Using the Binocular Dissecting Microscope Clackamas County



Parts of the binocular dissecting microscope

Both the microscope and lamp plug into a power strip.

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To adjust the microscope for use

- Adjust the eye pieces to suit the distance between your eyes, closer together or farther apart.
- If you need to clean the lens pieces, moisten a piece of dry lint-free tissue or lens paper; clean the glass surfaces with a circular motion. Repeat with dry lens paper until the lens is clean and dry.

To adjust the lights

- Turn the lights on the microscope by turning the knob on the lower right back of base of the microscope. There are two light choices on the microscope, upper light and lower light. If needed, turn on power strip.
- To turn on the additional light, turn the switch at the tip of the lamp.
- Adjust the gooseneck to direct light onto the specimen.

To view a specimen

- Place arthropods in a covered petri dish.
- Place the sample on the stage (the flat area below the objective.)
- Plant specimens may be placed directly onto the stage. Secure the sample with the two clips on the stage.
- Begin with the objective at 1X (10x magnification).
- Focus on the specimen:
 - Turn the large black knob (near the rear) to focus.
- If greater magnification is needed, carefully rotate objective to 4x (40x magnification).
- If needed, adjust the sample's position so that it is again within view when you look through the eyepieces.
- If needed, re-focus.

After using the microscope

- Turn off all light sources.
- Reset the objective to 1X magnification.
- Clean the stage with a clean damp cloth or towel.
- Lower the body of the microscope all the way.
- If needed, clean the exterior of the microscope with a soft damp cloth.

To safely carry the microscope from one place to another

- Use two hands
 - One hand grabs the support arm of the scope.
 - The other hand is under the base to support the scope.
- Caution: Take care that the round piece in the stage doesn't fall out.