

Epigenase™ m6A Methylase Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric)

Base Catalog # P-9019

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE USER GUIDE BEFORE USE

Uses: The Epigenase™ m⁶A Methylase Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric) is suitable for measuring the activity/inhibition of total m⁶A methylases (methyltransferases) using nuclear extracts or purified m⁶A methylases like METTL3/METTL14 from a broad range of species such as mammalian, plant, fungal, and bacterial, in a variety of forms including, but not limited to, cultured cells and, fresh and frozen tissues.

Starting Materials: Input materials can be nuclear extracts or purified enzymes. The amount of nuclear extracts for each assay can be 2 μ g to 20 μ g with an optimal range of 5 μ g to 10 μ g. The amount of purified m⁶A RNA methylases can be 20 ng to 1 μ g with an optimal range of 50 ng to 500 ng, depending on the purity and catalytic activity of the enzymes.

Internal Control: An assay standard is provided in this kit for the quantification of m⁶A methylase activity. Because m⁶A methylase activity can vary from tissue to tissue, and from normal and diseased states, it is advised to run replicate samples to ensure that the signal generated is validated.

Precautions: To avoid cross-contamination, carefully pipette the sample or solution into the strip wells. Use aerosol-barrier pipette tips and always change pipette tips between liquid transfers. Wear gloves throughout the entire procedure. In case of contact between gloves and sample, change gloves immediately.



KIT CONTENTS

Component	48 Assays Cat. #P-9019-48	96 Assays Cat. #P-9019-96	Storage Upon Receipt
WB (10X Wash Buffer)	14 ml	28 ml	4°C
MB (Methylase Buffer)	3 ml	6 ml	RT
MMS (m ⁶ A Methylase Substrate)*	100 μΙ	200 μΙ	–20°C
SAM (S-adenosylmethionine, 400X)*	20 μΙ	40 µl	–20°C
BS (Binding Solution)	5 ml	10 ml	RT
AS (Assay Standard, 2 μg/ml)*	10 μΙ	20 μΙ	–20°C
CA (Capture Antibody, 1000 μg/ml)*	5 μΙ	10 μΙ	4°C
DA (Detection Antibody, 400 μg/ml)*	6 µI	12 µl	–20°C
ES (Enhancer Solution)*	5 µl	10 μΙ	–20°C
DS (Developer Solution)	5 ml	10 ml	4°C
SS (Stop Solution)	5 ml	10 ml	RT
8-Well Assay Strips (With Frame)	6	12	4°C

^{*} For maximum recovery of the products, centrifuge the original vial prior to opening the cap.

SHIPPING & STORAGE

The kit is shipped in three parts: the first part at ambient room temperature, and the second and third parts on frozen ice packs at 4°C. Upon receipt: (1) store **MMS**, **SAM**, **AS**, **DA**, and **ES** at –20°C away from light; (2) store **WB**, **CA**, **DS**, and **8-Well Assay Strips** at 4°C away from light; (3) store remaining components (**MB**, **BS** and **SS**) at room temperature away from light.

Note: Check if **WB** (10X Wash Buffer) contains salt precipitates before use. If so, warm at room temperature or 37°C and shake the buffer until the salts are re-dissolved.

All components of the kit are stable for 6 months from the date of shipment, when stored properly.

MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT SUPPLIED

Adjustable pipette or multiple-channel pipette
Multiple-channel pipette reservoirs
Aerosol resistant pipette tips
Microplate reader capable of reading absorbance at 450 nm and 655 nm
1.5 ml microcentrifuge tubes
Incubator for 37°C incubation
Distilled water



 Nuclear extract or purified enzy 	112 9 1 1 1 0 0

□ Parafilm M or aluminum foil

GENERAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

Quality Control: Each lot of Epigenase™ m⁶A Methylase Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric) is tested against predetermined specifications to ensure consistent product quality. EpigenTek guarantees the performance of all products in the manner described in our product instructions.

Product Warranty: If this product does not meet your expectations, simply contact our technical support unit or your regional distributor. We also encourage you to contact us if you have any suggestions about product performance or new applications and techniques.

