

Technical Information

Beef Extract Agar

Product Code: DM 1806

Application: - Beef Extract Agar is used as a general purpose nutrient medium which can support growth of not particularly fastidious bacteria

Composition**

Ingredients	Gms / Litre	
Peptic digest of animal tissue	10.000	
Beef extract	3.000	
Sodium chloride	5.000	
Agar	15.000	
Final pH (at 25°C)	7.6±0.2	

^{**}Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters

Principle & Interpretation

The majority of organisms studied in medical bacteriology are either pathogens or commensals for the human body. In order to obtain suitable growth the artificial culture medium should provide nutrients and a pH (about 7.2) approximating similar to the tissues and body fluids. For routine purposes many of these nutrients are supplied by aqueous extracts of beef and peptone, which is a product of the digestion of protein ⁽¹⁾. Beef Extract Agar can be used as a general-purpose nutrient medium which is also recommended for preparation of pure culture of *Candida* species for carrying out fermentation studies ⁽²⁾. Beef Extract Agar is a non-selective nutrient medium containing beef extract and peptic digest of animal tissue as a source of nitrogen and carbon and sodium chloride as a source of electrolytes.

Methodology

Suspend 33 grams of powder media in 1000 ml distilled water. Shake well & heat to dissolve the medium completely. Sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121⁰C) for 15 minutes. Mix well and pour the medium in sterile Petri plates.

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

Yellow coloured, clear to slightly opalescent gel forms in Petri plates

Reaction

Reaction of 3.3% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH: 7.6±0.2

pH range 7.40-7.80

Cultural Response/Characteristics

DM1806: Cultural characteristics observed after an incubation at 35-37°C for 18-48 hours.





Organism	Inoculum (CFU)	Growth	Recovery
Candida albi cans ATCC10231	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%
Escherichia coli ATCC25922	50-100	Luxuriant	>=70%
Pseudomonas aeruginosa ATCC 27853	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%

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° in sealable plastic bags for 2-5 days.

Further Reading

- 1. Collee J. G., Fraser A. G., Marimon B. P., Simmons A., (Eds.), 1996, Mackie and McCartney Practical Medical Microbiology, 14th Ed., Churchill Livingstone.
- 2. Finegold S. M. and Baron E. J., (Ed.), Bailey and Scott's Diagnostic Microbiology, 1986, 7th Edition, The C.V. Mosby Company, St. Louis

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