Urea Agar Base (Christensen)(Autoclavable)  

**Intended Use:**
Urea Agar Base with the addition of Urea is recommended for the detection of urease production, particularly by members of the genus *Proteus*.

**Composition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients</th>
<th>Gms / Litre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peptone</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dextrose (Glucose)</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium chloride</td>
<td>5.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disodium hydrogen phosphate</td>
<td>1.200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potassium dihydrogen phosphate</td>
<td>0.800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenol red</td>
<td>0.012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agar</td>
<td>15.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final pH (at 25°C)</td>
<td>6.8±0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Formula adjusted, standardized to suit performance parameters**

**Directions**
Suspend 24.01 grams in 950 ml purified / distilled water. Heat to boiling to dissolve the medium completely. Sterilize by autoclaving at 10 lbs pressure (115°C) for 20 minutes. Cool to 45-50°C and aseptically add 50 ml of sterile 40% Urea Solution (FD048) and mix well. Dispense into sterile tubes and allow to set in the slanting position. Do not overheat or reheat the medium as urea decomposes very easily.

**Principle And Interpretation**
Urea Agar is used to detect urease production. Urea Agar described by Christensen (3,7) detected urease activity by all rapidly urease-positive *Proteus* organisms and also by other members of *Enterobacteriaceae* (3) that exhibited a delayed urease reaction (8). This was accomplished by:

a) adding glucose to the medium.

b) decreasing the peptone concentration and

c) decreasing the buffering system, as a less buffered medium detects even smaller amount of alkali (4).

Peptone is the source of essential nutrients. Dextrose is the energy source. Sodium chloride maintains the osmotic equilibrium of the medium whereas phosphates serve to buffer the medium. Urea is hydrolyzed to liberate ammonia. Phenol red indicator detects the alkalinity generated by visible colour change from orange to pink.

Prolonged incubation may cause alkaline reaction in the medium. A medium without urea serves as negative control to rule out false positive results. Also, all urea test media rely on the alkalinity formation and so they are not specific for determining the absolute rate of urease activity (8). The utilization of proteins may raise the pH to alkalinity due to protein hydrolysis and excess of amino acids liberation results in false positive reaction.

**Type of specimen**
Isolated microorganism from clinical, food and water samples.

**Specimen Collection and Handling**
For clinical samples follow appropriate techniques for handling specimens as per established guidelines(5,6).

For food and dairy samples, follow appropriate techniques for sample collection and processing as per guidelines(1,9,10).

For water samples, follow appropriate techniques for sample collection, processing as per guidelines and local standards(2).

After use, contaminated materials must be sterilized by autoclaving before discarding.

Please refer disclaimer Overleaf.
Warning and Precautions
In Vitro diagnostic use. Read the label before opening the container. Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection. Follow good microbiological lab practices while handling specimens and culture. Standard precautions as per established guidelines should be followed while handling clinical specimens. Safety guidelines may be referred in individual safety data sheets.

Limitations

1. Prolonged incubation may cause alkaline reaction in the medium.
2. Also, all urea test media rely on the alkalinity formation and so they are not specific for determining the absolute rate of urease activity (8).
3. The utilization of proteins may raise the pH to alkalinity due to protein hydrolysis and excess of amino acids liberation results in false positive reaction.

Performance and Evaluation
Performance of the medium is expected when used as per the direction on the label within the expiry period when stored at recommended temperature.

Quality Control

Appearance
Light yellow to light pink homogeneous free flowing powder

Gelling
Firm, comparable with 1.5% Agar gel

Colour and Clarity of prepared medium
Yellowish orange coloured clear to slightly opalescent gel forms in tubes as slants

Reaction
Reaction of 2.4% w/v aqueous solution at 25°C. pH : 6.8±0.2

pH
6.60-7.00

Cultural Response
Cultural characteristics observed on addition of sterile 40% Urea Solution (FD048) after an incubation at 35-37°C for 18-24 hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organism</th>
<th>Inoculum (CFU)</th>
<th>Urea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Escherichia coli ATCC 25922</em></td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>negative reaction,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Klebsiella aerogenes</em> ATCC 13048*</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>negative reaction,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Klebsiella pneumoniae</em> ATCC 13883*</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>positive reaction,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Proteus mirabilis ATCC 25933</em></td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>positive reaction,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Proteus vulgaris ATCC 13315</em></td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>positive reaction,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Salmonella Typhimurium</em> ATCC 14028*</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>negative reaction,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Key:  *Corresponding WDCM numbers.  |
| # Formerly known as *Enterobacter aerogenes* |

Storage and Shelf Life
Store between 10-30°C in a tightly closed container and the prepared medium at 2 - 8°C. Use before expiry date on the label. On opening, product should be properly stored dry, after tightly capping the bottle in order to prevent lump formation due to the hygroscopic nature of the product. Improper storage of the product may lead to lump formation. Store in dry ventilated area protected from extremes of temperature and sources of ignition Seal the container tightly after use. Use before expiry date on the label. Product performance is best if used within stated expiry period.

Please refer disclaimer Overleaf.
Disposal
User must ensure safe disposal by autoclaving and/or incineration of used or unusable preparations of this product. Follow established laboratory procedures in disposing of infectious materials and material that comes into contact with clinical sample must be decontaminated and disposed of in accordance with current laboratory techniques (5,6).

Reference

Disclaimer:
User must ensure suitability of the product(s) in their application prior to use. Products conform solely to the information contained in this and other related HiMedia™ publications. The information contained in this publication is based on our research and development work and is to the best of our knowledge true and accurate. HiMedia™ Laboratories Pvt Ltd reserves the right to make changes to specifications and information related to the products at any time. Products are not intended for human or animal or therapeutic use but for laboratory, diagnostic, research or further manufacturing use only, unless otherwise specified. Statements contained herein should not be considered as a warranty of any kind, expressed or implied, and no liability is accepted for infringement of any patents.