

# MAST® Culture Media and Supplements

## Technical Information Sheet

Product Code DM 104



## Brain Heart Infusion Agar

A versatile medium for the culture of fastidious organism

### 1. Description

Brain Heart Infusion Agar is a solid medium suitable for the culture of a wide range of microorganisms, including bacteria, yeasts and moulds. It is especially useful for the isolation and culture of fastidious bacteria such as neisseria and streptococci.

With the addition of 10% sterile defibrinated blood, growth of *Histoplasma capsulatum* can be achieved.<sup>1</sup> A selective medium for this organism and other pathogenic fungi

such as *Coccidioides immitis* can be prepared by the further addition of antibiotics e.g. streptomycin and penicillin.<sup>3</sup>

Although Brain Heart Infusion Agar has been used in antibiotic disc susceptibility testing,<sup>4</sup> it should be noted that the medium does contain sulphonamide inhibitors. A more suitable medium for routine susceptibility testing is MAST D.S.T. Agar (Sulphonamide Antagonist Free) DM215.

### 2. Directions

1. Suspend by swirling 47g of powder in 1 litre or the contents of the sachet in the stated volume of distilled or deionised water.
2. Autoclave at 121°C (15p.s.i.) for 15 minutes.
3. Cool to 50°C and add 5-10% sterile defibrinated blood where required.
4. Antibiotics may also be added for selective culture techniques.
5. Mix well before pouring.

### 3. Typical Formula\*

Formula	grams per litre
Brain heart infusion solids	3.5
Pancreatic digest of casein	10.0
Dextrose	2.0
Agar	12.0
Special peptone mixture	12.0
Yeast extract	2.0
Sodium chloride	5.0
Disodium phosphate (anhydrous)	0.6
<b>pH approx.7.3</b>	

#### 4. References

1. Howell A. Public Health Reports 1948; 63: 173-178.
2. Kotcher E, Robinson JW, Miller Madelyn P. J Bact. 1951; 62: 613-620
3. Creitz JR, Puckett TF. Am J Clin Path. 1954; 24: 1318-1323
4. Goldin M, Davidsohn MD. Modern Hospital 1954; 92: 92-100



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\*Formulation may be modified to meet performance criteria

SJW|10/17|V.2