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Amoeba Culture Medium

Catalogue Code: CM1

Amoeba Culture Medium comprises a sterile chemically defined mineral salts solution plus a vial of rice grains. It is desirable to keep any unused medium in the refrigerator at 6-8°C for up to 4 weeks after opening in order to minimize bacterial/fungal contamination which may occur during sub-culturing.

CULTURE MEDIUM

Pour 20-25 ml of the Amoeba Culture Medium into a very clean glass petri dish and add 3-4 grains of uncooked rice. Using a pasteur pipette, collect amoeba from the bottom of your live amoeba culture, gently rinsing the container out with some of the Amoeba Culture Medium solution in order to collect any specimens which may be adhering to the walls or bottom of the vial. Add the amoeba to the solution in the petri dish, replace the lid and leave the dish undisturbed in a cupboard at room temperature for 8-12 weeks, examining every 2-3 weeks. The amoeba will grow within the fungal hyphae which develop around the rice grains and after 7-8 weeks, a heavy growth of the organisms should be present. Sub-culturing using the same technique is recommended every 8-10 weeks.

Note: (1) Other organisms apart from amoebas will also be present in your amoeba culture, such as chilomonas. Some of these comprise food organisms for the amoeba and whilst it is important that teachers should point out the correct identity of the amoeba to the students, the intruders are not harming the amoebas and in fact form part of their basic food supply.

(2) You can expect approximately 20-30% of the subcultures to yield further amoeba growth at the end of the 12 week period.

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