Safety: Suitable lab coat, disposable gloves, and proper eye protection are required when working with this product.

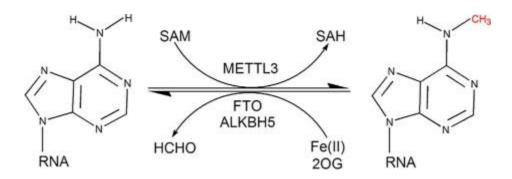
Product Updates: EpigenTek reserves the right to change or modify any product to enhance its performance and design. The information in this User Guide is subject to change at any time without notice. Be sure to use the latest User Guide for this kit which can be accessed online at www.epigentek.com/datasheet.

Usage Limitation: The Epigenase™ m⁶A Methylase Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric) is for research use only and is not intended for diagnostic or therapeutic application

Intellectual Property: The Epigenase™ m⁶A Methylase Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric) and methods of use contain proprietary technologies by EpigenTek.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

N6-methyladenosine (m⁶A) is the most common and abundant modification on RNA molecules present in eukaryotes and also found in prokaryotes and virus. Recently, DNA m6A is also identified in multicellular eukaryotes including *Caenorhabditis elegans* and *Drosophila melanogaster*, and furthermore identified in higher eukaryotes including plants, mouse and human cells. m⁶A plays crucial roles in regulating DNA replication, DNA damage, RNA splicing, transposition, transcription, and cellular defense. In human cells, the m⁶A modification is catalyzed by the methyltransferases (writers) such as METTL3/14, WTAP, RBM15/15B and KIAA1429, and removed by the α-ketoglutarate (α-KG)-and Fe²⁺-dependent demethylases (erasers) such as FTO, ALKBH5 and TET-like enzymes. It was shown that m6A methylases and demethylases play important roles in many biological processes, ranging from development and metabolism to fertility and participate in pathogenesis of multiple diseases including cancers and viral infections. The dynamic and reversible chemical m⁶A modification on DNA/RNA may also serve as a novel epigenetic marker of profound biological significance. Upregulation of m⁶A modification was shown to increase virus replication and promote cancer growth. Down-regulation of m⁶A modification was first characterized in human cancer cells and tissues, relative to their normal controls.



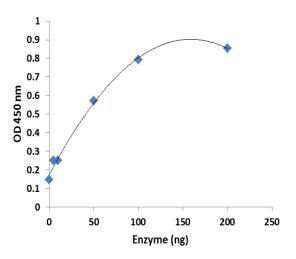
▲ Reversible m⁶A methylation in DNA/RNA

The m⁶A increase in cancer cell or virus could be associated with m⁶A methylases. It was observed that METTL3 expression is positively related to breast cancer and silence of METTL3 causes increased replication of RNA virus such as EV71. Thus, determination of m6A methylases would be important in benefiting cancer and virus infection research and developing new target-based cancer and virus-infection therapeutics. However, there are few methods available for detecting m⁶A methylase activity using both nuclear extracts and purified enzymes. To address this issue, EpigenTek developed and offers the m⁶A Methylase Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric). The kit has the following advantages and features:

- Fast: Colorimetric assay with easy-to-follow steps for convenience and speed. The entire procedure can be finished within 4 hours.
- **Robust:** Innovative kit composition enables background signals to be extremely low and allows the assay to be simple, accurate, reliable, and consistent.
- **Convenient**: Both cell/tissue nuclear extracts and purified proteins can be used, which allows detection of inhibitory effects of m⁶A methylase inhibitor *in vivo* and *in vitro*.
- Sensitive and Specific: Novel assay principle allows to detect the m⁶A methylase-converted end product, which makes the assay much more specific than that for by-product measurement. The assay also allows high sensitivity to be achieved. The activity can be detected from as low as 2 µg of nuclear extracts or 20 ng of purified enzymes.
- Quantitative: The assay standard is included, which allows the specific activity of m⁶A methylase to be quantified.
- **Flexible:** Strip-well microplate format makes the assay flexible for manual or high throughput analysis.

