Technical Information

Charcoal Agar Base with Niacin

Product Code: DM 2053

Application: Charcoal Agar Base with Niacin is recommended for the cultivation of *Bordetella pertussis* and *Haemophilus influenzae* or detecting faecal coliforms in drinking water, waste water, seawater and food samples by MPN Method.

### Composition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Gms / Litre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pancreatic digest of gelatin</td>
<td>10.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef extract</td>
<td>10.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium chloride</td>
<td>5.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starch</td>
<td>10.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicotinic acid (Niacin)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charcoal</td>
<td>4.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agar</td>
<td>12.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final pH (at 25°C)</td>
<td>7.4±0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters

### Principle & Interpretation

The genus *Bordetella* has four species: *Bordetella pertussis*, *Bordetella parapertussis*, *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and *Bordetella avium* (1).

Genetic studies have shown that these organisms are related closely to each other. Humans are the only host for *B.pertussis* and *B.parapertussis*, while *B.bronchiseptica* is in a wide variety of animals and occasionally found in humans (2). *B. avium* is found in birds. *Bordetella* species are obligately aerobic and metabolically not very active. All are non-motile except *B.bronchiseptica*.

*B.pertussis* is the major cause of whooping cough (*pertussis*). *B.parapertussis* is associated with a milder form of the disease (3). Primary isolation of *B.pertussis* in particular, requires the addition of charcoal and 15-20% blood to neutralize the growth-inhibiting effects.

Charcoal Agar is prepared according to the method of Mishulow, Sharpe and Cohen (2). This medium can be used as a replacement for Bordet-Gengou Agar for isolation of *B.pertussis* and for the production of *B.pertussis* vaccines. Charcoal Agar supplemented with horse blood can also be used for the cultivation and isolation of *Haemophilus influenzae* (4).

Medium ingredients like pancreatic digest of gelatin and beef extract provide essential nutrients to the organisms. Sodium chloride maintains osmotic balance. Starch soluble and charcoal neutralizes substances toxic to *Bordetella* species such as fatty acids. Charcoal has the tendency to settle at the bottom of the flask. Therefore, before dispensing, swirl the flasks gently to obtain a uniform charcoal suspension (7).

The difficulty in the isolation of *Bordetella pertussis* from nasopharyngeal secretions is the repression of unwanted flora during the long incubation period on nutritious media. Penicillin can be added to the medium as an antimicrobial agent for restricting the other contaminants. However Penicillin resistant flora still causes the contamination that was observed by Lacey (6). Necessity of the Nicotinic acid as a growth factor was showed by Proom (8). Methicillin was found to be superior to Penicillin in suppressing unwanted nasopharyngeal flora as observed by Broome et al (9). Sutcliffe and Abbott (9) found that Cephalexin was still better than Methicillin.

The medium can also be used for the maintenance of stock cultures of *Bordetella pertussis* on slants with weekly subcultures. Charcoal Agar with Niacin can be converted to Chocolate Agar for isolation of *Haemophilus* species.

### Methodology

Suspend 51.0 grams in 900 ml distilled water. Heat to boiling to dissolve the medium with frequent stirring. Sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes. Cool to 50°C and aseptically add sterile 10% of defibrinated blood and rehydrated contents of one vial of Bordetella Selective Supplement (MS2004). Mix well and pour into sterile Petri plates. For *Haemophilus* species the medium can be converted to chocolate agar.
Quality Control

Physical Appearance
Grey to greyish black homogeneous free flowing powder

Gelling
Firm, comparable with 1.2% Agar gel

Colour and Clarity of prepared medium
Black coloured, opaque gel with undissolved black particles forms in Petri plates

Reaction
Reaction of 5.1% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 7.4±0.2

pH range 7.20-7.60

Cultural Response/characteristics
DM 2053: Cultural characteristics observed with added sterile defibrinated blood and Bordetella Selective Supplement (MS2004), after an incubation at 35 - 37°C for 24 - 48 hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organism</th>
<th>Inoculum (CFU)</th>
<th>Growth</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bordetella bronchiseptica ATCC 4617</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>good-luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bordetella parapertussis ATCC 15311</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>good-luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bordetella pertussis ATCC 8467</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>good-luxuriant</td>
<td>&gt;=50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staphylococcus aureus ATCC 25923</td>
<td>&gt;=10³</td>
<td>inhibited</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klebsiella pneumoniae ATCC 13883</td>
<td>&gt;=10³</td>
<td>inhibited</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Storage and Shelf Life

Dried Media: Store below 30°C in tightly closed container and use before expiry date as mentioned on the label.

Prepared Media: 2-8°C in sealable plastic bags for 2-5 days.

Further Reading

Disclaimer:
- User must ensure suitability of the product(s) in their application prior to use.
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