

An innovative modification of the nutrient medium formulation for the isolation and differentiation of enterobacteria

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Abstract. In laboratory conditions, the modified nutrient differential diagnostic medium Drigalski agar with lactose is recommended to be used for cultivation (isolation) and differentiation of enterobacteria of the Enterobacteriaceae family. The differentiation of enterobacteria on a modified medium is carried out according to their ability to ferment lactose, mannitol, glucose, sucrose, gelatin and form hydrogen sulfide. The environment can also be used for conducting sanitary and microbiological studies of environmental objects. The environment can be used to perform the ONPG test. In the course of preparing the modified Drigalski agar for operation in laboratory conditions, we recommend using the medium according to one of the options: when one of the carbohydrates is added, the medium is poured into single-section reusable or disposable petri dishes; when two carbohydrates are added, the medium is poured into two-section reusable or disposable petri dishes; when a complex of carbohydrates lactose + mannitol and glucose + sucrose is added, the medium is poured into two-section reusable or disposable petri dishes; when using all four drives separately, the medium is dispensed into single-compartment reusable or disposable petri dishes. We recommend preparing modified Drigalski agar at a plant for the production of ready-made culture media with filling the medium in two-section petri dishes (complex of carbohydrates lactose + mannitol in one section, glucose + sucrose in another section), or with filling the medium in four-section petri dishes (with each carbohydrate in separate section).

1 Introduction

Today, improving the means for assessing the indicators of animal microbiocenosis, diagnostics, prevention, treatment of non-communicable and infectious diseases is the most significant task facing veterinary specialists, microbiologists and biotechnologists [1, 2].

According to the WHO, every year in the world, more than 2 billion people fall ill with acute intestinal infections. The etiological structure of AEI in different countries differs significantly, and not rarely, despite the modern capabilities of laboratory microbiological means and methods, is not established [3, 4].

Pathogenic *Salmonella*, *Escherichia*, *Shigella*, *Campylobacter* and *Helicobacterium* have long been known to microbiologists, virologists, infectious disease specialists and therapists. However, in the infectious pathology of humans and animals, their role has undergone certain changes. At the same time, the incidence of such infections has increased and the clinical spectrum of their manifestation has expanded. According to leading microbiologists and infectious disease specialists, this was facilitated by a certain progress in the field of laboratory and clinical diagnostics. On the other hand, this was caused by the anthropogenic transformation of the external environment, which directly affects the conditions of reproduction and the routes of infection transmission, as

well as the susceptibility of various risk groups [5, 6, 7, 8, 9].

At the same time, at the very beginning of the 21st century, a significant update and replenishment took place in the Enterobacteriaceae family. For example, in 2001, based on the analysis of the 16S rRNA and rpoB gene sequences, the bacteria *K. planticola* and *K. terrigena* were isolated into the new genus *Raoultella* while maintaining their species designation *Raoultella planticola* spp. nov. and *Raoultella terrigena* spp. nov. Further, in 2004, during the sequencing of genomes and analysis of the nucleotide sequences of the genes 16S rRNA, rpoB, gyrA, mdh, infB, phoE, and nifH, five new species *K. ornithinolytica*, *K. variicola*, *K. singaporensis*, *K. milletis* and *K. senegalensis* were added to the *Klebsiella* genus that are often found in the environment. Subsequently, several new groups (genera) of enterobacteria were introduced into the Enterobacteriaceae family. These are the bacteria *Cedecea*, *Ewingella*, *Kluyvera*, *Lecrechia*, *Moellerella*, *Pantoea*, *Pragia*, *Rahnella*, *Tatumella*, *Xenorhabdus* and *Jokenella*. The clinical significance of these new members of the Enterobacteriaceae family is under investigation. The biological properties of these enterobacteria are studied, methods of their isolation and identification are being developed [5, 6].

Diagnosis of infectious diseases is one of the most difficult problems in clinical medicine. Laboratory research methods in a number of nosological forms play a leading and, in a number of clinical situations, a

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decisive role not only in terms of diagnosis, but also in determining the final outcome of the disease. The diagnosis of infectious diseases almost always involves the use of a set of laboratory methods. Moreover, the bacteriological group of methods is one of the three leading in the diagnosis of infectious diseases. One of the important elements in the laboratory diagnosis of AEs and opportunistic infections caused by enterobacteria is the isolation of the pathogen in a pure culture on nutrient media. Culture media are a basic element in laboratory diagnosis of infectious pathologies. The media should be formulated to optimally ensure the growth and reproduction of microorganisms of a particular species or family. The intensive development of biotechnology and microbiology makes it possible today to develop new nutrient media and modify existing media formulations [10, 11, 12, 13, 14].

