TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

Article No. 9950

Chromogenic Coliform Agar (CCA), prepared plates

SYNONYMS

CHROMagar, Coliforme Chromogenic Agar

SPECIFICATION

Prepared Plates 90 mm. Selective and differential medium for the detection and enumeration of coliforms and *E. coli* in water samples by membrane filtration technique. ISO 7704, ISO 9308.

Colour: pale yellow
pH: 6.8 ±0.2 at 25 ºC

COMPOSITION IN G/L

Enzymatic digest of casein	1.00
Yeast extract	2.00
Sodium chloride	5.00
Di-sodium hydrogen phosphate	2.70
Sodium dihydrogen phosphate dihydrate	2.20
Tryptophan	1.00
Sodium pyruvate	1.00
Tergitol® 7	0.15
Sorbitol	1.00
6-Chloro-3-indoxyl-ß-D-galactopyranoside	0.20
5-Bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl-ß-D-glucuronic acid	0.10
IPTG	0.10
Agar	13.00

PACKAGING DETAILS

9950-20PLATES
20 prepared plates 90 mm
Content: 21 ±2 ml
Packaging unit: 1 box with 2 packs of 10 plates/pack. Single cellophane.

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Geyer Beteiligungsgesellschaft mbH
Amtsgericht Stuttgart / HRB-Nr. 252035
Geschäftsführer: Lutz-Alexander Geyer /
Oliver-Alexander Geyer / André Meise / Ralf Streicher

GUIDELINES

Description:
The combined action of peptone, pyruvate and sorbitol allow rapid colony growth in this phosphate buffered medium, which also permits simple recovery of sublethal thermally injured coliforms. Sodium chloride provides the correct osmotic environment necessary for growth. The selectivity is attained, partially, by Tergitol® 7 which inhibits the growth of Gram positive bacteria and some Gram negative without affecting coliform bacteria. The colonial differentiation is supported by the chromogenic mixture composed of two enzyme substrates: 6-chloro-3-indoxyl-ß-D-galactopyranoside (Salmon®-GAL) and 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl-ß-D-glucuronide (X-Glucuronide). The first one is cleaved by the characteristic enzyme found in coliforms, ß-D-galactosidase and gives a salmon-red colour to coliform colonies. The second chromogenic substance is cleaved by the ß-D-glucuronidase enzyme of *E. coli* and gives a blue colour. Hence *E. coli* expresses both enzymes, it cleaves both chromogenic substances giving dark blue to violet colonies. Total coliforms are the sum of *E. coli* colonies plus salmon-red colonies. IPTG enhances the reactions described above. Other Gram negative bacteria produce colourless colonies except some that possess glucuronidase activity (but not galactosidase) which produce light blue to turquoise colonies.
To confirm *E. coli* colonies, a small amount of tryptophane is included verifying indol production: coat the blue-violet colonies with a drop of Kovacs Reagent. If the reagent turns a cherry-red colour in a few seconds, the production of indol and hence the presence of *E. coli* can be confirmed.
When the Chromogenic Agar for Coliform is used with the membrane filtration method, the colour and growth of the colonies can be modified by the characteristics of the membrane filter. It is advised to perform validation of the membrane filter type used. The Spanish Health Ministry (Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo) has officially adopted this medium as an alternative methodology for the microbiological analysis of water for human consumption, giving a new definition for *Escherichia coli* ("Enterobacteriaceae that express the ß-D- galactosidase and the ß-D-glucuronidase enzymes simultaneously") and coliform bacteria: "Enterobacteriaceae that express ß-D-galactosidase enzyme".
Limitation of procedure: The production of β-galactosidase, although common to all coliforms, varies from one strain to another being influenced by the temperature and incubation time. At temperatures above 37 °C its production decreases, causing a loss of reddish color intensity, while the bluish tones in the strains of *Escherichia coli* are accentuated. If the membrane filtration method is used, it must be taken into account that the nature and characteristics of the filter membrane used also influences the size and color of the colonies grown on this culture medium.

Technique:
The water sample is filtered through a membrane filter of 0,45 µm pore diameter validated according to ISO Standard 7704:1985. The membrane is then placed on the surface of the CCA medium avoiding entrapment of air bubbles between the membrane and agar surface. The petri dish with the membrane is incubated for 18-24 hours at 36 ±2 ºC. If in 18 h growth of red or colourless colonies appears, extend the incubation until 24 h to include late reactions of ß-galactosidase or ß-glucuronidase. Count ß-galactosidase positive colonies and ß-glucuronidase negative colonies (all colonies coloured from salmon-rose to red) as Coliform bacteria, not *E. coli*. Count ß-galactosidase positive colonies and ß-glucuronidase positive colonies (all colonies coloured from deep blue to violet) as *E. coli*. Total Coliform count is obtained by the addition of the salmon-rose to red colonies plus the deep blue to violet colonies.

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MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Membrane Filtration/Practical range 100 ±20 CFU. Min. 50 CFU (productivity)/ 10^4-10^6 CFU (selectivity)/ ≥10^3 CFU (specificity).

Microbiological control acc. to ISO 11133:2014/A1:2018.

Analytical methodology acc. to ISO 11133:2014/A1:2018; A2:2020.

Aerobiosis. Incubation at 36 ±2 ºC, reading at 21-24 h.

Microorganism	Growth
Escherichia coli ATCC® 25922, WDCM 00013	Good (≥70 %), dark-blue to violet colonies
Escherichia coli ATCC® 8739, WDCM 00012	Good (≥70 %), dark-blue to violet colonies
Citrobacter freundii ATCC® 43864, WDCM 00006	Good (≥70%), salmon-coloured to red colonies
Ps. aeruginosa ATCC® 10145, WDCM 00024	Good, colourless colonies
E. faecalis ATCC® 19433, WDCM 00009 (direct inoculation)	Inhibition (partial to complete)

Sterility control:
Incubation 48 h at 30-35 ºC and 48 h at 20-25 ºC: NO GROWTH.
Check at 7 days after incubation in same conditions.

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STORAGE

2-14 °C

SHELF LIFE

3 months unopened from date of manufacture

updated 28.08.2023

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