



Bryant and Burkey Medium

M1385

Bryant and Burkey Medium is used for detecting and enumerating spores of lactate fermenting *Clostridium* in milk and dairy products.

Composition**

Ingredients	Gms / Litre
Casein enzymic hydrolysate	15.000
Yeast extract	5.000
Beef extract	7.500
Sodium acetate	5.000
L-Cysteine hydrochloride	0.500
Resazurin	0.0025
Final pH (at 25°C)	5.9±0.2

**Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters

Directions

Suspend 33.0 grams in 1000 ml distilled water containing 5 grams of Sodium lactate. Heat if necessary to dissolve the medium completely. Sterilize by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes.

Principle And Interpretation

Bryant and Burkey Medium is used to enumerate the spores of gasogenic clostridia that are responsible for swelling of cheese in dairy industry (1, 2). In normal conditions of use, the medium allows the growth of other microorganisms also which are not directly related to cheese alteration, e.g. *Clostridium sporogenes* or *Clostridium butyricum*. Germination and growth of butyric acid bacteria (BAB) causes severe defects in cheese with silage being the main source of BAB spores in cheese milk (4). Clostridia spores are heat resistant and therefore can contaminate cheese brines. The gas produced by the growth of clostridia swells the cheese and is responsible for defect known as butyric swelling, resulting in bad taste. The main species causing this butyric swelling defect is *Clostridium tyrobutyrium*.

Recommended technique for estimation of *Clostridium* is to enumerate the spores by the MPN method. Test sample must be previously decontaminated by heating up for 10 minutes at 75°C in order to destroy all the vegetative forms while only leaving the spores alive. The tubes of the medium are then boiled to regenerate anaerobiosis and cooled down to 25-30°C. These tubes are inoculated with the sample and overlaid with 2 cm of sterile paraffin and incubated for upto 7 days at 37°C. Examine the tubes after every 48 hours. A raised paraffin plug indicates gas formation. Tubes will be declared positive if they show clear gas production and MPN index is used to calculate the number of *Clostridia*.

Resazurin is a redox indicator and monitors the oxygen level turning from pink under aerobic conditions to colourless under anaerobic conditions. The nutrient composition of the basal medium, particularly of casein enzymic hydrolysate, yeast extract, beef extract and L-cysteine HCl help in rapid growth of *Clostridium* species. Sodium acetate promotes spore germination (3) and improves the selectivity of the medium. Sodium lactate is fermented under anaerobic conditions by *Clostridium tyrobutyricum*. A pink colour indicates the presence of oxygen in the media which turns colourless on boiling.

Quality Control

Appearance

Cream to yellow homogeneous free flowing powder

Colour and Clarity of prepared medium

Light amber coloured, clear solution when hot, becomes pink-red upon cooling

Reaction

Reaction of 3.3% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 5.9±0.2

pH

5.70-6.10

Cultural Response

M1385: Cultural characteristics observed under anaerobic conditions after an incubation at 35-37°C for 6 days.

Organism	Growth	Gas production
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Cultural Response

<i>Clostridium tyrobutyricum</i> ATCC 25755	good	positive
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Storage and Shelf Life

Store below 30°C in tightly closed container and the prepared medium at 2 - 8°C. Use before expiry date on the label.

Reference

1. Bryant M. P. and Burkey L. A., 1956, J. Bacteriol., 71: 43-46.
2. Bergeres J. L. and Sivela S., 1989, Detection and enumeration of Clostridial spores related to cheese quality-Classical and new methods, FIL-IDF Bull. 51:18-23.
3. Touraille C. and Bergere J. L., 1974, Biochimie, 56: 404-422.
4. Vissers M. M. M., Drichuis F., Giffel T., John P. D., Lankveld J. M. G., 2007, J. Dairy Sci., 90:928

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