In the course of creating new and modifying old formulations of nutrient media, it is also necessary to take into account the growing anthropogenic impact on the environment, which leads to an increase in the frequency of mutations in microorganisms with the appearance of new properties in them. In this regard, the design and production of high-quality nutrient media, the development of formulations for new microbiological media and the improvement of already used media are one of the important areas of work in the field of biotechnology, medical and veterinary microbiology [15, 16, 17].

2 Materials and methods

Research stages. During the first stage, the isolation, cultivation and identification of enterobacteria cultures obtained from various animal species were carried out and the sensitivity of enterobacteria to antimicrobial drugs was revealed. The factors of pathogenicity and persistence in the identified cultures of enterobacteria were studied. In the course of the second stage, the formulations of nutrient microbiological media for enterobacteria, enrichment media and differential diagnostic media were analyzed. The nutrient base and shaper, growth stimulants, carbohydrates, an indicator, selective components and growth inhibitors of accompanying microflora for the modification of Drigalski Lactose Agar with lactose (Drigalski Lactose Agar, AppliChem A5731.0500) were selected.

The material for research was 253 isolates of enterobacteria, isolated from the intestinal microbiotope of various farm animals (cows, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, chickens and geese), wild animals (wild boars, moose, foxes), zoo animals (pony, camel), pets (cats, dogs, ferrets, chinchillas). The object for research was a modified by us differential diagnostic commercial nutrient medium Drigalski agar with lactose with a selective additive. As a basis for the modification, the recipe of the nutrient medium Drigalski Lactose Agar with lactose (Drigalski Lactose Agar, AppliChem A5731.0500) was taken, which is a differential diagnostic medium with selective properties intended for

the isolation and differentiation of bacteria of the Enterobacteriaceae family and some non-fermenting microorganisms in the test samples.

Isolation, cultivation and identification of enterobacteria cultures were carried out on specific nutrient media, including on Drigalski Lactose Agar (AppliChem), and on Drigalski Lactose Agar with our modification. Pure cultures of enterobacteria were identified by morphological, tinctorial, cultural, biochemical, and serological properties. Biochemical identification of enterobacteria was carried out using the API identification method, microtest system produced by NPO Nutrient Media and NPO Diagnostic Systems: PBDE plates (plate for biochemical differentiation of enterobacteria), microtest system for biochemical identification of enterobacteria (LTC-M-12E), microtest system for determining the enzymatic activity of enterobacteria (MTS-5U), microtest system for biochemical identification of *Shigella Sonnei* biovars (MTS-Sonnei), microtest system for biochemical identification of *Salmonella* (MTS-Salm), microtest system for biochemical identification of *Shigella Newcastle* (MTS-Newcastl). The API identification system (bioMerieux, France) is based on biochemical tests and is used as a reference identification method in the world. API systems are the closest to the classical biochemical series, but at the same time they have a number of indisputable advantages over them. To identify enterobacteria, we used API 20 E strips to identify members of the Enterobacteriaceae family and other Gram-negative bacilli (the most clinically significant non-fermenting microorganisms), API 10 S to identify members of the Enterobacteriaceae family and other Gram-negative bacilli (shortened strip, consisting of 10 tests) and RapiD strip 20 E to identify representatives of the Enterobacteriaceae genus. The persistence factors of enterobacteria was determined by conventional methods. The research results were statistically processed according to the generally accepted method using a Pentium PC using the Microsoft Office Excel application.

3 Results and discussion

During the research, 130 intestinal isolates of enterobacteria were isolated from farm animals (cows, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, chickens and geese), 35 intestinal isolates of enterobacteria from wild animals (wild boars, moose, foxes), 23 intestinal isolates of enterobacteria from zoo animals (pony, camel), 65 intestinal isolates of enterobacteria from pets (cats, dogs, ferrets, chinchillas).

In the species composition of intestinal isolates of enterobacteria, *Escherichia coli*, *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Shigella flexneri*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Providencia alcalifacien*, *Hafnia alvei*, *Morganella morganii*, *Enterobacter cloaciae*, *Yersinia enterocolitica* were identified.

