Onion Peel Cell Structure Study Cheat Sheet

by UmeshJagtap via cheatography.com/186232/cs/40659/

Objective

To observe and study the cell structure in an onion peel (cataphyll) using staining and mounting techniques.

Materials

- ☐ Fresh onion bulb
- ☐ Microscope slides
- ☐ Cover slips
- ☐ Forceps
- ☐ Dropper
- ☐ Safranin stain / Iodine solution (0.5%)
- ☐ Distilled water
- ☐ Microscope

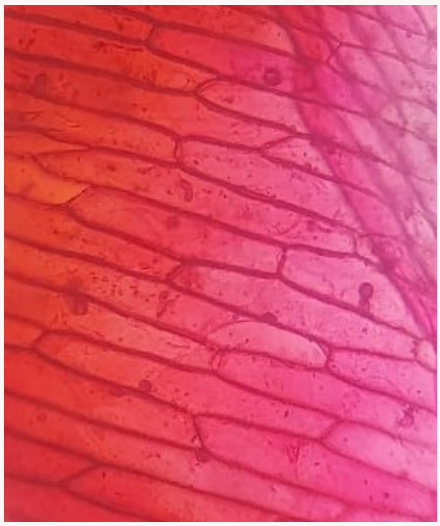
Procedure

Step 1: Preparing the Onion Peel	1. Carefully peel off a thin, translucent layer from the inner surface of an onion bulb (cataphyll). 2.Place the onion peel on a clean microscope slide.
Step 2: Staining the Onion Peel	3. Using a dropper, add a few drops of safranin /0.5% iodine solution onto the onion peel. Ensure the entire surface is covered. 4. Allow the safranin / iodine solution to sit for 1-2 minutes to stain cell contents
Step 3: Mounting the Onion Peel	5. Gently lower a clean cover slip onto the onion peel, avoiding air bubbles. Angle it slightly to allow even spreading of safranin / iodine solution. 6. Press down gently to secure the cover slip.

Procedure (cont)

Step 4: Microscope Observation	7. Place the prepared slide on the microscope stage. 8.Start with the lowest objective lens (usually 4x or 10x) and focus using coarse and fine adjustments. 9. Increase magnification (40x or 100x) and refocus as needed. 10. Observe onion peel cells, noting structures like cell wall, membrane, nucleus, and organelles
Step 5: Recording Observations	11. Draw representative onion peel cells in your lab notebook. Label cell structures observed. 12. Note any variations in cell structure within the onion peel.
Step 6: Cleaning Up	13. Remove the slide from the microscope stage. 14.Dispose of onion peel and cover slip in designated waste container. 15. Clean microscope lenses and stage using lens cleaning paper and solution if needed.
Safety Precautions	🚀 Handle equipment and chemicals with care. 🚀 Be cautious with iodine solution, which can stain skin and clothing. 🚀 Wash hands thoroughly after the experiment.

Observations: Safranin stained onion cells



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Observation Table

Observation	Description
Cell Shape	Rectangular
Cell wall	Rigid, outermost layer
Cell Membrane (Plasma Membrane)	Thin, semi-permeable layer beneath the cell wall
Cytoplasm	Granular, semi-transparent, filling the cell interior
Nucleus	Large, round, centrally located, darker staining
Vacuole	Large, clear, centrally located
Cell Arrangement	Regular pattern with adjacent cells
Variation in Cell Size	Some variations in cell size
Safranin / Iodine Staining	Effective staining of cell contents, enhancing visibility

Conclusion

This experiment allowed us to observe and study the cell structure of an onion peel using staining and mounting techniques. The iodine / safranin stain highlighted various cell components, including the cell wall, cell membrane, and nucleus. This observation provides insight into the organization and characteristics of plant cells.

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