

Deoxycholate Citrate Agar (Agar Medium J) EP

Intended Use

Deoxycholate Citrate Agar (Agar Medium J) is a selective medium used for isolation of enteric pathogens in compliance with EP.

Summary

Deoxycholate Citrate Agar is a modification of Deoxycholate Agar formulated by Leifson, which demonstrates improved recovery of intestinal pathogens from specimens containing normal intestinal flora by using citrates and sodium deoxycholate in specified amounts as inhibitors of Gram-positive bacteria. In comparison, Deoxycholate Citrate Agar has increased concentrations of sodium citrate and sodium deoxycholate for reliably isolating many *Salmonella* and *Shigella* species while inhibiting coliforms and many *Proteus* species. This medium is used for the isolation and maximum recovery of intestinal pathogens belonging to *Salmonella* and *Shigella* groups from foods. The selectivity of this medium permits the use of fairly heavy inocula without danger of overgrowth of *Shigella* and *Salmonella* by other microflora. Deoxycholate Citrate Agar is recommended by APHA for the examination of foods and in the IP for use in Microbial Limit Test.

Principle

Cara beef extract and cara meat peptone provides carbon, nitrogen, vitamins and minerals. Lactose is the fermentable carbohydrate. Sodium citrate and sodium deoxycholate inhibit Gram-positive bacteria, coliforms and *Proteus* species. Ferric ammonium citrate aids in the detection of H₂S-producing bacteria. Neutral red is a pH indicator.

Bacteria that ferment lactose produce acid and form red colonies. Bacteria that do not ferment lactose form colourless colonies. Bacteria producing H₂S will have black centers. The majority of normal intestinal bacteria ferment lactose and do not produce H₂S (red colonies without black centers). *Salmonella* and *Shigella* species do not ferment lactose but *Salmonella* may produce H₂S (colourless colonies with or without black centers). Lactose fermenting colonies may have a zone of precipitation around them caused by the precipitation of deoxycholate in the presence of acid.

Formula*

Ingredients	g/L
Sodium Citrate	20.0
Cara Beef Extract#	10.0
Cara Meat Peptone##	10.0
Lactose Monohydrate	10.0
Sodium Deoxycholate	5.0
Ferric Citrate	1.0
Neutral Red	0.02
Agar	13.5
Final pH (at 25°C)	7.3 ± 0.2

*Adjusted to suit performance parameters

Equivalent to Beef Extract

Equivalent to Meat Peptone

Storage and Stability

Store dehydrated medium below 30°C in tightly closed container and the prepared medium at 2°C-8°C. Avoid freezing and overheating. Use before expiry date on the label. Once opened keep powdered medium closed to avoid hydration.

Type of specimen

Clinical- faeces

Food and dairy samples

Specimen Collection and Handling

Ensure that all samples are properly labelled.

Follow appropriate techniques for handling samples as per established guidelines.

Some samples may require special handling, such as immediate refrigeration or protection from light, follow the standard procedure.

The samples must be stored and tested within the permissible time duration.

After use, contaminated materials must be sterilized by autoclaving before discarding.

Directions

1. Suspend 69.02 g of (the equivalent weight of dehydrated medium per liter) the powder in 1000 mL purified / distilled water.
2. Mix thoroughly.
3. Boil with frequent agitation to dissolve the powder completely. Avoid excessive heating, as it is detrimental to the medium. DO NOT AUTOCLAVE OR OVERHEAT.

Quality Control

Dehydrated Appearance: Light pink coloured, homogenous, free flowing powder.

Prepared Appearance: Reddish orange coloured, clear to very slightly opalescent gel forms in petridishes.

Growth Promotion Test : Growth promotion was carried out in accordance with the method of EP and growth was observed after an incubation at 30-35°C for 18 to 24 hours.

Growth Promoting Properties: The test results observed are within the specified temperature and shortest period of time specified in the test, inoculating \leq 100 cfu of appropriate microorganism at 30-35°C for 18 hours.

Indicative Properties: The test results observed are within the specified temperature and time, inoculating \leq 100 cfu of appropriate microorganism.

Inhibitory Properties: No growth of the test microorganism occurs for the specified temperature and not less than the longest period of the time specified, inoculating $>$ 100 cfu of the appropriate microorganism at 30-35°C for \geq 24 hours.

Organism (ATCC)	Growth	Colour of Colonies/H2S
Salmonella enterica subsp. enterica serovar Typhimurium (14028)	Good	Colourless/+
Shigella flexneri serotype 2b (12022)	Good	Colourless/-

Inhibitory

Enterococcus faecalis (29212)	Inhibited	-
Escherichia coli (25922)	Partial Inhibition	-

Interpretation of results

1. Saccharolytic organisms usually produce acid and gas.
2. Proteolytic organisms generally cause blackening and dissolution of the meat particles.

Performance and Evaluation

Performance of the product is dependent on following parameters as per product label claim:

1. Directions
2. Storage
3. Expiry

Precautions/Limitations

1. Observe the precautions about overheating shown under Directions.
2. The medium is best used freshly prepared.
3. Stock cultures of *Shigella* species may become predominantly in the R-phase when subcultured away from DCA media. Such cultures are difficult to use for control purposes without first heavily streaking the cultures on DCA plates and picking off the few S-phase colonies i.e. the macro-colonies on the agar surface, for further subculture.
4. When making biochemical tests on colonies picked from the surface of DCA plates, purity subcultures should be carried out because the colony may be contaminated with *Escherichia coli* present as micro-colonies.
5. Further Biochemical identification is required for confirmation of species.
6. Due to nutritional variations some organisms may show poor growth.

Warranty

This product is designed to perform as described on the label and package insert. The manufacturer disclaims any implied warranty of use and sale for any other purpose.

Reference

1. Leifson, 1935, J. Path. Bact., 40:581.
2. Speck M. (Ed.), 1984, Compendium of Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods, 2nd ed., APHA, Washington, D.C.
3. Data on file: Microxpress®, A Division of Tulip Diagnostics (P) Ltd.

Product Presentation:

Cat No.	Product description	Pack Size
201040060100	Dehydrated Culture Media	100 g
201040060500	Dehydrated Culture Media	500 g

 Temperature Limit	 Manufacturer	 LOT	Batch Code	 Date of Manufacture	 This way up	 RO	Received on	
 REF	Catalogue Number	 i	Consult Instructions for use	 Use-by Date	 H	Hygroscopic keep container tightly closed	 OO	Opened on

Revision: 0725/VER-03

Disclaimer

Information provided is based on our inhouse technical data on file, it is recommended that user should validate at his end for suitable use of the product.