Technical Data Sheet

KOVÀCS' Indole Reagent

Ordering number: 1.09293.0100

Mode of Action

Some microorganisms can cleave tryptophan which is especially abundant in trypticalle digested peptone to give pyruvic acid, ammonia and indole. Indole then reacts with 4-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde to form a dark red dye. As tryptophan also gives a color reaction with 4-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde, it must be separated from the indole. This is achieved by selectively extracting indole with butanol.

Typical Composition

n-Butanol; hydrochloric acid; 4-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde.

Experimental Procedure and Evaluation

The strain purity of the organism to be tested must first be established; it is then inoculated into an appropriate culture medium e.g. DEV Tryptophan Broth (Cat. No. 1.10694.), SIM Medium (Cat. No. 105470.), etc.) and incubated for 18-24 hours at the optimal incubation temperature. The medium is then covered with a layer of KOVÀCS' Indole Reagent of about 0.5 cm. If indole is present the reagent layer turns cherry red in color after a few minutes.

- **The reagent solution must be stored in the dark in the refrigerator, otherwise it may turn brown and cannot be used.**

Literature

KOVÁCS, N.: Eine vereinfachte Methode zum Nachweis der Indolbildung durch Bakterien. - Z. Immunitätsforsch., 55; 311-315 (1928)

Ordering Information

Product	Cat. No.	Pack content
KOVÁCS' Indole Reagent	1.09293.0100	100 ml

Lit. Code MK_DS12261EN Ver. 1.0 01/2023