

Table 1: The effect of water activity on the buoyant density and hydration of mouse DNA.

Concentration of NaCl (mM)	$a_w$ <sup>a</sup>	native DNA		denatured DNA	
		buoyant density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	moles H <sub>2</sub> O per mole nucleotide	buoyant density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	moles H <sub>2</sub> O per mole nucleotide
20	0.9990	1.119	68	1.137	58
96.8	0.9968	1.123	66	1.142	56
204	0.9932	1.128	63	1.151	52

<sup>a</sup> Calculated from freezing point depression data<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Wolf, A.V. and Brown, M.G. (1971) in Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 51st edn., pp. D176-D215.