The species composition of enterobacteria isolated from farm animals was dominated by representatives of the genus *Escherichia coli* 46.83% and *Serratia*

marcescens 30.62%. In the species composition of enterobacteria isolated from wild animals, representatives of the genus *Escherichia coli* (41.28%) and *Serratia marcescens* (35.14%) dominated. The species composition of enterobacteria isolated from zoo animals was dominated by representatives of the genus *Escherichia coli* 33.03% and *Serratia marcescens* 42.48%. In the species composition of enterobacteria isolated from pets, representatives of the genus *Escherichia coli* (43.94%) and *Serratia marcescens* (33.87%) dominated.

In the process of identifying persistence factors in enterobacteria, isolated from various animals, the indicators of manifestation of antilysozyme, anticarnosine activity and the ability of enterobacteria to biofilm formation were determined. Enterobacteria possessing persistence factors can survive (survive) in the macroorganism of humans and animals for an unlimited time, protecting themselves from cellular and humoral factors of nonspecific protection of the macroorganism. At the same time, the presence of persistence factors in enterobacteria allows them to exhibit pathogenic properties.

Enterobacteria of the genus *Klebsiella oxytoca* and *Salmonella enteritidis* exhibited the highest antilysozyme and anticarnosine activity compared to other members of the Enterobacteriaceae family. *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella oxytoca* were most capable of biofilm formation.

The lowest values of antilysozyme activity were recorded in *Enterobacter cloacae*, and anticarnosine activity was lowest in *Morganella morganii*. At the same time, the pathogenic *Salmonella enteritidis* showed the lowest ability to form biofilm in comparison with other enterobacteria.

Pathogenic *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Shigella dysenteriae* and *Shigella flexneri* also exhibited relatively high antilysozyme, anticarnosine activity and biofilm formation against the background of persistence indicators of other enterobacterial cultures. However, the ability of *Yersinia enterocolitica* to biofilm was lower than that of *Proteus vulgaris*.

Trimethoprim exhibited the greatest antimicrobial activity against all the enterobacteria cultures isolated by us. Most enterobacteria were resistant to metronidazole. At the same time, pathogenic *Shigella dysenteriae*, *S. flexneri*, *Salmonella Enteritidis* and *Yersinia enterocolitica* were also more sensitive to trimethoprim.

In the course of creating a new modification of lactose agar, the selection of the nutrient base and the shaper of the nutrient medium was carried out. In microbiological practice, agar-agar is most often used for shaping in the formulation of nutrient media. In the formulation of solid nutrient media, agar is introduced, as a rule, in a volume of 1-2%, since it forms a gel in water well and gives the medium a stable shape after solidification. Agar melts at 80-100 °C and solidifies at 37-40 °C. It is most advisable to use pure agar intended directly for microbiological purposes.

As an agar base for the modification of lactose agar, we used dry bacteriological agar produced by the FBSI SSC MPB Obolensk (Russia).

In the course of choosing a nutrient base and growth stimulants, the usefulness of the components in terms of a set of nutrients and their availability for microorganisms were taken into account. Meat water, beef extract, peptic digest of animal tissue, Hottinger's tryptic digest, pancreatic hydrolyzate of casein, acid hydrolyzate of casein, hydrolyzate of kerata mucus pancreatic, hydrolyzate of fishmeal, tryptone, feed or bread (baker's) yeast extract.

When choosing a protein hydrolyzate for the nutrient base of the medium, we took into account the method of obtaining and the degree of protein breakdown. For the modification of lactose agar, we used pancreatic hydrolyzate of casein and pancreatic hydrolyzate of fish meal produced by FBSI SSC MPB Obolensk (Russia).

The pancreatic hydrolyzate of casein, obtained by hydrolysis of casein with pancreatin, is somewhat inferior in amine nitrogen to the acid hydrolyzate of casein of an average degree of degradation (3.0-4.0% versus 6.0-6.5%, respectively). Amino nitrogen is the total amount of free amino acids in a protein hydrolyzate. The amino acid content of casein acid hydrolyzate is slightly higher, but tryptophan is absent. In pancreatic casein hydrolyzate, tryptophan 1.0-1.1% is present. However, it should be borne in mind that acid hydrolysis denatures some useful components, for example, carbohydrates, tryptophan, cystine and other substances. At the end of acid hydrolysis, the concentration of salts increases. In this regard, pancreatic hydrolysis using pancreatin is more nutrient-friendly and provides sufficient protein breakdown for enterobacteria growth and reproduction.

