

Technical Information

Heart Infusion Agar

Product Code: DM 1169

Application: - Heart Infusion Agar is recommended for the isolation and cultivation of a wide variety of fastidious organisms.

Composition**

Ingredients	Gms / Litre
Beef heart, infusion from	10.00
Tryptose	10.000
Sodium chloride	5.000
Agar	15.000
Final pH (at 25°C)	7.4±0.2

**Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters

Principle & Interpretation

Fastidious organisms having exacting nutritional requirement could be cultivated on infusion media, as demonstrated by Huntoon (1).

A liquid medium containing an infusion of meat was one of the first media recommended for the cultivation of bacteria. These infusion media need not be further supplemented by the addition of supplements for cultivation of fastidious bacteria (2). Heart Infusion Agar, containing infusion from beef heart is used for the isolation and cultivation of a wide variety of fastidious organisms (3). Heart infusion Agar can also be used for the cultivation of *Vibrio* species (2, 4). Heart Infusion Agar can also be supplemented with glucose, horse serum and antibiotics for the cultivation a wide variety of organisms (3). The medium is used for mass cultivation of organisms for preparation of vaccines. On supplementation of blood, Heart Infusion Agar can be used to study haemolytic reactions (5). This medium was used for isolation and enumeration of haemolytic *Streptococci* in milk (6).

Tryptose and beef heart infusion provide nutritional requirements for the pathogenic bacteria. Sodium chloride maintains the osmotic equilibrium of the medium.

Methodology

Suspend 40 grams of dehydrated media powder in 1000 ml of distilled water. Mix thoroughly & heat to boiling to dissolve the medium completely. Sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes. If desired 5% v/v sterile defibrinated blood may be added. Mix well and dispense as desired.

Quality Control

Appearance

Cream to yellow homogeneous free flowing powder

Gelling

Firm, comparable with 1.5% Agar gel

Colour and Clarity

Basal medium: Light yellow coloured, clear to slightly opalescent gel After addition of 5-7%w/v sterile defibrinated blood : Cherry red coloured, opaque gel forms in Petri plates

Reaction

Reaction of 4.0% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 7.4±0.2

pH Range

7.20-7.60

Cultural Response

DM 1169: Cultural characteristics observed with added 5-7% w/v sterile defibrinated blood, after an incubation at 35-37°C for 18-48 hours.

Organism	Inoculum (CFU)	Growth w/o blood	Recovery w/o blood	Growth with blood	Recovery with blood	Haemolysis
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC 25923	50-100	good-luxuriant	>=70%	luxuriant	>=70%	beta
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> ATCC 13090	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%	luxuriant	>=70%	none
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> ATCC 6303	50-100	good	50-70%	luxuriant	>=70%	alpha
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> ATCC 19615	50-100	good	50-70%	luxuriant	>=70%	beta
<i>Escherichia coli</i> ATCC 25922	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%	luxuriant	>=70%	beta

Storage and Shelf Life

Dried Media: Store below 30°C in tightly closed container and prepared medium at 2-8°C. Use before expiry period on the label.

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

Further Reading

1. Huntoon F. M., 1918, J. Inf. Dis., 23:169.
2. FDA Bacteriological Analytical Manual, 8th Ed., AOAC International, Gaithersburg, MD.
3. Atlas R. M., 2004, Handbook of Microbiological Media, 3rd Ed., CRC Press.
4. Downes F. P. and Ito K.,(Ed.), 2001, Compendium of Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods, 4th Ed., American Public Health Association, Washington, D.C.
5. Murray P. R., Baron J. H., Pfaller M. A., Jorgensen J. H. and Tenover F. C., (Eds.), 2003, Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 8th Ed., American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C.
6. Diagnostic Procedures and Reagents, 1950, 3rd Edition, 13.

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