LAB167
Aeromonas Agar
Bile Salt Irgasan Brilliant Green Agar

Description
Aeromonas Agar is a highly selective medium for the isolation of *Aeromonas* spp. from food, clinical and environmental samples. Based on the selective agents brilliant green and irgasan, this medium will not inhibit those strains of *Aeromonas* spp. sensitive to ampicillin used in other media.

Typical Formulation

	g/litre
Beef extract	5.0
Meat peptone	5.0
Xylose	10.0
Bile salts No.3	8.5
Sodium thiosulphate	5.44
Irgasan	0.005
Brilliant green	0.005
Neutral red	0.025
Agar	11.5
Grams per litre	**45.5**

Appearance
Powder: fine, free-flowing, homogeneous, buff
Finished medium: clear, purple gel

pH: 7.0 ± 0.2

Hazard classification
NR – Not regulated

Method for reconstitution
Weigh 45.5 grams of powder and disperse in 1 litre of deionised water. Allow to soak for 10 minutes, swirl to mix and sterilise by bringing to the boil. Cool to 47°C and mix well before dispensing into Petri dishes. Dry the agar surface prior to use.

Storage
Dehydrated culture media: 10-25°C away from direct sunlight.
Prepared media: 7 days at 2-8°C in the dark (may be extended if moisture tight packaging used).

Minimum Q.C. organisms
Aeromonas hydrophila WDCM 00063
Escherichia coli WDCM 00013
(inhibited)

Inoculation
Faecal specimens: Inoculate surface of medium directly, spreading for single colonies.
Samples requiring enrichment: Inoculate alkaline peptone water and incubate at 37°C for 18-24 hr. Subculture onto Aeromonas Agar, surface spreading for single colonies.

Incubation

Incubate plates aerobically at 37°C for 18-24 hr. Examine for typical colonies and confirm as *Aeromonas* spp.

Interpretation
After incubation the plate should be assessed for typical colonies.

Organism	Colony size (mm)	Shape & surface	Colour
Aeromonas spp.*	0.5-3.0mm	Convex, entire, glossy	Translucent, pale green
Pseudomonas spp.	0.5-1.0mm	Convex, entire, glossy	Translucent, pale green
Staphylococcus aureus	No growth		
Escherichia coli	No growth		

*The selective nature of the medium may mean occasional strains do not grow, or grow poorly.

Confirmation
Typical colonies (translucent, pale green colonies 0.5-3.0mm diameter) should be confirmed as presumptive *Aeromonas* spp. by performing an oxidase test and inoculating into Hugh & Leifsons O/F medium.

- *Aeromonas* spp. will give a positive oxidase reaction and demonstrate both oxidative and fermentative metabolism.
- *Pseudomonas* spp. will also be oxidase positive, but do not possess fermentative metabolism.

An alternative method is to inoculate triple sugar iron tubes.

- *Aeromonas* will typically produce an acid butt (yellow) and an alkaline or unchanged slant (red).
- *Pseudomonas* spp. will remain unchanged in both the butt and slant.

To fully identify colonies as *Aeromonas* spp. the above tests should be supported using a proprietary kit such as API 2ONE or Microbact 24E (other products may be available).