**PREPARATION OF THE REAGENTS**

**Cacodylate buffer.** Dissolve 21.4 g dimethylarsinic acid sodium salt trihydrate and 20 g sucrose in 1 L H2O. Then add 1 mL of 1 M CaCl2 and 1 mL of 1 M MgCl2 under constant agitation. Ajust the pH to 7.3 by addition of 1 M HCl or 1 M NaOH and the osmolarity to 306 mOsm/L with an equal amount (13 mL) of 1 M MgCl2 and 1 M CaCl2. Once filtrated (0.2 µm filter) the cadodylate buffer is clear and stable at + 4°C for three months.

**Agarose.** Dissolve agar powder in boiling cacodylate buffer to prepare a 2% (w/v) solution. NOTE: The agar solution remains as a liquid at 45 °C, keep the agar solution in a water bath during this step.

**Epoxy resin.** Mix the components under constant agitation in the following order: LX-112 resin 217.4 g, Dodecenyl Succinic Anhydride (DDSA) 104.4 g, Nadic Methyl Anhydride (NMA) 102.8 g and 2,4,6-Tri(dimethylaminomethyl)phenol (DMP-30) 7.9 g. Drawn the resin into 10 mL plastic syringes and stored at -20 °C.