

1a) Starch hydrolysis: some bacteria are capable of using starch as a source of carbohydrate by hydrolyzing or breaking down the starch so it may enter the cell

Procedure

- ⇒ Using a sterile technique make a single streak. inoculation of the organism to be tested into the centre of labelled plate
- ⇒ Incubate the material inoculated plates for 48 hours
- ⇒ After incubation flood the surface of the plates with iodine solution with a dropper for 30 seconds
- ⇒ Pour off the excess iodine
- ⇒ Examine for the clear zones around the line of bacterial growth

① Protein hydrolysis: Many bacteria can hydrolyze a variety of proteins into peptides and eventually into individual amino acids:

Procedure

- ⇒ Inoculate the organism on the plate either a straight line or zigzag
- ⇒ Inoculate the plate at 25°C or 37°C
- ⇒ Following incubation, examine the plate for zones of hydrolysis

② Action on simple carbohydrates: The pattern of utilization by bacteria is specific and can be used

and gas.

Procedure

2) Sterilize the media set up

2) Inoculate each indicator sugar broth with each of the bacteria

⇒ leave a tube uninoculated as control

⇒ incubate tubes at 35°C for 2 or 7 days and watch for

of Catalase Production: Most aerobic bacteria are capable of producing the enzyme catalase although to different extents. Others like the obligate anaerobes are catalase negative.

Procedure

⇒ inoculate the bacteria onto an agar plate and leave an uninoculated agar to serve as control

⇒ incubate for 24 hours then add several drops of hydrogen peroxide

⇒ presence of effervescence indicates the production of catalase by the bacterium

2 Action on litmus milk: To distinguish among the metabolic changes in milk, a pH indicator the oxidation-reduction indicator litmus is incorporated into the medium.

Procedure

⇒ Inoculate with 4 drops of 24 hour old broth culture

⇒ incubate at 35°C to 37°C in ambient air

⇒ observe daily for seven days for alkaline reaction and reduction in acid depth.

f Hydrogen Sulphide production: H_2S is produced by a certain bacterium following the decomposition of organic sulphur compounds such as cysteine, methionine through the reduction of organic sulphur compounds

Procedure

- 1) Stab the medium in the tube with a heavy inoculum
- 2) Leave a tube uninoculated as control and incubate at $37^\circ C$ for 7 days and examine daily
- 3) A black line along the line of inoculation indicates production of H_2S

g. Lipid Hydrolysis: In order to utilise fats, bacterial cells secrete exoenzymes known as lipases outside of the cell that hydrolyse the lipid to fatty acid and glycerol. The bacteria capable of this are called lipolytic bacteria.

Procedure

- 1) Inoculate the tributyrin agar medium with single streaking of the organism.
- 2) Incubate anaerobically in a gas pack jar immediately after streaking and transfer into the incubator maintained at $35^\circ C - 37^\circ C$ for 24 to 48 hours
- 3) Observe for the clear zone around the bacterial growth

the Congo Red Test

H Citrate Test: This is used to test an organism's ability to utilise citrate as a source of energy

Procedure

- 1) Streak the slant back and forth with a light inoculum

⇒ inoculate with growth from the 18-24 culture by
starch inoculation with a needle

⇒ incubate at a temperature and duration appropriate for
the organism being tested.

⇒ Examine tubes for growth and signs of motility.

I Indole Test: This test is used to determine the ability of
an organism to split amino acid tryptophan to form the
compound indole. It helps to differentiate Enterobacteriaceae
and other genera.

Procedure

⇒ inoculate the tryptophan broth with broth culture or
emulsify isolated colony of the test organism in tryptophan
broth.

⇒ incubate at 37°C for 24-28 hours in ambient air

⇒ Add 0.5 ml of Kovac's reagent to the broth culture

⇒ Examine for a pink colored ring after addition of the reagent

K Coagulase Test

Procedure:

⇒ Place a drop of physiological saline on two separate slides

⇒ With the loop, straight wire or wooden stick, emulsify a
portion of the isolated colony in each drop to make two thick
suspensions

⇒ Add a human or rabbit plasma to one of the suspensions and mix well

⇒ Look for clumping of the organisms within 10 seconds

② Explain the identification / staining techniques of fungi

1) Gram staining: Gram staining is a key starting point to identify microbial species. It is a stain that differentiates membrane structure between gram positive and gram-negative microorganisms. Gram-positive microbes have a thick cell wall made up of peptidoglycan (5-10%) which are stained purple by crystal violet whereas gram-negative microbes have a thin layer (10%) which are stained pink by the counter-stain safranin.

Procedure

⇒ Apply two drops of crystal violet on smear for 30 seconds

⇒ Wash with distilled water

⇒ Add two drops of Gram's iodine for 30 seconds

⇒ Wash with distilled water

⇒ Add 95% ethanol

⇒ Wash with distilled water

⇒ Add two drops of safranin

⇒ Wash with distilled water

ii) India Ink WET MOUNT: India ink can be added to Focuser to provide dark background that will highlight hyaline yeast cells and capsule or interval. This method is used to detect microbes surrounded by capsule?

iii) LACTOPHENOL COTTON BLUE WET MOUNT: (LCB) is a mounting medium commonly used in microbiology laboratories for preparing mounts of fungal cultures. LCB is used as both mounting fluid and stain.

Gram-negative / microorganism: Gram-positive microbes have a thick cell wall made up of peptidoglycan (60-70%) which are stained purple by crystal violet whereas gram-negative microbes have a thin cell wall (10%) which are stained pink by the counter-stain safranin.

Procedure

- ⇒ Apply two drops of crystal violet on smear for 30 seconds
- ⇒ Wash with distilled water
- ⇒ Add two drops of Gram's iodine for 30 seconds
- ⇒ Wash with distilled water
- ⇒ Add 95% ethanol
- ⇒ Wash with distilled water
- ⇒ Add two drops of safranin
- ⇒ Wash with distilled water

(ii) India Ink WET MOUNT: India ink can be added to a smear to provide a dark background that will highlight bacterial cells and capsular material. This method is used to detect microbes surrounded by capsules.

(iii) LACTOPHENOL COTTON BLUE WET MOUNT (LCB) is a mounting medium commonly used in microbiology laboratories for preparing mounts of fungal cultures. LCB is used as both mounting fluid and stain.

(iv) GRENDA STAINING: Gramsa stain is a member of the Romanowsky group of stains, which are defined as being the black precipitates formed from the addition of methanol.

V WRIGHT STAINING: The Wright stain is an alcoholic solution of methylene blue, azure A, thionin and eosin. It is used to detect blood parasites, viral and chlamydial inclusion bodies, yeast cells and species of leucocytes.

VI GROCOTT-GOMORI METHENAMINE SILVER STAINING: The fungal cell wall contains mucopolysaccharides that are oxidized by GMS to release aldehyde groups, which later react with silver nitrate.