

## TM 037 – BILE ESCULIN AGAR BASE

### INTENDED USE

For differential & presumptive identification of group D Streptococci from food & pharma products.

### PRODUCT SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION

Group D Streptococci possess the group D lipoteichoic acid antigen in their cell walls. Former Group D species, which are predominant normal inhabitants of the human gastrointestinal tract, are termed as faecal Streptococci or Enterococci. The unique ability of Enterococci to split esculin was reported by Meyer and Schonfeld. Enterococci and Group D Streptococci hydrolyse esculin to esculetin and dextrose, which reacts with ferric citrate producing brownish black precipitate. The use of esculin hydrolysis in identification of Enterococci was first cited by Rochaix. Bile Esculin Agar was originally formulated by Swan for the isolation and identification of Group D Streptococci from food. Facklam and Moody further reported that using Bile Esculin Agar, Group D Streptococci could be differentiated from non-Group D Streptococci. Bile Esculin Agar was also shown to aid differentiation of *Enterobacteriaceae*, *Klebsiella*, *Enterobacter*, *Serratia* from other *Enterobacteriaceae* genera on the basis of esculin hydrolysis. However, other tests such as salt tolerance should be performed for identifying Enterococci. Bile Esculin Agar Base with added supplements is recommended for selective isolation and presumptive identification of group D streptococci from food and pharmaceutical products.

Esculin when added as a supplement in the medium is hydrolyzed to esculetin and dextrose. Esculetin reacts with ferric citrate to form a dark brown or black complex, visualized as a zone of black precipitate around the colonies. If the media is dispensed in tubes in the form of slants, a positive reaction is indicated by blackening of more than half of the slant within 24-48 hours. If blackening is totally absent or if less than half of the slant is blackened within 24-48 hours, the test is negative. Viridans Streptococci sometimes exhibit a weak positive reaction. Also, *Leuconostoc*, *Pediococcus*, *Lactococcus* species causing human infections give a positive bile esculin test. To enhance the growth of Enterococci, Bile Esculin Agar can be supplemented with 50ml/l horse serum. Inoculate and incubate the test sample in Todd Hewitt Broth. After 24 hours of incubation add two drops of the culture onto the surface of slant or plate media

### COMPOSITION

Ingredients	Gms / Ltr
Peptone	5.000
Meat extract	3.000
Bile	40.000
Ferric citrate	0.500
Agar	15.000

### PRINCIPLE










Peptone and meat extract serves as sources of carbon, nitrogen, amino acids, vitamins and essential growth nutrients. Bile inhibits most of the other accompanying bacteria.

### INSTRUCTION FOR USE

- Dissolve 31.75 grams in 500 ml purified / distilled water.
- Heat to boiling to dissolve the medium completely. Cool to 45-50°C.
- Add rehydrated contents of 1 vial of Esculin.
- Mix and dispense into tubes or flasks as desired.
- Sterilize by autoclaving at 15 psi pressure (121°C) for 15 minutes.
- Allow the tubed medium to solidify in slanted position.





 GMP Good Manufacturing Practices Certified	 Best Before	 Quantity	 Catalogue Number	 Manufacturer
 Temperature Unit	 Lot / Batch Number	 Consults Instructions for Use	 QR Code	

**NOTE:** Please consult the Material Safety Data Sheet for information regarding hazards and safe handling Practices.

**\*For Lab Use Only**  
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