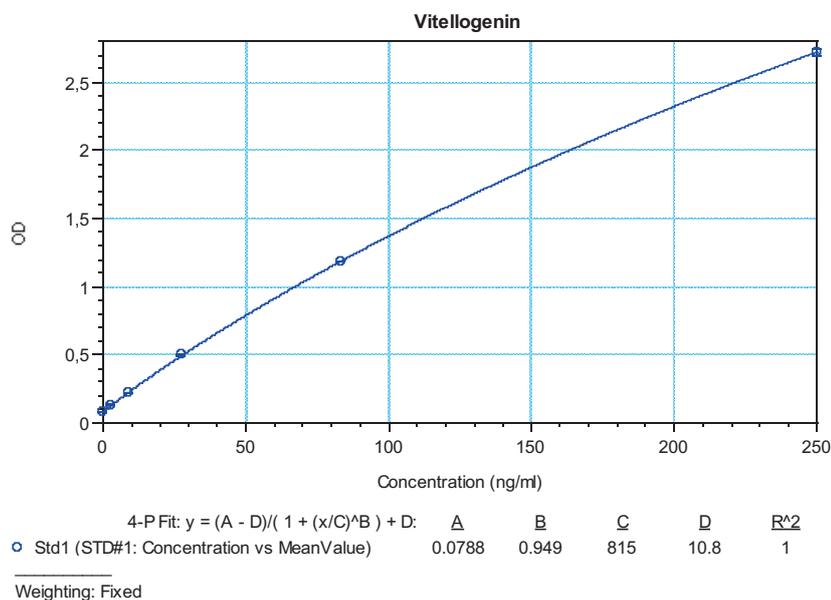


Figure 1
Standard curve by using a 4-parameter curve fit (4-PL).

Test Performance

Mucus vitellogenin concentrations are expressed in ng/ml swab extract (0.5 ml buffer/swab). For serum, plasma or WBH samples, concentration has been corrected by the pre-dilution.

Standard range: 3.1 ng/ml – 250 ng/ml (undiluted samples)
 LLOQ <3.1 ng/ml
 LLD 0.71 ng/ml

The LLD (lower limit of detection) is defined as the corresponding concentration of the mean OD zero standard plus 3 SD.

The mean coefficient of determination (R^2) of 10 standard curves was 1.0.

Intra-assay coefficient of variation (CV)

Sample	Mean (ng/ml)	SD (ng/ml)	CV (%)
Serum #1	16,8	0,8	4,6
Serum #2	7,8	0,7	8,4
Serum #3	6,7	0,5	7,1

Table 2
 Intra-assay coefficient of variation (CV) of 12 replicates in 3 assay runs.

Inter-assay coefficient of variation (CV)

Sample	Mean (ng/ml)	SD (ng/ml)	CV (%)
Sample #1	14,8	1,1	7,7
Sample #2	69,9	6,6	9,4

Table 3
 Inter-assay coefficient of variation (CV) in 20 assay runs.

Vitellogenin recovery and dilution linearity

Table 4

Recovery of vitellogenin spiked to mucus, liver and serum samples of untreated Medaka.

Sample Type	Sample ID	Dilution	Concentration (ng/ml)	Added (ng/ml)	Expected (ng/ml)	Measured (ng/ml)	Spike Recovery (%)
Mucus	M31	2	8,6	46,9	55,5	52,2	94
		10	1,9	46,9	48,8	47,6	98
	M32	2	18,9	46,9	65,8	64,1	97
		10	4,4	46,9	51,3	48,6	95
	M35	2	45,5	46,9	92,3	95,7	104
		10	9,0	46,9	55,9	54,9	98
Liver	L31	1000	1,0	46,9	47,9	46,5	97
		10000	0,6	46,9	47,5	44,9	95
	L32	1000	0	46,9	46,9	48,1	103
		10000	0	46,9	46,9	44,0	94
	L35	1000	2,4	46,9	49,3	48,6	99
		10000	0,1	46,9	46,9	44,7	95
Serum	S31	1000	1,7	46,9	48,6	47,2	97
		10000	0,1	46,9	47,0	45,3	96
	S32	1000	1,3	46,9	48,2	48,8	101
		10000	0	46,9	46,9	42,7	91
	S35	1000	1,9	46,9	48,8	47,9	98
		10000	0,1	46,9	47,0	42,5	90

