

Technical Information

Thiobacillus Agar

Product Code: DM 1788

Application: - Thiobacillus Agar is recommended for isolation and cultivation of *Thiobacillus* species.

Composition**

Ingredients	Gms / Litre
Ammonium sulphate	0.400
Monopotassium phosphate	4.000
Calcium chloride	0.250
Ferrous sulphate	0.010
Magnesium sulphate	0.500
Sodium thiosulphate	5.000
Agar	12.500

**Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters

Principle & Interpretation

The genus *Thiobacillus* is also known as *Acidithiobacillus*. *Thiobacillus* are obligate autotrophic organisms, as they require organic carbon both as an electron and carbon source. Thiobacilli produce high quantity of sulphuric acid as a byproduct when used for oxidation of thiosulphates, sulphur and related inorganic sulphur-containing compounds to generate metabolic energy. The ability of *Thiobacillus*, in production of sulphuric acid is used in the destruction of concrete sewers and the acid corrosion of metals ⁽²⁾. Thiobacillus Agar is a modification of formulation described by Starkey ⁽¹⁾. The medium is used for the isolation and maintenance of *Thiobacillus* species. The medium contains three inorganic sulphates and a thiosulphate. Phosphate serves as a buffer while sodium chloride maintains the osmotic balance of the medium. Samples are inoculated into Thiobacillus Broth. After incubation at 25-30°C for about 7 days or more, turbidity or sulphur precipitation on the surface of the liquid or against the walls of the flasks, indicates growth of bacteria. Isolation is subsequently done on Thiobacillus Agar. *Thiobacillus* forms small sulphur impregnated colonies with clear zones, indicating acid formation from thiosulphate oxidation.

Methodology

Suspend 22.66 grams of powder media in 1000 ml distilled water. Shake well & heat to dissolve the medium completely. Sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes. Mix well and pour into sterile Petri plates.

Quality Control

Physical Appearance

White to cream homogeneous free flowing powder

Gelling

Firm, comparable with 1.25% Agar gel.

Colour and Clarity of prepared medium

Light amber coloured clear to slightly opalescent gel forms in Petri plates.

Cultural Response/Characteristics

DM 1788: Cultural characteristics observed after an incubation at 25-30°C for up to 7 days.



Dehydrated Culture Media
Bases / Media Supplements

Organism	Growth
<i>Thiobacillus thiooparus</i> ATCC 8158	Luxuriant
<i>Thiobacillus thiooxidans</i> ATCC 8085	Luxuriant

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: 2-8⁰ in sealable plastic bags for 2-5 days.

Further Reading

1. Starkey R. L., 1935, Science, 39:197.
2. Eaton A. D., Clesceri L. S. and Greenberg A. E., (Ed.), 1995, Standard Methods for the Examination of water and Wastewater, 19th Ed., American Public Health Association, Washington, D.C.

Disclaimer :

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