Agar - Chemical Identification

Experiment 24 - Practical Notes

Name: _____ Roll no.: _____ Date: _____

Aim

To record physical and chemical identity evidence for Agar.

Principle

Algal-derived gelling material; study the assigned gel-forming and identity observations.

Requirements

- Authenticated teaching material, prescribed identity reagents, comparison material and clean glassware.

Procedure

1. Describe

Record appearance, source type and specimen code.

2. Study behaviour

Apply the authorised dispersion, swelling or gel demonstration appropriate to the material.

3. Apply identity tests

Use the assigned monograph tests with comparison or blank, recording the actual response and its timing.

4. Combine findings

Compare physical behaviour, chemical response and microscopy where applicable; note conflicting evidence.

Observations and Record

Observation	Finding
Material / code	_____
Dispersion / swelling / gel behaviour	_____
Assigned chemical response	_____
Control / comparison	_____
Identity conclusion	_____

Result

Record the completed observations, calculations and conclusion with units. State any limitation of the observation.

Precautions

- Do not apply one gum test as a universal test for every carbohydrate.
- Record the exact assigned material and test; visual behaviour alone can be non-specific.

Viva Questions and Answers

1. Why use more than one observation?

Materials may share a carbohydrate response but differ in source and functional behaviour.

2. What must accompany a positive test?

The method, actual response and valid control or comparison.

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