

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

EMB AGAR (LEVINE)

CONFIRMATION OF *ESCHERICHIA COLI*

1 INTENDED USE

EMB Agar, originally recommended by Levine, is used to isolate and identify enterobacteria (notably *Escherichia coli* and *Enterobacter aerogenes*) in pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food products as well as water. It is also used as a confirmation media for *Escherichia coli* in cosmetic products.

The typical composition reflects that defined in the standard NF EN ISO 21150.

2 HISTORY

In 1916, Holt-Harris and Teague used the combination of eosin and Methylene blue to differentiate microorganisms as a function of whether or not they could ferment lactose. Levine subsequently modified the formula by removing sucrose and increasing the lactose concentration, which led to the easy differentiation between *Escherichia coli* and *Enterobacter aerogenes*.

3 PRINCIPLES

Eosin Y and Methylene blue have low selective capacities, since they only partially inhibit the development of Gram-positive bacteria such as enterococci.

The dyes allow to the differentiation between lactose-positive and lactose-negative bacteria. Coliform strains form violet to brown colonies, while salmonellae are colorless, transparent or amber. *Escherichia coli* present a metallic sheen under oblique lighting.

4 TYPICAL COMPOSITION

The composition can be adjusted in order to obtain optimal performance.

For 1 liter of media :

- Pancreatic digest of gelatin.....	10,0 g
- Lactose.....	10,0 g
- Dipotassium phosphate	2,0 g
- Eosin Y	0,4 g
- Methylene blue	65,0 mg
- Bacteriological agar.....	15,0 g

pH of the ready-to-use media at 25 °C : 7,1 ± 0,2.

5 PREPARATION

- Dissolve 37,5 g of dehydrated media (BK056) in 1 liter of distilled or demineralized water.
- Slowly bring to boiling, stirring with constant agitation until complete dissolution.
- Dispense into tubes or vials.
- Sterilize in an autoclave at 121 °C for 15 minutes.
- Cool and maintain the medium at 44-47 °C.
- Mix well to oxidize the methylene blue and insure the homogeneous suspension of the precipitate.
- Pour into sterile Petri plates and let solidify on a cool, flat surface.
- Dry in an incubator with the covers partially removed.

✓ **Reconstitution :**
37,5 g/L

✓ **Sterilization :**
15 min at 121 °C

6 INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Confirmation of *Escherichia coli*, Cosmetics (NF EN ISO 21150)

- Inoculate a characteristic colony on MacConkey agar and isolate by streaking onto EMB agar prepared as above.
- Incubate at 30-35 °C for 24 to 48 hours.

✓ **Inoculation :**
Surface

✓ **Incubation :**
24 to 48 h at 30-35°C

NOTE

For other applications, incubate generally for 18 to 24 hours at 37 ± 1 °C.

7 RESULTS

Colonies have the following appearance :

Characteristics	Microorganisms
Dark violet colonies, convex, low confluence, 2-3 mm in diameter with a black center reaching more than 3/4 of the diameter and which exhibit a greenish metallic sheen in reflected light and a blue-black aspect under direct light	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
Bluish flattened colonies, relatively confluent, 4-6 mm in diameter with a dark brown center, occasionally with a metallic sheen	<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>
Violet colonies with slight metallic sheen	<i>Citrobacter</i>
Brownish mucous colonies	<i>Klebsiella</i>
Transparent amber colonies	<i>Salmonella et Shigella</i>

See ANNEX 1 : PHOTO SUPPORT.

8 QUALITY CONTROL

Dehydrated media : violet powder, free-flowing and homogeneous.

Prepared media : claret-colored agar, which may contain a slight precipitate after autoclaving.

Typical culture response after 24 hours of incubation at 30-35 °C (NF EN ISO 21150) :

Microorganisms	Growth	Characteristics
<i>Escherichia coli</i> WDCM 00012	Good, score 2	violet colonies with greenish metallic sheen

9 STORAGE / SHELF LIFE

Dehydrated media : 2-30 °C.

The expiration date is indicated on the label.

Prepared media in vials (*) : 180 days at 2-8 °C.

Prepared media in plates (*) : 30 days at 2-8 °C.

(*) Benchmark value determined under standard preparation conditions, following manufacturer's instructions.

10 PACKAGING

Dehydrated media :

500 g bottle BK056HA

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Holt-Harris, J.E., and Teague, O. 1916. A new culture medium for the isolation of *Bacillus typhosa* from stools. J. Infect. Dis., 18: 596.

Levine, M. 1918. Differentiation of *Escherichia coli* and *Aerobacter aerogenes* on a simplified eosin-methylene blue agar. Jour. Inf. Dis., 23: 43-47.

Levine, M. 1921. Bacteria fermenting lactose and the significance in water analysis. Bull Iowa State College. Eng. Exp. Station.

Weld, J.T. 1952. *Candida albicans*. Rapide identification in pure cultures with carbon dioxide on modified eosin methylene blue medium. Arch. Dermat. Syph., 66: 691-694.

Vogel, R.A., and Moses, M.R. 1957. Welds method for the rapid identification of *Candida albicans* in clinical materials. Am. J. Clin. Pathol., 28 (1): 103.

NF EN ISO 21150. Septembre 2009. Cosmétiques. Microbiologie. Détection d'*Escherichia coli*.

12 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The information provided on the labels take precedence over the formulations or instructions described in this document and are susceptible to modification at any time, without warning.

Document code : EMB AGAR_ENV8.

Creation date : 04-2001

Updated : 05-2016

Origin of revision : General update.

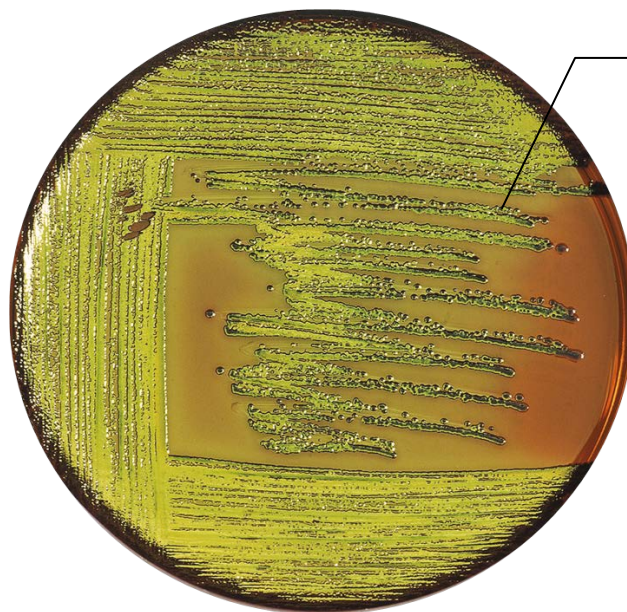
ANNEXE 1 : SUPPORT PHOTO

EMB Agar (Levine)

Detection of *E. coli* and *Enterobacter*

Results :

Growth obtained after 24 hours of incubation at 37°C.



Escherichia coli

Characteristic colonies :
Dark violet color, concave,
presenting a green metallic sheen
under reflected light.