



PREPARATION

Preparing MBTA (Middlebrook Top Agar)

OBJECTIVE

To make MBTA for use in plating bacterial lawns.

BACKGROUND

Middlebrook Top Agar (MBTA) was developed specifically for use in growing mycobacteria. We use it as part of our final top agar when growing bacterial lawns.

APPROXIMATE TIME NEEDED

~15 minutes active

~40 minutes to autoclave

MATERIALS NEEDED

4.7 g 7H9

7.0 g BactoAgar

ddH₂O up to 1000 ml

4 drops of anti-bubble

Heat-proof beaker/flask, stir bar, and stir/hotplate for mixing

18 glass bottles for aliquoting

HELPFUL TIPS



Preparing MBTA is just the first step in making the final top agar for plating. Check out the **Working Media** protocol for finishing details.



Boiling ensures that all of the agar is evenly distributed.

PROCEDURE

1. Combine all ingredients in the beaker/flask.
2. Add the stir bar, and put on the stir/hotplate.
3. Stir moderately and heat medium-high until the mixture boils.
4. While still warm/hot, aliquot 50 ml into each of 18 glass bottles.
5. Autoclave on a liquid cycle for an appropriate amount of time.