Technical Information

Slanetz and Bartley Medium

Product Code: DM 1612

Application: Slanetz and Bartley Medium is recommended for detection and enumeration of faecal Streptococci by membrane filtration technique.

Composition**

Ingredients	Gms / Litre
Tryptose	20.000
Yeast extract	5.000
Dextrose	2.000
Disodium phosphate	4.000
Sodium azide	0.400
2,3,5-Triphenyl tetrazolium chloride	0.100
Agar	15.000
Final pH (at 25°C)	7.2±0.2

**Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters

Principle & Interpretation

Slanetz and Bartley Medium was devised by Slanetz and Bartley [1] for the detection and enumeration of Enterococci by membrane filtration technique. It can be also used as a direct plating medium [2, 3]. The medium is highly selective for Enterococci.

Tryptose and yeast extract in the medium provide the necessary nitrogen, vitamins and minerals required for the growth of organisms. Sodium azide has inhibitory effect on gram-negative organisms. Triphenyl Tetrazolium Chloride is reduced to the insoluble formazan inside the bacterial cell forming dark red-coloured colonies. When the medium is incubated at higher temperature (44-45°C), all red or maroon colonies can be considered as presumptive Enterococci [4, 5]. The Department of Health [6] has recommended this medium to be used for enumeration of Enterococci in water supplies. Water is filtered through a membrane filter which is then placed on the surface of the Slanetz and Bartley Medium plates and incubated at 35°C for 4 hours and then at 44-45°C for 44-48 hours. Red or maroon colonies are counted as Enterococci. The preliminary incubation at 35°C helps for the recovery of stressed organisms. Not all the species reduce TTC, hence pale colonies also should be considered. Food samples are homogenized and so diluted with physiological saline to give 15-150 colonies on each Petri plate. Homogenates or dilutions are spread on agar surface and incubated at 35°C for 48 hours. Pink or dark red colonies with a narrow whitish border are counted [3].

Methodology

Suspend 46.5 grams of powder media in 1000 ml distilled water. Shake well & heat to dissolve the medium completely. DO NOT AUTOCLAVE OR OVERHEAT. Excessive heating is detrimental.

Warning: Sodium azide has a tendency to form explosive metal-azides with plumbing materials. It is advisable to use enough water to flush off the disposables.

Quality Control

Physical Appearance
Cream to yellow homogeneous free flowing powder

Gelling
Firm, comparable with 1.5% Agar gel

Colour and Clarity of prepared medium
Light yellow coloured clear to slightly opalescent gel forms in Petri plates

Reaction
Reaction of 4.65% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 7.2±0.2

pH Range 7.00-7.40

Cultural Response/Characteristics
DM 1612: Cultural characteristics observed after an incubation at 44-45°C for 44-48 hours.

Organism	Inoculum (CFU)	Growth	Recovery	Colour of colony
Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212	50-100	Good-luxuriant	>=50%	red or maroon
Escherichia coli ATCC 25922	>=10^3	inhibited	0%	

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: 2-8^0 in sealable plastic bags for 2-5 days.

Further Reading

1. Slanetz L. W. and Bartley C.H., 1957, J. Bact., 74:591.
2. Burkwall M.K. and Hartman P.A., 1964, Appl. Microbiol., 12:18.
3. Nordic Committee on Food Analysis, 1968, Leaflet 68.
4. Taylor E.W. and Burman N.P., 1964, J. Appl. Bact., 27:294.
5. Mead G.C., 1966, Proc. Soc. Wat. Treat. Exam., 15:207.
6. Department of Health and Social Security, 1982, Report 71, HMSO, London.

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