Amygdala Dissection

Bregma coordinates approximately -1 to -2.75 (Fig.1).

Important Note: The following dissections are performed using a dissecting microscope, with brain on filter paper moistened with cold RNAse-free 1X PBS on top of a Petri dish filled with ice. All surgical instruments are cleaned with RNAseZap in between each animal and brain region.

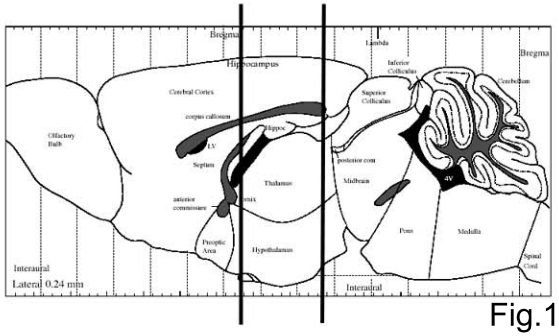

Fig.1

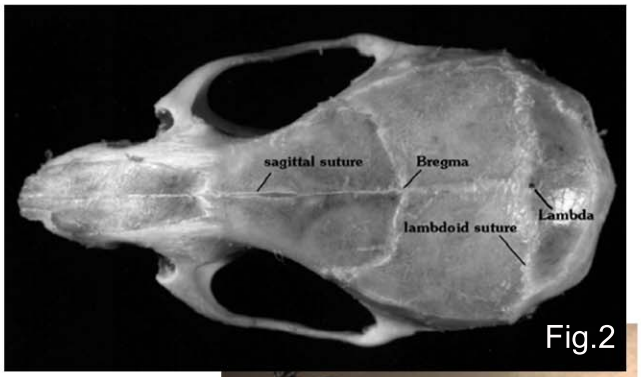

Fig.2

Method:
Gently peel away skull plates, noting visually where bregma is located (Figs. 2 and 3). Use blood vessels on brain surface as additional bregma landmarks.

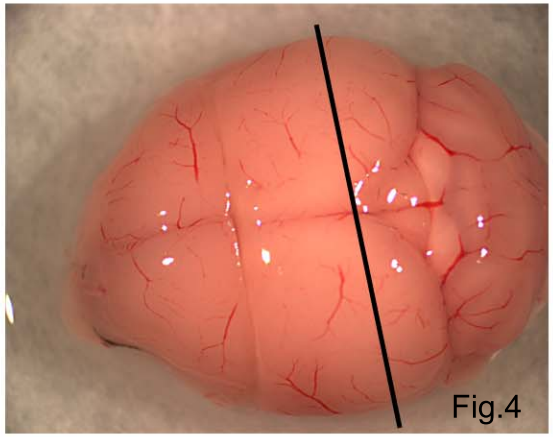
Fig.4

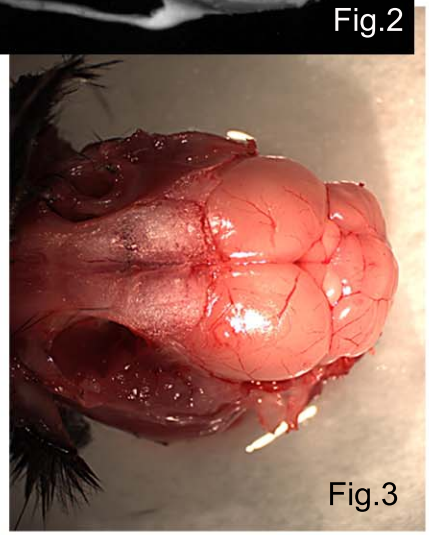
Fig.3

Remove brain from skull, place brain dorsal side up, and make a coronal cut at approx bregma -1 (Fig.4, unmarked cut). Make a second cut at approx bregma -2.75 (Fig.4, solid line).

Lay down slice, caudal side up (nose down). With a micro scalpel, make incision following black lines (Fig.5) making sure to avoid any hippocampus present.

Place excised tissue into a 1.5-ml tube with 200 ul of RNA later (can be at room temp). After pooling 3 animals into one tube, centrifuge the tubes 2 min at 10,000 rpm (eppendorf microfuge). Aspirate RNA later gently from tissue, and immediately snap freeze on dry ice.

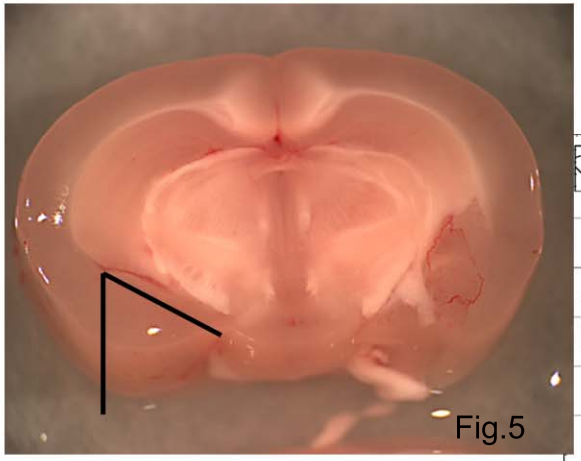
Fig.5

Rostral figure (Fig.6) is given for reference.

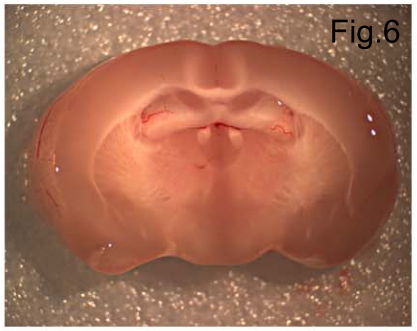
Fig.6