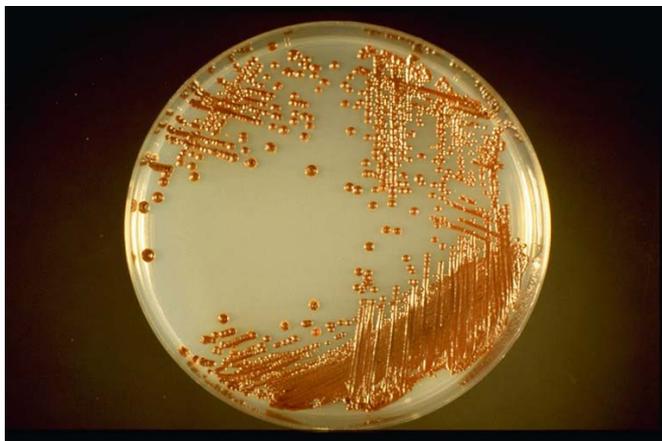


**CANDIDA AGAR (NICKERSON)**  
Powdered medium and ready to use plates  
for the isolation of *Candida* from clinical specimens



Candida Agar (Nickerson): *Candida albicans* colonies

**Typical formula (g/l)**

Yeast Extract	1
Bi-Ammonium Citrate	5
Sodium Sulphite	3
Glucose	10
Glycine	10
Agar	15

**Directions for powdered medium**

Suspend 44 g in 1000 ml of cold distilled water; heat with frequent agitation and boil for not more than one minute. Cool to about 50°C, swirl to disperse the insoluble matter and pour into plates. Do not overheat or autoclave.

Final pH 6.8 ± 0.2

**Description**

The medium, which has a composition unfavourable to the development of schizomycetes, permits the isolation of *Candida* spp. from clinical specimens (mucous secretions, skin or nail fragments) containing mixed flora. Candida Agar contains a bismuth indicator, which turns black in the presence of hydrogen sulphide: according to the sulphite reducing capacity of the species being examined, the colonies appear more or less black. *C. albicans* grows on the medium with metallic black colonies, non-pathogenic candida with brown colonies. According to Nickerson, some yeasts (among those *C. albicans*, *C. krusei*, *C. tropicalis*) also develop sulphite-reducing enzymes, which spread in the culture medium: the colonies of these species are surrounded by a black zone, sometimes with a metallic sheen.

**Technique**

Inoculate the material being examined onto the surface of the medium and incubate at 37°C for 48-72 hours; the development of black colonies permits a presumptive diagnosis of the genus. Obviously, this diagnosis must be confirmed with at least a microscopic test (fresh preparation cleared with lactophenol methyl blue: branched pseudomycelium budding yeast cells, presence of chlamydospores, absence of ascospores) and the species must be identified with currently used morphological, physiological or immunological tests.

**User quality assurance (48 h-37°C)**

Productivity control

*C. albicans* ATCC 60193: growth, brown metallic colonies

Selectivity control

*E. coli* ATCC 25922: inhibited**Storage**

Dehydrated medium: 10-30°C

Ready to use plates: 2-8°C

User prepared plates: up to 7 days at 2-8°C

**Reference**

- Nickerson V.J. (1953) J. Inf. Dis., **93**, 43-56.

**Packaging****4012802****Candida Agar,****500 g (11.4 l)****541280****Candida Agar,****20 ready to use plates**