PRINCIPLE & PROCEDURE

The Epigenase™ m⁶A Methylase Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric) is designed for measuring total m⁶A methylase activity/inhibition. In an assay with this kit, the unique substrate is stably coated on the strip wells. Active m⁶A methylases bind to and methylate adenosine residues contained in the substrate. The methylated m⁶A in the substrate can be recognized with a high affinity m⁶A antibody and the immuno-signal is enhanced with enhancer solution. The ratio or amount of methylated m⁶A, which is proportional to enzyme activity, can then be colorimetrically quantified through an ELISA-like reaction.



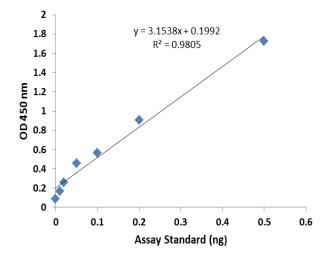


Fig. 1. m⁶A methylase activity achieved by using recombinant METTL3/14 with the Epigenase™ m⁶A Methylase Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric). Recombinant human METTL3/14 enzyme was added at different concentrations.

Fig. 2. Illustrated standard curve generated with the m⁶A methylase assay standard.

ASSAY PROTOCOL

For the best results, please read the protocol in its entirety prior to starting your experiment.

Starting Materials

Input Amount: The amount of nuclear extracts for each assay can be 2 μ g to 20 μ g with an optimal range of 5 μ g to 10 μ g. The amount of purified enzymes can be 20 ng to 1 μ g with an optimal range of 50 ng to 500 ng, depending on the purity and catalytic activity of the enzymes.

Nuclear Extraction: You can use your method of choice for preparing nuclear extracts. EpigenTek offers a nuclear extraction kit (Cat # OP-0002) optimized for use with this kit.

Nuclear Extract or Purified Enzyme Storage: Nuclear extract or purified enzyme should be stored in aliquots at -80°C until use.

1. Buffer Solution & Preparation

a. Prepare Diluted WB (1X Wash Buffer):

48-Assay Kit: Add 13 ml of WB (10X Wash Buffer) to 117 ml of distilled water and adjust pH to 7.2-7.5.

96-Assay Kit: Add 26 ml of WB (10X Wash Buffer) to 234 ml of distilled water and adjust pH to 7.2-7.5.



This **Diluted WB** (1X Wash Buffer) can now be stored at 4°C for up to six months.

b. Prepare Working MB:

Add **SAM** (S-adenosylmethionine) to **MB** (Methylase Buffer) at a ratio of 1:400 (i.e., add 1 μ l of each **SAM** to 399 μ l of **MB** for a total of 400 μ l). About 50 μ l of **Working MB** will be required for each assay well.

c. Prepare Diluted CA:

Dilute **CA** (Capture Antibody) with **Diluted WB** (1X Wash Buffer) at a ratio of 1:1000 (i.e., add 1 µl of **CA** to 1000 µl of **Diluted WB** (1X Wash Buffer). About 50 µl of **Diluted CA** will be required for each assay well.

d. Prepare Diluted AS:

Suggested Standard Curve Preparation: First, dilute **AS** (Assay Standard) with **MB** to 1 ng/ μ l by adding 5 μ l of **AS** to 5 μ l of **MB**. Then, further prepare five concentrations by combining the 1 ng/ μ l **Diluted AS** with **MB** into final concentrations of 0.02, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, and 1.0 ng/ μ l according to the following dilution chart:

Tube	Diluted AS (1 ng/μl)	DB	Resulting Diluted AS Concentration
1	1.0 μΙ	39.0 µl	0.02 ng/µl
2	1.0 µl	19.0 µl	0.05 ng/µl
3	1.0 μΙ	9.0 µl	0.1 ng/µl
4	1.0 μΙ	4.0 µl	0.2 ng/µl
5	2.0 μΙ	2.0 µl	0.5 ng/μl
6	4.0 µl	0.0 µl	1.0 ng/μl

Note: Keep each of diluted solutions except **Diluted WB** (1X Wash Buffer) on ice until use. Any remaining diluted solutions other than **Diluted WB** should be discarded if not used within the same day.

