

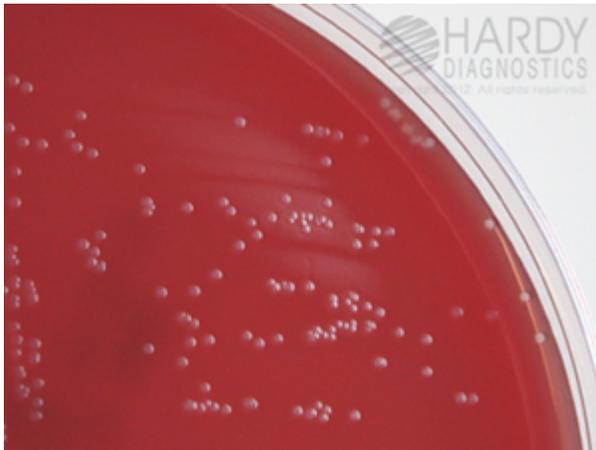
PRESS RELEASE

See attached high resolution photo.

For immediate release:

New Culture Medium Aids in Diagnosis of Sore Throat

***Arcanobacterium Selective Agar improves recovery of
non-streptococcal bacteria that cause pharyngitis!***



***Arcanobacterium haemolyticum* growing on Arcanobacterium Selective Agar**
Photo by Daniel Berger

Santa Maria, California, August 16 2012

Hardy Diagnostics, an ISO certified biomedical firm, is pleased to announce the release of Arcanobacterium Selective Agar, a selective medium for the isolation of *Arcanobacterium haemolyticum*, especially from respiratory specimens.

Arcanobacterium haemolyticum is a beta-hemolytic Gram-positive, pleomorphic, facultative anaerobic rod that has been implicated as an etiologic agent of non-



streptococcal pharyngitis, especially in adolescents and young adults. It has also been described as a cause of skin and wound infections, osteomyelitis, sepsis, central nervous system infections, endocarditis, cellulitis, sinusitis, meningitis, pharyngotonsillitis, peritonsillar abscesses, and systemic infections in all age groups.

Since the symptoms of *A. haemolyticum* pharyngitis may be confused with those of group A streptococci (GAS), diphtheria and drug allergies, it is important to screen and test for this organism appropriately, especially in instances when rapid tests or culture are negative for GAS. It is estimated that the number of throat infections caused by *A. haemolyticum* ranges from 5 to 13% compared to those caused by group A streptococci; this may be an underestimate since *A. haemolyticum* is often overlooked.

A. haemolyticum typically grows slowly and exhibits less well defined beta-hemolysis on sheep blood agar and can be easily masked by commensal throat flora or interpreted as an oral contaminant. The use of a selective medium that effectively inhibits *S. pyogenes*, as well as commensal respiratory organisms, may significantly increase the detection rate of *A. haemolyticum*.

Selective agents have been added to Arcanobacterium Selective Agar to inhibit *Streptococcus pyogenes* and normal oral flora without affecting the growth of *Arcanobacterium haemolyticum*.

Available as a mono or bi-plate. The bi-plate includes Group A Beta Strep Agar.

ABOUT HARDY DIAGNOSTICS

Hardy Diagnostics is an FDA licensed and ISO 13485 certified manufacturer of medical devices for microbiological procedures in both clinical and industrial laboratories. The company produces over 3,500 products for the culture and identification of bacteria and fungi from its two manufacturing facilities in California and Ohio. Currently over 8,000 laboratories are serviced by Hardy Diagnostics throughout the nation.

The company was founded in 1980 by Jay Hardy, a Clinical Laboratory Scientist from Santa Barbara, CA. Today, Hardy Diagnostics maintains eight distribution centers throughout the U.S. and exports products to over 30 foreign distributors.

The company's mission is to partner with its laboratory customers to prevent and diagnose disease. For more information, visit www.HardyDiagnostics.com.



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