



Tinsdale Agar Base

M314

Tinsdale Agar Base with supplement is used for selective isolation and differentiation of *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*.

Composition**

Ingredients	Gms / Litre
Peptic digest of animal tissue	20.000
Sodium chloride	5.000
L-Cystine	0.240
Sodium thiosulphate	0.430
Agar	15.000
Final pH (at 25°C)	7.4±0.2

**Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters

Directions

Suspend 40.67 grams in 1000 ml distilled water. Heat to boiling to dissolve the medium completely. Sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes. Cool to 50°C and aseptically add Diphtheria Virulence Supplement (FD073, Part A and Part B). Mix well and pour into sterile Petri plates.

Principle And Interpretation

The Corynebacteria are gram-positive, non-sporulating, non-motile rods. They are often club-shaped and frequently banded or beaded with irregularly stained granules. These bacteria are generally aerobic or facultative, but microaerophilic species do occur. *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* produces a powerful exotoxin that causes diphtheria in humans. In nature, *C. diphtheriae* occurs in nasopharyngeal area of infected persons or healthy carriers.

The three biotypes of *C. diphtheriae* are *mitis*, *intermedius* and *gravis* (6). The signs and symptoms of diphtheria are sore throat, malaise, headache and nausea (2). Tinsdale Agar Base Medium was developed by Tinsdale (1) for the selective isolation and differentiation of *C. diphtheriae* from diphtheroids. This medium was modified by Billings (2), which improved the recovery and differential qualities of *C. diphtheriae*. The present medium is according to the modified Billings Medium. Moore and Parsons (3) confirmed the halo formation as a characteristic property of *C. diphtheriae* with the exception of *C. ulcerans*, which forms colony with similar features as *C. diphtheriae*.

Peptic digest of animal tissue provides nitrogenous compounds. L-cystine and sodium thiosulphate form the H₂S indicator system. Potassium tellurite from the supplement inhibits all gram-negative bacteria and most of the upper respiratory tract normal flora.

C. diphtheriae forms grayish black colonies surrounded by a dark brown halo while diphtheroids commonly found in the upper respiratory tract do not form such colonies. Dark brown halo around the colony is due to H₂S production from cystine combining with the tellurite salt. Moore and Parsons (3) found Tinsdale Medium as an ideal medium for the routine cultivation and isolation of *C. diphtheriae*. They also confirmed the stability of halo formation on clear medium and its specificity for *C. diphtheriae* and *C. ulcerans*. *C. ulcerans* found in nasopharynx form colonies same as *C. diphtheriae* and require further biochemical confirmation (4).

Do not incubate the plates in 5-10% CO₂ as it retards the development of characteristic halos (5). Tinsdale Agar is not suitable as a primary plating medium, since it may not support the growth of some strains of *C. diphtheriae* (6). *C. ulcerans*, *C. pseudotuberculosis* and (rarely) *Staphylococcus* species may produce a characteristic halo on Tinsdale Agar (6). Several organisms may exhibit slight browning on Tinsdale Agar in 18 hours; therefore the plates should be read after complete incubation period (48 hours) (6).

Quality Control

Appearance

Please refer disclaimer Overleaf.

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 4.07% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 7.4±0.2

pH

7.20-7.60

Cultural Response

M314: Cultural characteristics observed after an incubation at 35-37°C for 40-48 hours with added Diphtheria Virulence Supplement (FD073, Part A and Part B).

Organism	Inoculum (CFU)	Growth	Recovery	Colony characteristics
<i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae type gravis</i>	50-100	good-luxuriant	≥50%	brown-black with halo
<i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae type intermedia</i>	50-100	good-luxuriant	≥50%	brown-black with halo
<i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae type mitis</i>	50-100	good-luxuriant	≥50%	brown-black with halo
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae ATCC 13883</i>	≥10 ³	inhibited	0 %	
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes ATCC 19615</i>	50-100	good	40-50%	black pin point, without halo

Storage and Shelf Life

Store below 30°C in tightly closed container and the prepared medium at 2 - 8°C. Use before expiry date on the label.

Reference

1. Tinsdale G. F. W., 1947, J. Pathol. Bacteriol., 59:461.
2. Billings E., 1956, An investigation of Tinsdale Tellurite Medium: its usefulness and mechanisms of halo-formation, M.S. thesis, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
3. Moore M. S. and Parsons E. I., 1958, J. Infect. Dis., 102:88.
4. MacFaddin J. F., 1985, Media for Isolation-Cultivation-Identification-Maintenance of Medical Bacteria, Vol. I, Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore.
5. Murray P. R., Baron E. J., Jorgensen J. H., Tenover F. C., Tenover F. C., (Eds.), 8th Ed., 2003, Manual of Clinical Microbiology, ASM, Washington, D.C
6. Isenberg, (Eds.), 1992, Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook, Vol. 1, American Society for Microbiology, Washington, D.C.

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