2. Enzymatic Reaction

- a. Predetermine the number of strip wells required for your experiment. Carefully remove un-needed strip wells from the plate frame and place them back in the bag (seal the bag tightly and store at 4°C).
- b. Add 80 µl of **BS** (Binding Solution) to each well.
- c. Add 2 µl of **MMS** (m⁶A Methylase Substrate) into each sample well. Add 2 µl of **Working MB** into blank well. Add 1 µl of **Diluted AS** into the standard curve wells (see the designated wells depicted in <u>Table 2</u> under "Suggested Strip Well Setup" below). Mix solution by gently tilting from side to side or shaking the plate several times. Ensure the solution coats the bottom of the well evenly.

Note: For the <u>standard curve</u>, add 1 µl of **Diluted AS** at concentrations of 0.02 to 1 ng/µl (see the chart in Step 1g). The final concentrations should be 0.02, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, and 1 ng per well.

d. Cover strip plate with plate seal or Parafilm M and incubate at 37°C for 90 min.



- e. Remove the BS (Binding Solution) from each well.
- f. Wash each well two times with 150 μ l of the **Diluted WB** (1X Wash Buffer) each time.
- g. Blank Wells: Add 50 µl of Working MB to each blank well.
- h. Standard Wells: Add 50 µl of Working MB to each standard well.
- i. <u>Sample Wells Without Inhibitor</u>: Add 46 to 49 μl of **Working MB** and 1 to 4 μl of nuclear extracts or purified enzyme to each sample well without inhibitor. Total volume should be 50 μl per well.
- j. <u>Sample Wells With Inhibitor</u>: Add 41 to 44 μl of **Working MB**, 1 to 4 μl of nuclear extracts or purified enzyme, and 5 μl of inhibitor solution. Total volume should be 50 μl per well.
 - **Note**: (1) Follow the suggested well setup diagrams under "Suggested Strip Well Setup"; (2) It is recommended to use 5 μ g to 10 μ g of nuclear extract per well or 50 ng to 500 ng of purified enzyme per well; (3) The concentration of inhibitor to be added into the sample wells can be varied (1 μ M to 1000 μ M). However, the final concentration of the inhibitors before adding to the wells should be prepared with MB at a 1:10 ratio (i.e., add 0.5 μ l of inhibitor to 4.5 μ l of MB) so that the original solvent of the inhibitor can be reduced to 1% of the reaction solution or less.
- k. Tightly cover strip plate with **Parafilm M** to avoid evaporation and incubate at 37°C for 60-90 min.
 - **Note**: (1) The incubation time may depend on intrinsic enzyme activity. However, in general, 60 min incubation is suitable for active purified m⁶A methylase enzyme and 90 min incubation is required for nuclear extract.
- Remove the reaction solution from each well. Wash each well three times with 150 μl of the **Diluted** WB (1X Wash Buffer) each time.

3. Antibody Binding & Signal Enhancing

- a. Add 50 µl of the **Diluted CA** to each well, then cover with Parafilm M or aluminium foil and incubate at room temperature for 60 min.
- b. During the last 10 minutes of Diluted CA incubation, prepare the **Immuno-Detection Complex Solution**: In each 1 ml of **Diluted WB** (1 X wash buffer) add 0.5 µl of **DA** (Detection Antibody) and then add 0.5 µl of **ES** (Enhancer Solution). Mix well.
- c. Remove the **Diluted CA** solution from each well.
- d. Wash each well two times with 150 µl of the Diluted WB (1X Wash Buffer) each time.
- e. Add 50 μl of the **Immuno-Detection Complex** to each well, then cover with Parafilm M or aluminium foil and incubate at room temperature for 30 min.
- f. Remove the Immuno-Detection Complex solution from each well.
- g. Wash each well four times with 150 µl of the Diluted WB (1X Wash Buffer) each time.

Note: Ensure any residual wash buffer in the wells is thoroughly removed at each wash step. The wash can be carried out by simply pipetting the wash buffer into the wells and then pipetting the buffer out from the wells (discard the buffer).

