MAST[®] Culture Media and Supplements

Technical Information Sheet

Product Code DM 184

Peptone Agar

For use in the presumptive identification of *Haemophilus spp.*

1. Description

The isolation of *Haemophilus* spp. requires enriched media such as 'chocolate' agars which provide two factors required for growth. These two factors termed X and V were later discovered to be haemin and Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide (NAD) respectively. The requirement for X factor, V factor, or both, varies between the species and can be used as a means of presumptive identification. Tests for differentiating *Haem*-

2. Technical Formula*

Formula	grams per litre		
Bacteriological peptone	10.0		
Sodium chloride	5.0		
Agar	14.0		
pH approx.7.3.			

ophilus spp. on this basis, have mainly involved the use of paper discs impregnated with either or both of the growth factors. To correctly perform such tests a medium free of these factors is required. MAST Peptone Agar is a simple medium containing a carefully chosen peptone free of these factors, but which will support good growth of *Haemophilus* spp. when these are supplied.

3. Directions

1. Suspend by swirling 29g 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 (15 p.s.i.) for 15 minutes.

3. Mix well before pouring.



4. In Use

The organism under test is subcultured onto MAST Peptone Agar and MAST X factor (D43 or D43C), V factor (D44 or D44C) and X + V factor (D45 or D45C) discs are applied to the surface. After overnight incubation, a clearly defined zone of growth around a particular disc indicates a requirement for that growth factor. (For further details of technique see the appropriate technical leaflet).

Test Species	Factor X	Factor V	Factor X+V
H.influenzae	-	-	+
H.parainfluenzae	-	+	+
H.ducreyi	+	-	+

+ = growth around the discs.

- = no growth around the discs.

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