

**XVI INTERNATIONAL ROTIFER SYMPOSIUM ZAGREB**

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**Workshop: How to Get Nice Rotifer Images**



**Making a micro-aquarium**

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# Making a micro-aquarium

A drop of water with the organism to be observed is placed on a microscope slide. Take a small amount of vaseline (I always use the ring finger of the right hand for this) and rub it on the heel of the left hand. Now you can take a cover glass with your right hand and scrape off the Vaseline layer of your left hand with two opposite edges of the cover glass, so that there is a border of about 1mm height. Now apply the cover glass over the drop of water, if possible, in such a way that a circular volume of water is created in the centre. By this procedure mobile organisms such as rotifers cannot escape. Since Vaseline is very soft, the thickness of the layer can be reduced in any way. Evaporating water can be replaced by water low in minerals. To keep rotifers in this microaquarium for a longer period of time, they must be kept in a humid chamber. In the case of bdelloid rotifers, it is sometimes even possible to breed them in this way.