Sample	Sample	Measured		Concentration		Dilution
		(ng/ml)	Dilution	(ng/ml)	Recovery (%)	
Mucus Female	M16	109,2	20	2185	-	
		56,4	40	2257	103	
		28,9	80	2311	106	
	M17	53,0	20	1060	-	
		23,5	40	941	89	
		12,2	80	974	92	
	M18	90,9	20	1818	-	
		44,1	40	1766	97	
		21,4	80	1713	94	
Mucus Male	M20	9,0	1	9,0	-	
		3,7	2	7,3	81	
		2,1	4	8,5	95	
	M26	56,5	1	56,5	-	
		30,3	2	60,6	107	
		14,0	4	56,0	99	
	M30	20,5	1	20,5	-	
		9,8	2	19,7	96	
		4,8	4	19,0	93	
Serum Female	S16	75,3	2500	188280	-	
		36,9	5000	184455	98	
		20,7	10000	207100	110	
	S17	37,7	2500	94273	-	
		17,4	5000	86825	92	
		8,0	10000	79550	84	
	S18	37,1	2500	92783	-	
		18,5	5000	92415	100	
		9,7	10000	96970	105	
Liver Female	L16	11,5	2000	23042	-	
		6,2	4000	24820	108	
		2,9	8000	22992	100	
	L17	3,0	2000	5980	-	
		1,7	4000	6968	117	
		0,9	8000	6888	115	
	L18	18,3	2000	36600	-	
		10,0	4000	39932	109	
		4,8	8000	38256	105	

Table 5
Dilution linearity of mucus, liver and serum samples of untreated Medaka.

Comparison to commercial ELISA

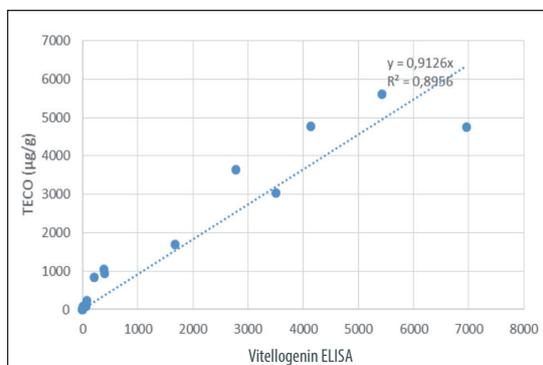


Figure 2
Relation between a commercial Vitellogenin ELISA kit and the TECO Multi Species Vitellogenin ELISA. 17 serum and liver samples were measured according to the corresponding kit instructions.

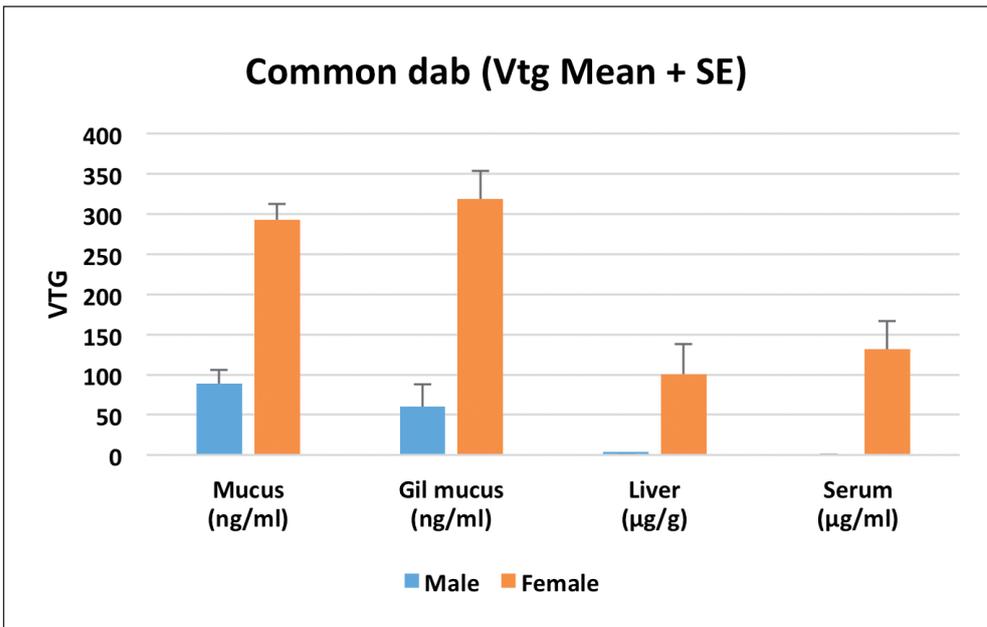


Figure 3
 Gender dependent vitellogenin concentration in common dab in mucus, gill, liver and plasma. Vitellogenin level in male liver and serum were < 2 $\mu\text{g/g}$.