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4. Signal Detection

- a. Add 100 μl of **DS** (Developer Solution) to each well and incubate at room temperature for 1 to 10 min away from light. Begin monitoring color changes in the sample wells and control wells. The **DS** (Developer Solution) will turn blue in the presence of sufficient methylated m6A.
- b. Add 100 µl of SS (Stop solution) to each well to stop enzyme reaction when the color in the positive control wells turns medium blue. The color will change to yellow after adding SS (Stop solution) and the absorbance should be read on a microplate reader within 2 to 10 min at 450 nm with an optional reference wavelength of 655 nm.

Note: (1) Most microplate readers have capability to carry out dual wavelength analysis and will automatically subtract reference wavelength absorbance from the test wavelength absorbance. If your plate reader does not have this capability, the plate can be read twice – once at 450 nm and once at 655 nm. Then manually subtract the 655 nm ODs from 450 nm ODs; (2) If the stripwell microplate frame does not fit in the microplate reader, transfer the solution to a standard 96-well microplate.

5. m⁶A Methylase Activity Calculation

- a. Calculate the average for duplicate readings for sample wells and blank wells.
- b. Calculate enzyme activity or inhibition using the following formulas:

For simple calculation:

Methylase activity (OD/h/mg) =
$$\frac{\text{OD (sample - blank)}}{[\text{Protein Amount (}\mu\text{g})/1000]^* \text{ X Hour **}}$$

Example calculation:

Average OD450 of sample is 0.65 Average OD450 of blank is 0.05 Protein amount is 5 μg Incubation time is 1 hour (60 min)

Activity =
$$\frac{(0.35 - 0.05)}{(5/1000 \times 1)} = 60 \text{ OD/h/mg}$$

For accurate or specific activity calculation:

First, generate a standard curve and plot the OD values versus the amount of **AS** (Assay Standard) at each concentration point. Then determine the slope as OD/ng using linear regression (*Microsoft Excel's* linear regression or slope functions are suitable for such calculation) and the most linear part

^{*} Protein amount added into the reaction at Step 2i or 2j.

^{**} Incubation time at Step 2k (in hours).



(include at least 4 concentration points) of the standard curve for optimal slope calculation. Now calculate m^6A methylase activity using the following formula:

Activity (ng/h/mg) =
$$\frac{\text{OD (sample - blank)}}{\text{Slope} \times \text{Protein Amount (}\mu\text{g})^* \text{ X Hour **}} \times 1000$$

- * Protein amount added into the reaction at Step 2i or 2j
- ** Incubation time at Step 2k (in hours).

For inhibition calculation:

SUGGESTED STRIP WELL SETUP

Table 1. Approximate amount of required buffers and solutions for defined assay wells based on the protocol.

Reagents	1 well	1 strip (8 wells)	2 strips (16 wells)	6 strips (48 wells)	12 strips (96 wells)
Diluted WB	2.5 ml	20 ml	40 ml	120 ml	240 ml
MB	50 µl	400 µl	800 µl	2400 µl	4800 µl
MS	2 μΙ	16 µl	32 µl	96 µl	192 µl
SAM	0.2 µl	1 µl	2 µl	6 µl	12 µl
AS	N/A	N/A	4 μl (optional)	8 µl	16 µl
BS	80 µl	650 µl	1350 µl	2700 µl	5400 µl
Diluted CA	50 µl	400 µl	800 µl	2400 µl	4800 µl
Diluted DA	50 µl	400 µl	800 µl	2400 µl	4800 µl
Diluted ES	50 µl	400 µl	800 µl	2400 µl	4800 µl
DS	0.1 ml	0.8 ml	1.6 ml	4.8 ml	9.6 ml
SS	0.1 ml	0.8 ml	1.6 ml	4.8 ml	9.6 ml



Table 2. The suggested strip-well plate setup for standard curve preparation in a 48-assay format (in a 96-assay format, Strips 7 to 12 can be configured as Sample). The controls and samples should be measured in duplicate.

