**Principle**

The principle for the simple flotation method is the same as for the simple test tube flotation method.

**Application**

This is another good technique for use in initial surveys. In addition, it can be used in conjunction with the McMaster technique (see section 3.4.1) to detect low numbers of eggs (when present below the McMaster sensitivity of 50 eggs per gram of faeces).

**Equipment**

· Two beakers or plastic containers  
· A tea strainer or cheesecloth  
· Measuring cylinder or other container graded by volume  
· Fork, tongue blades or other type of stirring rod  
· Test tube (dry)  
· Microscope  
· Microslides, coverslips  
· Balance or teaspoon  
· Flotation fluid (see the Appendix to this handbook for formulation)

**Procedure**

[(a) Put approximately 3 g of faeces (weigh or measure the faeces with a precalibrated teaspoon) into Container 1.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0i.jpg)

[(b) Pour 50 ml of flotation fluid into Container 1.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0j.jpg)

[(c) Mix (stir) the contents thoroughly with a stirring device (tongue blade, fork).](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0k.jpg)

[(d) Pour the resultant faecal suspension through a tea strainer or a double-layer of cheesecloth into Container 2.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0l.jpg)

(e) Leave the container to stand for 10 minutes.

[(f) Press a test tube to the bottom of the filtrate, lift it quickly and transfer a few drops adhering to the surface to a microslide.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0m.jpg)

[(g) The test tube ought to touch the microslide for at least 2-4 seconds for the drops to run off.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0n.jpg)

[(h) Mount the coverslip on the microslide for microscopical examination.](http://www.fao.org/wairdocs/ilri/x5492e/x5492e0o.jpg)