Pancreatic hydrolyzate of fishmeal in the content of peptides (67.6%) is inferior to pancreatic hydrolyzate of gelatin (103.7%) and blood (71.0%), but surpasses pancreatic hydrolysates of soy, soy concentrate and gluten. In terms of amine nitrogen content, pancreatic hydrolyzate of fishmeal is second only to pancreatic hydrolyzate of gelatin and blood, surpassing pancreatic hydrolyzate of soy, soy concentrate and gluten in this indicator.

An important factor is also the fact that pancreatic hydrolyzate of casein, acid hydrolyzate of casein of medium degree of degradation, hydrolyzate of pancreatic sprat and fish meal are produced by various factories in Russia directly for microbiological purposes.

In order to enrich the nutrient base with high molecular weight peptides, enzymatic bacteriological peptone with a high tryptophan content produced by HiMedia Laboratories (India) was introduced into the medium formulation. Peptone obtained by enzymatic hydrolysis using pepsin and trypsin contains a large amount of high molecular weight peptides and amino acids.

It was decided to introduce an aminopeptide, an extract of bread yeast, as stimulants of the growth of enterobacteria in the formulation of the nutrient medium.

The microbiological aminopeptide was introduced into the medium formulation as a nitrogen source containing a full set of amino acids and low molecular weight peptides. Peptides and amino acids are not only the main source of nitrogen, but also provide

enterobacteria with phosphorus, sulfur, various vitamins and other growth substances required by enterobacteria for active growth and reproduction.

The aminopeptide replaces the meat extract found in Drigalski Lactose Agar. Aminopeptide is more nutritious in the presence of amine nitrogen, peptides, amino acids and other growth factors in comparison with meat water, mesopotamia broth, meat extract and Hottinger tryptic digest. Amino nitrogen is the total amount of free amino acids in a protein hydrolyzate. At the same time, the meat extract and meat water contain various carbohydrates, which can adversely affect the results of enterobacteria differentiation based on the fermentation of carbohydrates.

Bread (baker's) yeast extract, produced by NPO Nutrient Media (Makhachkala), enriches the environment with water-soluble B vitamins, free amino acids, purine and pyrimidine bases. At the same time, the extract of bread yeast is superior in vitamin value to the extract of feed yeast.

As a result of the analysis of the biological usefulness of various nutritional bases and growth factors, we decided to include the following in the modified formulation of lactose agar: bacteriological agar, pancreatic hydrolyzate of fishmeal, pancreatic hydrolyzate of casein, enzymatic bacteriological peptone with a high content of tryptophan, aminopeptide and bread yeast extract.

In the course of the choice of mineral components, the need for enterobacteria, their interaction with other components of the environment, the expected diagnostic informativeness and inhibitory effect on the accompanying microflora were taken into account. Sodium chloride is necessary to create isoosmotic conditions in the environment that are optimal for the growth and reproduction of microorganisms. Sodium chloride inhibits the growth of concomitant gram-positive streptococci.

Sodium carbonate (soda ash), readily soluble in water to create an alkaline medium, is used to adjust the pH of the nutrient medium.

Sodium sulfite (sodium sulfite, preservative E 221) is a good reducing agent and is highly soluble in water. Sodium sulfite enters into a chemical reaction with substances formed during the fermentation of lactose by lactose-positive enterobacteria, which leads to the color of the colonies and serves as a differentiating feature.

Sodium thiosulfate and iron (II) sulfate are necessary for the detection of hydrogen sulfide production in enterobacteria. Sodium thiosulfate (sodium sulfate, sodium thiosulfuric acid, sodium hyposulfite) is a derivative of thiosulfuric acid, is a white powder with crystalline structure, transparent crystals, salty-bitter taste, and is readily soluble in water.

Iron (II) sulfate is an inorganic compound, an iron salt of sulfuric acid, a colorless, opaque substance readily soluble in water.

Carbohydrates were introduced into the formulation of the medium for the differentiation of enterobacteria based on the fermentation of lactose, glucose, sucrose and mannitol. Carbohydrates lactose and mannitol are included in the recipe A of the medium, and glucose and

sucrose are included in the recipe B of the medium. Carbohydrates are the best source of carbon for a wide range of microorganisms.

It was decided to introduce gelatin into the formulation of the medium in order to reveal the proteolytic activity in enterobacteria, in particular in representatives of the *Proteus* genus.