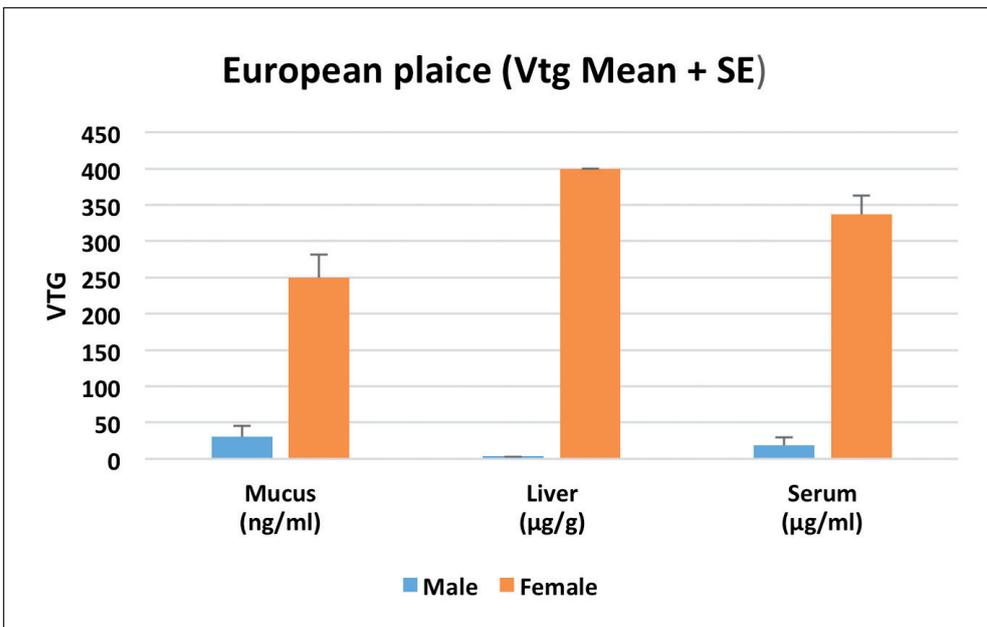


Figure 4
 Gender dependent vitellogenin concentration in European plaice in mucus, liver and plasma. Vitellogenin level in male liver was < 10 $\mu\text{g/g}$.

TECO® Multi Species Vitellogenin

Mucus sample preparation: Quick Guide

Mucus samples have to be collected using the validated TECO Mucus Collection Set TE1034. This collection set also contains the required Extraction Buffer for sample extraction before assay run.

Procedure

Take frozen sample swab tips (vials) selected for testing in the Vitellogenin ELISA out of the freezer.

Open all vials.

Add **500 µl** Extraction Buffer* (TECO Mucus Collection Set, TE1034) into each vial and wait **15-30 min.**

Vortex the closed vials extensively.
For more determinations (e.g. total protein, Cortisol etc.) remove the swabs before vitellogenin assay and discard.

Before pipetting repeat vortexing the sample.

 **Please read Kit instruction before using the Quick Guide**

* If necessary, the sensitivity of the vitellogenin determination may be increased by using 250 µl instead of 500 µl Extraction Buffer (TECO Mucus Collection Set, TE1034) into each vial and wait for 15-30 min. In order to correct the dilution factor, divide the final result obtained from the standard curve by factor 2.

TECO® Multi Species Vitellogenin

Quick Guide

Prepare Standards, Controls and Samples

- Dilute Wash Buffer concentrate 1:50 with distilled water
- Allow all reagents to stand at room temperature (20-28°C) for at least 30 minutes

Assay Procedure

Add **50 µL** Matrix Solution **4** into each well (multichannel pipette)

Add **50 µL** of each standard **A - F**, prepared controls (**C1**, **C2**), and (pre-diluted) samples into wells

Incubate plate for 120±10 minutes on a shaker (500rpm) at RT (20-28°C)

*Wash plate **5 times** using Wash Buffer **2***

Add **100 µL** Biotinylated AB **5** in each well (multichannel pipette)

Incubate plate for 60±5 minutes on a shaker (500rpm) at RT (20-28°C)

*Wash plate **5 times** using Wash Buffer **2***

Add **100 µL** SA-HRP-Conjugate **6** in each well (multichannel pipette)

Incubate plate for 45±5 minutes on a shaker (500rpm) at RT (20-28°C)

*Wash plate **5 times** using Wash Buffer **2***

Add **100 µL** TMB Substrate Solution **7** in each well (multichannel pipette)

Incubate the plate for 15-30 minutes, in the dark, on a shaker (500rpm) at RT (20-28°C)

Add **100 µL** Stop Solution **8** in each well (multichannel pipette)

Measure the color reaction within 10 minutes at 450nm
(reference filter between 560 - 650 nm)

A 4-parameter curve fit should be used for automatic data reduction

 **Please read Kit instruction before using the Quick Guide**