

hy-campylobacter medium

Cat No. PD063, PD077

Campylobacter species have been known for many years but the clinical significance as a major organism that causes gastro-intestinal infections is now recognized.

This is due to the selectivity rendered to media by Skirrow¹ using a mixture of Vancomycin, Polymyxin, Trimethoprim and Butzler et al.² using a mixture of Bacitracin, Cycloheximide, Colistin, Cephazolin and Novobiocin. The infective organism, *Campylobacter jejuni* is a micro-aerophilic organism which is easily masked by other microorganisms found in the gastro-intestinal tract, thus rendering isolation difficult in routine clinical laboratories. The antibiotics used by Skirrow and Butzler considerably facilitated the task however in many cases other organisms of the faecal flora still masked the selective growth of *C. jejuni*.

In recent years other Campylobacter species have been shown to be pathogenic and an extensive review article has appeared explaining the progress of the research of these species.³ The new situation has led Hy-Labs to introduce a further choice for culturing Campylobacter species. Hy-Labs now offer two different formulae.

A) A selective blood-containing medium:

Shmilovitz^{4,5} defined a mixture of six antibacterial agents in the following final concentration per ml medium.

Vancomycin (Eli Lilly)	10 µg
Polymyxin B (Pfizer)	5 U
Trimethoprim Lactate (Wellcome)	5 µg
Fungizone (Squibb)	2 U
Novobiocin (Upjohn)	5 µg
Bacitracin	25 µg

This mixture is incorporated in Heart Infusion Agar pH 7.4, or any other suitable rich base with 6% Human Blood and is readily available from Hy-Labs in pre-poured Petri dishes in packets of 10.

B) A selective blood-free charcoal medium:

Bolton ^{6,7} defined a blood-free medium as follows:

Composition	g/liter
Peptone blend	25.0
Bacteriological charcoal	4.0
Sodium chloride	3.0
Sodium desoxycholate	1.0
Ferrous sulfate	0.25
Sodium pyruvate	0.25
Agar No. 2	12.0
pH 7.4	

The supplement formula is:

Cefoperazone (Pfizer)	20 µg
Fungizone B (Squibb)	2 U

The medium is available from Hy-Labs in pre-poured Petri dishes in packets of 10 and also in slant tube format. This enables the user to transfer the tube to the reference lab.