The dye fuchsin is essential for the differentiation of enterobacteria, which ferment mainly lactose.

As an indicator, the available and most frequently used in the formulations of differential diagnostic nutrient media, the Andrade indicator with the BP indicator were selected. The Andrade indicator contains sour fuchsin, sodium hydroxide 1N and distilled water. The combined indicator BP consists of aqueous blue and rosolic acid (aurin, peonin or red coralline).

It was decided to use antibiotics in a selective supplement to the medium as selective inhibitors of the growth of the accompanying microflora.

The shape-former, nutrient bases, growth factors, carbohydrates, minerals chosen by us will fully meet the nutritional needs of enterobacteria.

Thus, the recipe, modified by us, lactose agar has a composition consisting of two recipes A and B (Table 1).

Working with our modified nutrient medium involves the use of two-section disposable Petri dishes. In this case, you can also use reusable glass Petri dishes with a partition that divides the dish into two equal sections. Component A of modified lactose agar is poured into one section, component B is poured into the other section.

In the course of the selection of selective components, we considered antibacterial drugs effective against concomitant gram-positive and gram-negative microflora. We selected vancomycin from the glycopeptide group, linezolid from the oxazolidinone group, and telithromycin from the ketolide group.

As a result, the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of vancomycin and telithromycin for most enterobacterial cultures was 0.063 g/dm³, and the MIC of linezolid was at the level of 0.031 g/dm³. As a result, we have developed a selective additive to modified lactose agar includes vancomycin, linezolid, and telithromycin (Table 2). In this regard, it was decided to assign the following name to this additive "VLT selective additive". Dyes and indicators that are part of the culture medium can also inhibit the growth and reproduction of microorganisms. In this regard, it is necessary to select dyes and indicators in a concentration that does not have a bactericidal effect on microorganisms.

The dyes fuchsin basic, Congo red and water blue at a concentration of 0.05 to 50 g/dm³ do not affect the growth and reproduction of the enterobacteria we isolated. At the same time, most of the tested dyes and indicators at a concentration of 1.0 to 50.0 g/dm³ of the nutrient medium completely suppress or inhibit the growth and reproduction of enterobacteria.

In this regard, in the formulation of modified lactose agar, we included basic fuchsin as a dye, Andrade indicator and BP indicator. Considering that lactose-positive enterobacteria ferment lactose well, shifting, as a result of fermentation, the pH of the nutrient medium

to the acidic side in the growth zone of the colony, further recovery of the main fuchsin is observed with the manifestation of pink or red coloration of lactose-

positive colonies of microorganisms. Thus, there is a differentiation of lactose-positive and lactose-negative enterobacteria.

Table 1. Recipe of modified Drigalski Lactose Agar (AppliChem A5731,0500)

Medium components	Recipe A (g/dm ³)	Recipe B (g/dm ³)
Bacteriological agar	12.0	12.0
Fishmeal Pancreatic Hydrolyzate	5.0	5.0
Pancreatic Casein Hydrolyzate	5.0	5.0
Peptone enzymatic bacteriological with high tryptophan content	5.0	5.0
Aminopeptide	2.0	2.0
Bread yeast extract	2.0	2.0
Gelatin	0.5	0.5
Sodium chloride	5.0	5.0
Sodium carbonate	0.5	0.5
Sodium sulfite	0.5	0.5
Sodium thiosulfate	0.3	0.3
Iron (II) sulfate	1.0	10
Carbohydrate	Lactose 10.0	Glucose 10.0
Carbohydrate	Mannitol 7.0	Sucrose 7.0
Fuchsin basic	1.0	1.0
Andrade indicator with BP indicator	0.2	0.2

Table 2. Composition of the VLT selective additive

Antibacterial drugs	Concentration (g/dm ³)
Vancomycin	0.008
Linezolid	0.004
Telithromycin	0.008

