



# ACRIDINE ORANGE STAIN

- For in vitro use only -

Catalogue No. SA16

Our Acridine Orange Stain is used as a fluorescent staining agent to detect the presence of bacteria in blood cultures and other bodily fluids.

Acridine orange is a fluorochrome dye that can intercalate into nucleic acid. At a low pH under UV light, bacterial and fungal nucleic acid fluoresces orange whereas background mammalian nucleic acid fluoresces green. This rapid fluorescent staining procedure has been reported to be more sensitive than the Gram staining procedure in the detection of microorganisms in blood cultures, cerebral spinal fluid and buffy coat preparations. Acridine orange stain can also aid in the detection of *Acanthamoeba* infections, infectious keratitis, *Helicobacter pylori* gastritis, and cell wall deficient-bacteria such as *Mycoplasma*.

## Formulation per Litre

Acridine Orange ..... 100 mg  
Acetate Buffer ..... 1000 mL

pH 4.0 ± 0.2

## Recommended Procedure

1. The prepared slide is fixed in methanol and air-dried.
2. Flood the slide with Acridine Orange Stain. Allow the stain to sit on the slide for 2 minutes.
3. Rinse the slide with tap water and air dry.
4. Examine under UV light at 100x to 1000x magnification.

## Interpretation of Results

Bacteria and fungi will fluoresce bright orange against a green-fluorescing or dark background. Mammalian cells will fluoresce green if present.

## Quality Control

After checking for correct pH, colour, depth, and sterility, the following organisms are used to determine the growth performance of the completed medium.

| Organism                              | Expected Results    |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Escherichia coli</i><br>ATCC 25922 | Orange fluorescence |

## Storage and Shelf Life

Our Acridine Orange Stain should be stored in the upright position at room temperature. Under these conditions this medium has a shelf life of 52 weeks from the date of manufacture.

## Ordering Information

| Cat#     | Description                  | Format |
|----------|------------------------------|--------|
| SA16-250 | Acridine Orange Stain 250-mL | Each   |

## References

1. Lauer BA, Reller LB, Mirrett S. Comparison of acridine orange and Grams stains for detection of microorganisms in cerebral spinal fluid and other clinical specimen. *J Clin Microbiol* 1981; 14:201-5
2. Mirrett S, Lauer BA, Miller GA, Reller LB. Comparison of acridine orange, methylene blue, and Gram stains for blood cultures. *J Clin Microbiol* 1982; 14:562-6.
3. Hanes VE, Lucia HL. Acridine orange as a screen for organisms in clinical specimens and comparison with Gram's stain. *Arch Pathol Lab Med* 1988; 112:529-32.

4. Garcia LS, Bruckner DA. Diagnostic medical parasitology. New York: Elsevier, 1988.
5. Groden LR, Rodniti J, Brinser JH, Genvert GI. Acridine orange and Gram stains in infectious keratitis. *Cornea* 1990; 9:122-4.
6. Gay F, Traore B, Zanoni J, Danis M, Fribourg-Blanc A. Direct acridine orange fluorescence examination of blood slides compared to current techniques for malaria diagnosis. *Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg* 1996; 90:516-8.
7. Forbes BA, Sahm DF, Weissfeld AS. Bailey and Scott's diagnostic microbiology. 10th ed. St. Louis: Mosby, 1998.
8. Ciancaglini E, Fazii P, Sforza GR. The use of differential fluorescent staining method to detect bacteriuria. *Clin Lab* 2005; 50:685-8.

Original: January 2004

Revised / Revisited: October 2014