

PRODUCT SPECIFICATION SHEET

MacConkey Agar (DM143BS)

Intended Use

MacConkey Agar (DM143BS) is recommended for isolation and differentiation of lactose fermenting and lactose non-fermenting enteric bacteria as per Indian Standard published by BIS. IS:5887 (Part I and Part II) - 1976.

Product Summary and Explanation

MacConkey Agar is based on the bile salt-neutral red-lactose agar of MacConkey.⁽¹⁾ The original MacConkey medium was used to differentiate strains of *Salmonella typhosa* from members of the coliform group. MacConkey Agar is recommended for isolation, identification and enumeration of *Staphylococcus aureus* and Faecal Streptococci.⁽¹⁾ MacConkey Agar is the earliest selective and differential medium for cultivation of enteric microorganisms from a variety of clinical specimens.^(2,3) Subsequently MacConkey Agar and Broth have been recommended for use in microbiological examination of foodstuffs⁽⁴⁾ and for direct plating / inoculation of water samples for coliform counts.⁽⁵⁾ This medium is also accepted by the Standard Methods for the Examination of Milk and Dairy Products.⁽⁶⁾ and pharmaceutical preparations.⁽⁷⁾

Principles of the Procedure

MacConkey Agar contains peptic digest of animal tissue which provides the essential nutrients, vitamins and nitrogenous factors required for growth of microorganisms. Lactose is the fermentable source of carbohydrate. Bile salts attributes to the selective action of this medium, which is inhibitory to most species of gram-positive bacteria. Gram-negative bacteria usually grow well on the medium and are differentiated by their ability to ferment lactose. Neutral red is the indicator dye. Lactose fermentation produces acid, which causes absorption of neutral red and a subsequent colour change of the dye giving pink to red colour colonies, when the pH of medium falls. Sodium chloride in the medium helps to maintain osmotic balance of the cells.

Formula / Liter

Ingredients	Gms / Liter
Peptic digest of animal tissue	20.00
Lactose	10.00
Bile salts	5.00
Sodium chloride	5.00
Neutral red	0.07
Agar	15.00
Final pH: 7.5 ± 0.2 at 25°C	
Formula may be adjusted and/or supplemented as required to meet performance specifications	

Precautions

1. For Laboratory Use only.
2. IRRITANT. Irritating to eyes, respiratory system, and skin.

Directions

1. Suspend 55.07 grams of the medium in one liter of distilled water.
2. Heat to boiling to dissolve the medium completely.
3. Autoclave at 121°C, 15 psi pressure, for 15 minutes / validated cycle. AVOID OVERHEATING.
4. Cool to 45-50°C. Mix well before pouring into sterile Petri plates.
5. The surface of the medium should be dry when inoculated.

Quality Control Specifications

Dehydrated Appearance	Light yellow to pink homogeneous free flowing powder
Prepared Medium	Light red coloured clear to slightly opalescent gel forms in Petri plates

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Reaction of 5.5% Solution	pH : 7.5 ± 0.2 at 25°C
Gel Strength	Firm, comparable with 1.5% Agar gel

Expected Cultural Response: Cultural characteristics observed after an incubation at 35 - 37°C for 18 - 24 hours.

Sr. No.	Organisms	Results to be achieved			
		Inoculum (CFU)	Growth	Recovery	Colour of Colony
1.	<i>Escherichia coli</i> ATCC 25922	50 - 100	good-luxuriant	≥50 %	pink-red with bile precipitate
2.	<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i> ATCC 13048	50 - 100	good-luxuriant	≥50 %	pale pink to red
3.	<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> ATCC 29212	50 - 100	fair-good	30 -40 %	pale pink to red
4.	<i>Proteus vulgaris</i> ATCC 13315	50 - 100	good-luxuriant	≥50 %	colourless
5.	<i>Salmonella Paratyphi A</i> ATCC 9150	50 - 100	good-luxuriant	≥50 %	colourless
6.	<i>Shigella flexneri</i> ATCC 12022	50 - 100	fair-good	30 -40 %	colourless
7.	<i>Salmonella Paratyphi B</i> ATCC 8759	50 - 100	good-luxuriant	≥50 %	colourless
8.	<i>Salmonella Enteritidis</i> ATCC 13076	50 - 100	good-luxuriant	≥50 %	colourless
9.	<i>Salmonella Typhi</i> ATCC 6539	50 - 100	good-luxuriant	≥50 %	pink to red
10.	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC 25923	≥10 ³	inhibited	0%	--

The organisms listed are the minimum that should be used for quality control testing.

Test Procedure

Refer to appropriate references for standard test procedures.

Results

- Lactose non-fermenting strains, such as *Shigella* and *Salmonella* are colourless and transparent and typically do not alter appearance of the medium.
- Yersinia enterocolitica* may appear as small, non-lactose fermenting colonies after incubation at room temperature.
- Refer to appropriate references and standard test procedures for interpretation of results.

Storage

Store the sealed bottle containing the dehydrated medium at 10 - 30°C. Once opened and recapped, place container in a low humidity environment at the same storage temperature. Protect from moisture and light.

Expiration

Refer to the expiration date stamped on the container. The dehydrated medium should be discarded if not free flowing, or if the appearance has changed from the original color. Expiry applies to medium in its intact container when stored as directed.

Limitations of the Procedure

- Although, MacConkey media are selective primarily for gram-negative enteric bacilli, for complete identification, biochemical and, if indicated, serological testing using pure cultures are recommended. Consult appropriate texts for detailed information and recommended procedures.
- Incubation of MacConkey Agar plates under increased CO₂ has been reported to reduce the growth and recovery of a number of strains of gram-negative bacilli.

Packaging

Product Name : MacConkey Agar

Product Code : DM 143BS

Available Pack sizes : 100gm/ 500gm

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References

1. Bureau of Indian Standards IS :5887 (Part II)- 1976, reaffirm 1986.
2. MacConkey, 1905, J. Hyg., 5:333.
3. MacConkey, 1900, The Lancet, ii:20.
4. Speck M.(Ed), 1985, Compendium of methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods, 2nd ed., APHA, Washington, D.C.
5. Greenberg A.E., Clesceri L.S. and Eaton A.D, (Eds), 1992, Standard methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 18th ed., APHA, Washington, D.C.
6. Marshall R. (Ed), 1992, Standard methods for the Examination of Dairy products, 16th ed., APHA, Washington, D.C.
7. The United States Pharmacopoeia XXI and the National Formulary, 16th ed., 1985, United States Pharmacopoeial Convention, Inc, Washington, D.C.

Further Information

For further information please contact your local MICROMASTER Representative.



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