Table 3. Time of cultivation of enterobacteria isolated from farm animals

Enterobacteria cultures	Cultivation time, h		
	Endo agar	Drigalski Lactose Agar (AppliChem)	Modified Drigalski Lactose Agar
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	22.82±1.12	22.56±0.74	20.34±0.85
<i>Salmonella Enteritidis</i>	28.34±3.26	26.14±1.84	20.76±1.12
<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>	26.54±2.32	27.44±1.82	22.28±0.94
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	30.48±2.64	28.16±2.32	23.14±1.22
<i>Providencia alcalifaciens</i>	33.28±3.58	29.18±2.66	21.52±1.35
<i>Hafnia alvei</i>	28.56±2.74	27.36±2.52	22.54±1.26
<i>Morganella morganii</i>	28.66±2.52	26.18±2.36	20.58±1.64
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	27.58±2.44	26.64±1.88	18.66±0.78
<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	28.26±2.66	27.12±2.52	23.75±1.88
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	25.74±2.78	27.48±2.38	22.68±1.32
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	32.58±3.42	30.22±2.14	25.72±1.34
<i>Kluyvera cryocrescens</i>	26.38±2.88	24.58±2.22	21.25±1.36
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	23.76±1.34	20.36±1.78	18.28±1.56

The effectiveness of nutrient differential diagnostic media with a selective effect was revealed according to the time required for the formation of Enterobacteriaceae colonies of 1-3 mm in diameter on the media. The cultivation time of enterobacteria on commonly used nutrient media and on modified Drigalski agar with lactose was different. The cultivation time of enterobacteria isolated from farm animals ranged from 18.28±1.56 to 33.28±3.58 h (Table 3).

The cultivation time of enterobacteria on our modified Drigalski agar with lactose ranged from 18.28±1.56 h for *Yersinia enterocolitica* to 25.72±1.34 h for *Erwinia amylovora*. The cultivation of enterobacteria on Drigalski Lactose Agar with lactose (Drigalski Lactose Agar, AppliChem) took from 20.36±1.78 h for *Yersinia enterocolitica* to 30.22±2.14 h for *Erwinia amylovora*. At the same time, almost all enterobacterial strains isolated from farm animals formed colonies on modified Drigalski agar with lactose within 24 h, with

the exception of *Erwinia amylovora* (25.72±1.34 h) The cultivation time of enterobacteria isolated from wild

animals ranged from 16.28±1.44 to 33.74±4.14 h (Table 4).

Table 4. Time of cultivation of enterobacteria isolated from wild animals

Enterobacteria cultures	Cultivation time, h		
	Endo agar	Drigalski Lactose Agar (AppliChem)	Modified Drigalski Lactose Agar
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	21.32±0.75	20.14±1.12	16.28±1.44
<i>Shigella dysenteriae</i>	28.56±2.16	25.32±1.74	23.38±1.52
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	33.42±1.72	28.33±2.08	26.76±1.88
<i>Salmonella Enteritidis</i>	25.56±1.18	23.88±1.36	20.44±1.06
<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>	27.38±1.84	27.17±2.08	23.14±1.76
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	28.44±1.57	26.12±1.88	22.86±1.12
<i>Providencia alcalifaciens</i>	28.87±2.18	27.30±1.94	18.59±2.04
<i>Hafnia alvei</i>	27.30±1.68	25.22±1.60	20.34±0.94
<i>Morganella morganii</i>	26.88±1.78	24.56±1.80	22.33±1.26
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	29.18±1.33	24.28±1.66	19.52±1.34
<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	26.08±1.82	25.88±1.06	20.55±1.38
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	27.34±1.66	25.29±1.43	20.83±1.90
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	30.73±2.06	27.12±1.83	24.68±1.78
<i>Kluyvera cryocrescens</i>	28.77±4.67	27.89±3.88	25.08±2.13
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	22.74±0.95	19.64±1.13	16.56±0.82

The cultivation time of enterobacteria on our modified Drigalski agar with lactose ranged from 16.28±1.44 h for *Escherichia coli* to 26.76±1.88 h for *Shigella flexneri*. Enterobacteria cultivation on Drigalski Lactose Agar (AppliChem) took from 19.64±1.13 h for *Yersinia enterocolitica* to 28.33±2.08 h for *Shigella flexneri*. At the same time, almost all enterobacterial strains isolated

by us from wild animals formed colonies on modified Drigalski agar with lactose within 24 h, with the exception of *Kluyvera cryocrescens* (25.08±2.13 h) and *Shigella flexneri* (26.76±1.88 h).

The cultivation time of enterobacteria isolated from zoo animals ranged from 17.06±3.78 to 36.52±2.08 h (Table 5).

