

## **CHROMagar™ O157**

### **Chromogenic medium for the isolation and differentiation of *E.coli* O157**

Product No. 740.02

4 x 250ml pack size. Supplied as powder.

Laboratory product to be used only by trained personnel.

#### **COMPOSITION**

Agar, 15 g/l

Peptone, yeast extract and salts, 13 g/l

Special chromogenic mix, 1 g/l

pH 6.8

Classical formula adjusted and/or supplemented as required to meet performance criteria. Increased selectivity if addition of tellurite.

#### **PREPARATION**

- According to quantities desired, weigh out powder and use in the proportion 29 g/l of purified water, or use full pre-weighed dose with 1 litre of purified water.
- Disperse powder slowly in water by rotating until swelling of the agar
- Bring to the boil (100°C) by repeated heatings, swirling or stirring regularly. If using an autoclave, do so without pressure. DO NOT HEAT TO MORE THAN 100°C. Mixture may also be brought to a boil in a microwave oven. In this case, after initial boiling, remove from oven to stir gently, return to oven for short repeated heatings. Continue until complete fusion of agar grains (large bubbles replacing foam : about 2 minutes).
- Cool in a water bath to 48°C

#### Note 1

If a more selective medium is needed, add a solution of Potassium Tellurite to obtain a final concentration of 2.5 mg/l at 48°C.

#### Note 2

In case of product samples containing a high load of *Proteus*, cefixime can be added at 0.025 mg/l at 48°C.

#### Note 3

In case of product samples containing a high load of *Pseudomonas* and/or *Aeromonas*, cefsulodin can be added at 5 mg/l at 48°C.

- Swirl or stir gently to homogenise before pouring into sterile Petri dishes or tubes.
- Let dry.

Medium may be kept for a day at room temperature or stored for several days in a refrigerator (store in the dark)

- Streak and incubate for 24 hours at 37°C.

## INTERPRETATION

<b>micro-organism</b> → typical colony aspect
<b><i>E.coli</i> O157</b> → mauve
<b>coliforms, etc.</b> → steel blue
<b><i>Proteus</i>, etc.</b> → colourless to grey

In absence of tellurite, various non- *E.coli* O157 may have same colony colour.

In presence of tellurite the medium is much more specific and selective. A latex confirmation test for O157 is suggested for suspect colonies.

Final confirmation and analysis require identification as *E.coli* by biochemical tests and characterisation of O157 and verotoxin properties.

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