Recipe for apple-agar embryo collection plates

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Abstract

This protocol describes the recipe for apple-agar plates which can be used for embryo collection. Alternatively, grape juice can be used instead of apple juice.

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Guidelines

This protocol describes how to make sufficient apple-agar for approximatley 10x 90mm Petri dish plates.

Once the apple-agar food is decanted, the plates should be left, covered by lids, at room temperaure until the food has set and cooled. The plates should then be sealed in an air tight bag and stored at 4°C for a maximum of ~ 6 weeks before use.

The plates should be brought to room temperature before being added to a population cage.

Materials

Sucrose S7903 by Sigma Aldrich

Agar ash 2.0-4.5% A7002 by Sigma Aldrich

Methyl-4- hydroxybenzoate H5501 by Sigma Aldrich

Protocol

Step 1.
Add 9 g of agar and 10 g sucrose to 300 mL distilled H_2O in a pan.

Step 2.
Mix well, place pan on heat and bring mixture to boil while stirring continuously.

Step 3.
Once boiling, turn off heat and add 100 mL apple juice to mixture.

Step 4.
Allow mixture to cool to 70 °C and then stir in 2.1 mL of tegosept anti-fungal solution (dissolve Methyl-4- hydroxybenzoate in 95% Ethanol at 150g/L).

Step 5.
Dispense apple-agar into plates before it sets.

Warnings

1. Care should be taken when dispensing hot apple-agar liquid. Decant liquid into smaller container before pouring into plates to reduce the risk of spillage.
2. Read SDS for Methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate prior to use.