Table 5. Time of cultivation of enterobacteria isolated from zoo animals

Enterobacteria cultures	Cultivation time, h		
	Endo agar	Drigalski Lactose Agar (AppliChem)	Modified Drigalski Lactose Agar
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	19.04±1.14	20.32±1.22	21.86±1.52
<i>Shigella dysenteriae</i>	30.24±1.62	27.52±1.38	25.08±1.08
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	28.15±2.32	28.08±2.16	26.43±2.76
<i>Salmonella Enteritidis</i>	25.24±1.86	22.44±2.34	25.42±2.89
<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>	25.44±2.65	28.06±2.55	26.22±1.94
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	30.28±3.65	28.18±2.38	30.66±1.24
<i>Providencia alcalifaciens</i>	29.76±1.34	36.52±2.08	31.76±2.87
<i>Hafnia alvei</i>	26.78±1.08	30.54±2.12	27.88±2.56
<i>Morganella morganii</i>	28.55±2.76	27.16±3.88	30.56±2.98
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	20.86±3.12	25.65±2.78	26.45±3.08
<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	26.89±2.67	25.98±3.18	27.12±3.56
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	26.39±3.22	28.87±2.90	25.76±2.89
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	23.34±1.72	26.30±2.15	27.88±5.32
<i>Kluyvera cryocrescens</i>	27.44±2.54	24.12±1.62	28.78±3.76
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	25.88±3.65	17.06±3.78	21.83±1.66

The cultivation time of enterobacteria on modified Drigalski agar with lactose ranged from 21.83 ± 1.66 h for *Yersinia enterocolitica* to 31.76±2.87 h for *Providencia alcalifaciens*. Enterobacteria cultivation on Drigalski Lactose Agar (AppliChem) took from 17.06±3.78 h for *Yersinia enterocolitica* to 36.52±2.08 h for *Providencia alcalifaciens*. All strains of

enterobacteria isolated from zoo animals formed colonies on modified Drigalski agar within 25-31 h, with the exception of *Escherichia coli* (21.86±1.52 h) and *Yersinia enterocolitica* (21.83±1.66 h).

The cultivation time of Enterobacteriaceae isolated from domestic animals ranged from 18.72±2.32 to 42.18±4.12 h (Table 6).

Table 6. Time of cultivation of enterobacteria, isolated from pets

Enterobacteria cultures	Cultivation time, h		
	Endo agar	Drigalski Lactose Agar (AppliChem)	Modified Drigalski Lactose Agar
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	22.32±2.08	26.46±2.58	18.72±2.32
<i>Shigella dysenteriae</i>	38.66±2.74	39.56±2.64	33.45±2.45
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	32.78±1.86	36.44±2.82	26.08±1.62
<i>Salmonella Enteritidis</i>	30.44±2.70	26.86±1.52	20.34±1.08
<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>	36.68±1.32	30.18±1.14	22.74±2.94
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	38.62±2.40	26.14±2.56	22.18±1.06
<i>Providencia alcalifaciens</i>	38.08±3.44	35.74±3.84	26.74±1.10
<i>Hafnia alvei</i>	30.04±2.64	27.44±3.88	24.16±1.22
<i>Morganella morganii</i>	29.89±3.18	25.88±4.68	25.90±3.70
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	26.12±2.78	28.70±1.44	23.80±1.68
<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	30.96±3.74	28.52±3.56	25.08±1.73
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	33.94±2.18	30.18±3.34	20.56±1.96
<i>Erwinia amylovora</i>	38.08±3.64	37.12±3.48	24.62±2.06
<i>Kluyvera cryocrescens</i>	42.18±4.12	38.68±3.08	26.50±2.46
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	36.26±2.18	30.48±2.82	21.80±1.42

The cultivation time of enterobacteria on modified Drigalski agar with lactose ranged from 18.72±2.32 h for *Escherichia coli* to 33.45±2.45 h for *Shigella dysenteriae*. Cultivation of enterobacteria on Drigalski Lactose Agar (AppliChem) took from 25.88±4.68 h for *Morganella morganii* to 39.56±2.64 h for *Shigella dysenteriae*. Most enterobacterial strains isolated from domestic animals formed colonies on modified Drigalski agar within 18-27 h, with the exception of *Shigella dysenteriae* (33.45±2.45 h).

4 Conclusion

130 strains of enterobacteria were isolated from farm animals, with the total number of enterobacteria of $1.16 \times 10^6 \pm 1.32$ per 1 g of feces. In wild animals, 35 strains of enterobacteria were isolated, with the total number of enterobacteria of $1.15 \times 10^6 \pm 1.18$ in 1 g of feces. 23 strains of enterobacteria were isolated from zoo animals with the total number of enterobacteria of $1.59 \times 10^6 \pm 1.46$ per 1 g of feces. 65 strains of enterobacteria were isolated from domestic animals, with the total number of enterobacteria of $1.53 \times 10^6 \pm 1.32$ per 1 g of feces.

