



PRODUCT SPECIFICATION SHEET

Agar Medium S (R2A Agar) (DM574E)

Intended Use

Agar Medium S (R2A Agar) (DM574E) is recommended for heterotrophic plate count of treated potable water using longer incubation periods, in compliance with EP.

Product Summary and Explanation

R2A Agar is used R2A Agar was developed by Reasoner and Geldreich⁽¹⁾ for bacteriological plate counts of and for sub culturing isolates from treated potable water using longer incubation periods as per European Pharmacopoeia 2008.^(1,2) When compared with nutritionally rich media, R2A Agar has been reported to improve the recovery of stressed and chlorine-tolerant bacteria from drinking water systems.⁽³⁻⁵⁾ It is recommended for pour plate, spread plate and membrane filter techniques for heterotrophic plate counts.^(6,7) Plate count recommended for the bacterial examination of potable waters, gives an estimate of the aerobic and facultatively anaerobic bacteria, which grow best at 35°C on a rich medium.⁽⁸⁾ However these organisms may represent a small number of total bacteria as other bacteria are either unable to grow under these conditions, or grow very slowly which cannot be detected in 48 hours.

R2A Agar is modified for better recovery of these bacteria from treated waters under different incubation conditions.⁽⁴⁾ Many bacteria which contain limited nutrients at ambient temperature from natural waters grow best on the media with less nutrient levels. Their growth is better at the temperatures below the routine laboratory incubation temperatures of 35 to 37°C.

Principles of the Procedure

Agar Medium S (R2A Agar) is a low nutrient medium consisting of less casein hydrolysate, proteose peptone, yeast extract and glucose as compared to Standard Methods Agar. This medium allows the growth of stressed, injured and chlorine tolerant bacteria present in treated waters due to the presence of pyruvate and starch. Dipotassium hydrogen helps to balance the pH and provide phosphate. Magnesium sulfate is a source of divalent cations and sulfate.

Formula / Liter

Ingredients	Gms / Liter
Casein hydrolysate	0.50
Yeast extract	0.50
Proteose peptone	0.50
Glucose	0.50
Starch	0.50
Dipotassium hydrogen phosphate	0.30
Magnesium sulphate anhydrous	0.024
Sodium pyruvate	0.30
Agar	15.00
Final pH: 7.2 ± 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.





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Directions

1. Suspend 18.12 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.
4. DO NOT OVERHEAT.
5. Mix well and pour into sterile Petri plates.

Quality Control Specifications

Dehydrated Appearance	Cream to yellow homogeneous free flowing powder
Prepared Medium	Light yellow coloured clear to slightly opalescent gel forms in Petri plates
Reaction of 1.81% Solution	pH 7.2 ± 0.2 at 25°C
Gel Strength	Firm, comparable with 1.5% Agar gel

Growth Promotion Test

As per European Pharmacopoeia.

Expected Cultural Response: Cultural characteristics observed *by using standard ATCC cultures after an incubation at 30-35°C for 24-72 hours.

Sr. No.	Organisms	Results to be achieved			
		Inoculum (CFU)	Growth	Observed Lot value (CFU)	Recovery
1.	<i>Candida albicans</i> ATCC 10231	50 - 100	good-luxuriant	25 - 100	≥70%
2.	<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> ATCC 29212	50 - 100	good-luxuriant	25 - 100	≥70%
3.	<i>Salmonella Enteritidis</i> ATCC 13076	50 - 100	good-luxuriant	25 - 100	≥70%
4.	<i>Salmonella Typhi</i> ATCC 6539	50 - 100	good-luxuriant	25 - 100	≥70%
5.	<i>Escherichia coli</i> ATCC 8739	50 - 100	good-luxuriant	25 - 100	≥70%

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

Test Procedure

1. Water samples should be collected as described in *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, Section 9060A.
2. To minimize changes in bacterial population, water samples should be tested as soon as possible, but at least within six hours of collection if the sample has not been refrigerated or within 30 hours if refrigerated.
3. Prepare test dilutions for heterotrophic plate count.
4. Plate the test sample and dilutions by the spread plate, pour plate or membrane filter method. Do not exceed 1 mL of sample or dilution per spread or pour plate. The volume of test sample to be filtered for the membrane filter technique will vary.
5. Maintain proper humidity during prolonged incubation:

Incubation Temperature	Minimum Incubation Time ³	Optimal Incubation Time ³
35°C	72 hours	5 - 7 days
20 or 28°C	5 days	7 days





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Results

1. Count colonies on spread or pour plates demonstrating 30 - 300 colonies per plate or 20 - 200 colonies when using the membrane filter method. Compute bacterial count per mL of sample by multiplying the average number of colonies per plate by the reciprocal of the appropriate dilution.
2. Report counts as colony forming units (CFU) per mL and report variables of incubation such as temperature and length of time.

Storage

Store the sealed bottle containing the dehydrated medium at 2 - 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

1. R2A Agar is intended for use only with treated potable water since it is recommended for compromised bacteria.
2. Use of the pour plate method is discouraged because recovery of stressed bacteria may be compromised by the heat shock (44-46°C) and low oxygen tension that are part of the procedure.
3. Incubation time longer than indicated may be necessary to recover additional slow-growing bacteria.
4. R2A Agar performs best with the spread plate technique; however, that procedure is limited to a small sample volume.
5. Fast-growing bacteria may produce smaller size colonies on R2A Agar than on nutritionally rich media.
6. R2A Agar is a low nutrient medium intended for culturing compromised microorganisms. Good growth of standard, healthy control organisms does not necessarily reflect the ability of the medium to recover stressed organisms. Each new lot of medium should be performance tested against a previous lot of R2A Agar using tap water.
7. Consult appropriate texts for detailed information and recommended procedures.

Packaging

Product Name : Agar Medium S (R2A Agar)

Product Code : DM574E

Available Pack sizes : 100gm/ 500gm

References

1. European pharmacopoeia, 2008, European Dept. for the Quality of Medicines.
2. Reasoner and Geldreich, 1985, Appl. Environ. Microbiol., 49:1.
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4. Kelly, Justice and Nagy. 1983. Abstr. Q122, p. 280. Abstr. 83rd Annu. Meet. Am. Soc. Microbiol. 1983.
5. Means, Hanami, Ridgway and Olson. 1981. J. Am. Water Works Assoc. 53:585.
6. Eaton, Rice and Baird (ed.). 2005. Standard methods for the examination of water and wastewater, 21st ed., online. American Public Health Association, Washington, D.C.
7. Kim and Feng. 2001. In Downes and Ito (ed.), Compendium of methods for the microbiological examination of foods, 4th ed. American Public Health Association, Washington, D.C.
8. Collins and Willoughby, 1962, Arch. Microbiol., 43:294.





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Further Information

For further information please contact your local MICROMASTER Representative.



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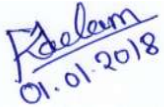


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