CHROMOGENIC ESCULIN WEE-TAB

PRINCIPLE/DISCUSSION:

The ability to hydrolyze esculin is a valuable test to identify an assortment of different organisms, in particular *Streptococci* and *Enterococci.* Hydrolysis of esculin is demonstrated by the release of yellow para-nitrophenol from p-nitrophenol-ß-D-glucopyranoside.

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS:

The tablets contain approximately 0.05 mg. of p-nitrophenol-ß-D-glucopyranoside in a Sodium Chloride and Dicalcium phosphate base.

MATERIAL REQUIRED:

ESC tablets are sold in tubes ready-to-use, 28 per pack.

The tests require fresh 24 hour growth. Consult a suitable manual for recommended media for the specimen. The following items are required but not provided:

Inoculating loop
Purified water, pH 6.5-7.5
Disposable pipette

INSTRUCTIONS:

(1) Add 3-5 drops of distilled water to the test tube.

(2) Inoculate heavily with a loopful of organism from a fresh pure 24 hour culture plate or slant. Mix with the loop until the organism is in suspension.

3) Incubate aerobically, uncovered, at 35-37C for 2 hours.

4) After incubation, observe for yellow color indicating positive esculin reaction.

STORAGE:

Store tightly covered with desiccant at less than 0C.

QUALITY CONTROL:

Each lot of tablets should be tested with known positive and negative organisms. Some suggested strains are listed. Dispose of all used material in a manner appropriate for biohazardous material.

	ESC
E. faecalis ATCC29212	+
S. agalactiae ATCC13813	-

REFERENCES:

(1) Manual of Clinical Microbiology, Fifth Edition, Chapter 36, Enterobacteriaceae

(2) Kilian, M and Bulow, P. 1976. Rapid Diagnosis of Enterobacteriacae, Acta path. microbio. Scan, Sect B, 84:245-251

(3) Wadsworth Anaerobic Bacteriology Manual, 5th Edition, 1993,Glucosidase tests, page 152.

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