The species composition of enterobacteria isolated from various animal species consisted of the following representatives of the Enterobacteriaceae family: *Escherichia*, *Shigella*, *Salmonella*, *Klebsiella*, *Proteus*, *Providencia*, *Hafnia*, *Morganella*, *Enterobacter*, *Citrobacter*, *Serratia*, *Erwinia*, *Kluyvera*, *Yersinia*. The proportion of pathogenic enterobacteria in animals was not significant: *Salmonella Enteritidis* (0.012-0.24%), *Shigella dysenteriae* and *Shigella flexneri* (0.003-0.01%), *Klebsiella oxytoca* (2.44-3.12%), *Yersinia enterocolitica* (0.04-0.12%). At the same time, shigella were not isolated from farm animals.

The ability to inactivate the factors of natural resistance of the macroorganism was more pronounced in pathogenic enterobacteria. Representatives of *Salmonella Enteritidis*, *Shigella dysenteriae* and

Shigella flexneri, *Klebsiella oxytoca* and *Yersinia enterocolitica* showed the highest indicators of antilysozyme and anticarnosine activity, the ability to biofilm formation.

The highest antimicrobial activity against all the enterobacteria we isolated was exhibited by carbenicillin from the group of carboxypenicillins and piperacillin from the group of ureidopenicillins, kanamycin, amikacin and gentamicin, cefepime from the group of cephalosporins of the IV generation, tetracycline, doxycycline, chloramphenicol, nalidixic acid, trimethoprim. Enterobacteria were highly resistant to benzylpenicillin from the group of natural penicillins, to streptomycin, cephalothin from the group of 1st generation cephalosporins, to polymyxin B, to ofloxacin (tarivid) and metronidazole.

Microbiological dyes fuchsin basic, Congo red and water blue at a concentration of 0.05 to 50 g/dm³, rosolic acid at a concentration of 0.05 to 1.0 g/dm³ did not affect the growth and reproduction of the enterobacteria we isolated. The dyes methyl red, methyl orange, bromcresol purple, phenol red, crystal violet, brilliant green, bromothymol blue, and gentian violet at a concentration of 0.1 g/dm³ of the nutrient medium inhibited the growth and reproduction of enterobacteria. Andrade indicator at a concentration of 0.1 g/dm³ had no effect on the growth and reproduction of enterobacteria. The BP indicator, consisting of aqueous blue and rosolic acid, at a concentration of 0.05 to 1. g/dm³ did not affect the growth and reproduction of enterobacteria.

The formulation of the modified nutrient differential diagnostic medium Drigalski agar with lactose had the following composition (g/dm³): bacteriological agar – 12.0, pancreatic hydrolyzate of fishmeal – 5.0, pancreatic hydrolyzate of casein – 5.0, enzymatic bacteriological peptone with a high content of tryptophan – 5.0, aminopeptide 2.0, bread yeast extract – 2.0, gelatin – 0.5, sodium chloride – 5.0, sodium carbonate – 0.5, sodium sulfite – 0.5, sodium thiosulfate – 0.3, iron (II) sulfate – 1.0, basic fuchsin –

1.0, Andrade indicator with BP indicator – 0.2. The medium was prepared according to recipe A and B. Recipe A contained 10.0 g/dm³ of lactose and 7.0 g/dm³ of mannitol and recipe B contained 10.0 g/dm³ of glucose and 7.0 g/dm³ of sucrose.

The composition of the developed selective additive to modified Drigalski agar with lactose contained antibiotics vancomycin and telithromycin at a dose of 0.008 g/dm³, 0.004 g/dm³ of linezolid.

The cultivation time of enterobacteria isolated from various animal species on the most commonly used differential diagnostic media ranged from 16.28±1.44 to 42.18±4.12 h. Enterobacteria isolated from farm and wild animals formed colonies on modified Drigalski agar with lactose within 24 h, while enterobacteria isolated from zoo animals formed colonies within 25-31 hours. Enterobacteriaceae isolated from domestic animals formed colonies on modified agar within 18-27 hours. As a result, the modified Drigalski agar with lactose and a selective additive allowed reducing the cultivation time of enterobacteria isolated from various animal species.

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