Fungal Agar (Mycological Agar)

M094

Intended Use:

Recommended for cultivation and maintenance of fungi.

Composition**

Ingredients	Gms / Litre
Soya peptone	10.000
Dextrose (Glucose)	10.000
Agar	15.000
Final pH (at 25°C)	7.0±0.2

**Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters

Directions

Suspend 35 grams in 1000 ml purified / distilled water. Heat, to boiling, to dissolve the medium completely. Sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes. Cool to 45-50°C. Mix well and pour into sterile Petri plates. For preparing selective media, acidify the media upto pH 3.0-4.0 by the addition of two vials of 10% Lactic Acid Solution (FD095).

Principle And Interpretation

Mycological media are basal media to which antifungal agents may be added for checking their effect on fungi or bacteria to render them selective for isolation and cultivation of fungi. Mycological Agar is used while working with pathogenic fungi. Earlier media for fungi generally relied on an acidic pH to make the media less suitable for the growth of many bacteria (1). Fungal Agar is prepared according to the formulation suggested by Huppert and Walker (2).

Soya peptone in the medium provides nitrogen, vitamins and minerals necessary to support bacterial growth. Dextrose is a carbon source required for the growth of fungi. The pH may be adjusted to 4.0 after autoclaving by adding sterile 10% lactic acid sodium (FD195)/acetic acid and used for determining yeast and mould counts of carbonated beverages and food products (3).

Type of specimen

Clinical samples - Blood, nail and skin scrapings; Food samples.

Specimen Collection and Handling:

For clinical samples follow appropriate techniques for handling specimens as per established guidelines (2,3).
For food samples, follow appropriate techniques for sample collection and processing as per guidelines (4).
After use, contaminated materials must be sterilized by autoclaving before discarding.

Warning and Precautions :

In Vitro diagnostic Use. Read the label before opening the container. Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/ face protection. Follow good microbiological lab practices while handling specimens and culture. Standard precautions as per established guidelines should be followed while handling clinical specimens. Safety guidelines may be referred in individual safety data sheets.

Limitations :

1.This medium is general purpose medium and may not support the growth of fastidious organisms.

Performance and Evaluation

Performance of the medium is expected when used as per the direction on the label within the expiry period when stored at recommended temperature.

Quality Control

Appearance

Cream to yellow homogeneous free flowing powder

Gelling
Firm, comparable with 1.5% Agar gel

Colour and Clarity of prepared medium
Light amber coloured, clear to slightly opalescent gel forms in Petri plates

Reaction
Reaction of 3.5% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 7.0±0.2

pH
6.80-7.20

Cultural Response
Cultural characteristics observed after an incubation at 25 - 30°C for 48 - 72 hours (For *Trichophyton* species longer incubation may be required for upto 7days).

Organism	Inoculum (CFU)	Growth	Recovery
Growth Promotion			
Aspergillus brasiliensis ATCC 16404	50-100	luxuriant	
Candida albicans ATCC 10231	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%
Lactobacillus acidophilus ATCC 11506	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%
Saccharomyces cerevisiae ATCC 9763	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%
Saccharomyces uvarum ATCC 28098	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%
Staphylococcus aureus ATCC 25923	50-100	luxuriant	>=70%
Trichophyton mentagrophytes ATCC 9533	50-100	luxuriant	

Key: *Corresponding WDCM numbers.
- Formerly known as *Aspergillus niger*

Reference

1.A. J. Clin. Path., 1951, 21: 684.
2.Huppert M., and Walker L. J., 1958, Am. J. Clin. Pathol., 29:291
3.Speck M. L., (Eds.), 1984, Compendium of Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods, 2nd Ed., APHA, Washington, D.C.

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