Well #	Strip 1	Strip 2	Strip 3	Strip 4	Strip 5	Strip 6
Α	Blank	Blank	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
В	AS 0.02 ng/µl	AS 0.02 ng/µl	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
С	AS 0.05 ng/μl	AS 0.05 ng/μl	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
D	AS 0.1 ng/µl	AS 0.1 ng/µl	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
E	AS 0.2 ng/µl	AS 0.2 ng/µl	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
F	AS 0.5 ng/µl	AS 0.5 ng/µl	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
G	AS 1 ng/µl	AS 1 ng/µl	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
Н	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Suggestion
No signal or weak signal in both the standard and sample wells	Reagents are added incorrectly.	Check if reagents are added in the proper order with the right amount, and if any steps in the protocol may have been omitted by mistake.
	The substrate and standard are not properly bound to the wells.	Ensure that (1) the MS and AS are added into the wells; (2) the wells are completely covered with sufficient BS (Binding Solution); and (3) binding time is sufficient (90 min).
	Incubation time and temperature are incorrect.	Ensure that the incubation time and temperature described in the protocol are followed correctly.
	Incorrect absorbance reading.	Check if the appropriate absorbance wavelength (450 nm filter) is used.
	Kit was not stored or handled properly.	Ensure all components of the kit were stored at the appropriate temperatures and the cap is tightly secure after each opening or use.
No signal or weak signal in only the standard curve wells	The standard amount is insufficiently added to the well in Step 2c.	Ensure a sufficient amount of standard is added.
	The standard is degraded due to improper storage conditions.	Follow the Shipping & Storage guidance of this User Guide for storage of AS (Assay Standard).
High background present in the blank	Insufficient washing of wells.	Check if washing at each step is performed according to the protocol.
wells	Contaminated by sample or standard.	Ensure the well is not contaminated from adding sample or standard accidentally or from using contaminated tips.



	Incubation time with detection antibody is too long.	The incubation time at Step 3e should not exceed 45 minutes.
	Over development of color.	Decrease the development time in Step 4a before adding SS (Stop Solution) in Step 4b.
No signal or weak signal only in sample wells	Protein sample is not properly extracted or purified.	Ensure your protocol is suitable for DNA demethylase extraction. For the best results, it is advised to use EpigenTek's Nuclear Extraction Kit (Cat. No. OP-0002). Also, use fresh cells or tissues for protein extraction, as frozen cells or tissues could lose enzyme activity.
	Sample amount added into the wells is insufficient.	Ensure a sufficient amount of nuclear extracts is used as indicated in Steps 2i and 2j. The sample can be titrated to determine the optimal amount to use in the assay.
	Sample was not stored properly or has been stored for too long.	Ensure sample is stored in aliquots at -80°C, with no more than 6 weeks for nuclear extracts. Avoid repeated freezing/thawing.
	Little or no activity of m ⁶ A methylase contained in the sample.	This problem may be a result of many factors. If the affecting factors cannot be determined, use new or re-prepared nuclear extracts.
Uneven color development	Insufficient washing of the wells.	Ensure the wells are washed according to the user guide. Ensure residual wash buffer is removed as much as possible.
	Delayed color development or delayed stopping of color development in the wells.	Ensure color development and stop solutions are added sequentially and consistent with the order you added the other reagents (e.g., from well A to H or from well 1 to 12).

RELATED PRODUCTS

RNA Methylation

P-9005	EpiQuik™ m ⁶ A RNA Methylation Quantification Kit (Colorimetric)
P-9008	EpiQuik™ m ⁶ A RNA Methylation Quantification Kit (Fluorometric)
P-9010	MethylFlash™ m ⁶ A DNA Methylation ELISA Kit (Colorimetric)
P-9013	Epigenase™ m6A Demethylase Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric)
P-9015	MethylFlash™ Urine N6-methyladenosine (m ⁶ A) Quantification Kit (Colorimetric)

DNA Methyltransferase & Demethylase

P-3009	EpiQuik™ DNMT Activity/Inhibition Assay Ultra Kit (Colorimetric)
P-3086	Epigenase™ 5mC-Hydroxylase TET Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric)
P-3094	Epigenase™ Thymine DNA Glycosylase (TDG) Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit
	(Colorimetric)