

In pE2-Crimson, the E2-Crimson coding sequence is flanked by separate and distinct multiple cloning sites (i.e., the 5' MCS and 3' MCS) that make it easy to excise the gene for use in other cloning applications. In *E. coli*, E2-Crimson is expressed from the *lac* promoter (P_{lac}) as a fusion with several amino acids, including the first five amino acids of the LacZ protein. Note, however, that if the E2-Crimson coding sequence is excised using a restriction site in the 5' MCS, the protein will no longer be expressed as a fusion (as it is when it is expressed from the *lac* promoter). The entire E2-Crimson expression cassette in pE2-Crimson is supported by a pUC19 backbone, which contains a high-copy number origin of replication and an ampicillin resistance gene (Amp^r) for propagation and selection in *E. coli*.

Use

pE2-Crimson is primarily intended to serve as a source of E2-Crimson cDNA. The flanking MCS regions make it possible to excise the E2-Crimson coding sequence and insert it into other vector systems. The vector can also be used to express E2-Crimson in bacteria.

With a half-time for chromophore maturation of 26 minutes at 37°C, E2-Crimson matures faster than any previously described far-red fluorescent protein (1). Cells expressing E2-Crimson (excitation and emission maxima: 611 nm and 646 nm, respectively) can be detected by either fluorescence microscopy or flow cytometry 8–12 hours after transfection.

For western analysis, E2-Crimson can be detected with either the Living Colors® DsRed Polyclonal Antibody (Cat. No. 632496) or the Living Colors DsRed Monoclonal Antibody (Cat. Nos. 632392 and 632393).

Location of features

- P_{lac} (*lac* Promoter): 95–178
- *lacZ*-E2-Crimson fusion expressed in *E. coli*
 - Ribosome binding site: 206–209
 - Start codon (ATG): 217–219; Stop codon 964–966
- 5' MCS (5' multiple cloning site): 234–281
- E2-Crimson (*Discosoma sp.* red fluorescent protein variant)
 - Start codon (ATG): 289–291; Stop codon: 964–966
- 3' MCS (3' multiple cloning site): 966–1065
- Amp^r (Ampicillin resistance gene; β -lactamase): 1511–2371
- pUC origin of replication: 2519–3161

Propagation in *E. coli*

- Recommended host strain: DH5 α
- Selectable marker: plasmid confers resistance to ampicillin (50 μ g/ml) in *E. coli* hosts.
- *E. coli* replication origin: pUC
- Copy number: high
- Plasmid incompatibility group: pMB1/ColE1

Excitation and emission maxima of E2-Crimson

- Excitation maximum = 611 nm
- Emission maximum = 646 nm

References

1. Strack, R. L. *et al.* (2009) *Biochemistry* **48**(35):8279–8281.
2. Bevis, B. J. & Glick, B. S. (2002) *Nat. Biotechnol.* **20**(1):83–87. Erratum in *Nat. Biotechnol.* (2002) **20**(11):1159

Note: The vector sequence was compiled from information in the sequence databases, published literature, and other sources, together with partial sequences obtained by Clontech. This vector has not been completely sequenced.

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