

Hydra

Green or Brown

Genus: *Hydra*
Family: Hydridae
Order: Hydroida
Class: Hydrozoa
Phylum: Cnidaria
Kingdom: Animalia



Conditions for Customer Ownership

We are a USDA compliant facility and hold all necessary permits to transport our organisms. Each state is assisted by the USDA to determine which organisms can be transported across state lines. Some organisms may require end-user permits. Please contact your local regulatory authorities with questions or concerns. To access permit conditions, [click here](#).

Never purchase living specimens without having a disposition strategy in place. Live specimens should not be released into the wild! Please dispose of any unwanted organisms using the guidelines below.

Primary Hazard Considerations

None.

Availability

Hydra are available year round since we culture them in our labs. Our *Hydra* cultures are shipped in plastic jars containing water. We over-pack each order of *Hydra*. It is normal to have some deceased *Hydra* in the container. You will receive at least the quantity of live *Hydra* stated on the container. Upon arrival, immediately remove the lid and gently aerate the culture using a small pipet. Replace the lid loosely and maintain at room temperature. Do not place in direct sunlight. If you are planning on using your culture at a later date, you may store it in the refrigerator with the cap loose. The *Hydra* can live in this jar for about two days if stored in the refrigerator.

Captive Care

Habitat:

- *Hydra* can be kept in an aerated aquarium, tub, or small glass container such as a culture dish. *Hydra* are very sensitive to water conditions. Water temperature should be kept between 18°C–21°C (65–70°F), and the pH should be at 7.5–8. The water should be well aerated; this is commonly accomplished with the use of an air stone (470308-842) powered by an air pump (470308-592). Spring or bottled water is ideal for the *Hydra*. Never put *Hydra* in chlorinated tap water or distilled water. If tap water is used, treat it with a water conditioner (470308-824) or allow it to sit for at least 48 hours before introducing the *Hydra*. If a filtration system has been set up for the container, water changes are only necessary every one to two weeks. A basic sponge filter would work well in caring for *Hydra*. If a filtration system has not been set up, water changes must be conducted daily. Water that is cloudy or foul should be removed and replaced with spring or bottled water.
- *Hydra* are carnivorous and eat live food only. They should be fed daily; good food sources include brine shrimp larvae (470152-880) and *Daphnia* (470176-562). The food can be added directly to the water. Start the feeding at one pipet of food, then adjust the feeding according to how quickly the food is eaten or how much food is left in the bottom of the container.
- Green *Hydra* have a symbiotic relationship with *Chlorella*. Because this algae is photosynthetic, green *Hydra* can survive for several weeks without food as long as they have adequate light. It is still necessary for green *Hydra* to be fed brine shrimp larvae or *Daphnia* for long-term health.

Information

- Method of reproduction: *Hydra* usually reproduce asexually, by budding. *Hydra* can also reproduce sexually, but this is much less common. Differentiation must be induced by environmental factors for this to occur. Some species are hermaphroditic and others have separate males and females.
- **Determining Sex:** Sexing *Hydra* is difficult, although it can be done with the use of a microscope to identify the testes and ovaries.

Life Cycle

Given the right conditions, budding will occur and *Hydra* can be held almost indefinitely.

Wild Habitat

Hydra can be found in freshwater streams, ponds, and lakes in both temperate and tropical regions.

Disposition

In order to protect our environment, do not release this organism into the wild. When you are done with your *Hydra*, add bleach to the culture and dump it down the drain.