

ATCC medium: 2041 Carnation leaf agar

Carnation leaves, dried (see below)
Water agar.....20.0 g
Distilled water.....1.0 L

Carnation leaf preparation:

Harvest young carnation leaves, *Dianthus caryophyllus*, from actively growing disbudded plants that are free from pesticide residues. Cut the leaves into pieces approximately 5 mm square and dry them in an oven at 40 to 55C for 2 hours.

(When dry, the leaves should be green and crisp. Loss of pigmentation indicates that the drying temperature was too high.)

Place the leaf pieces in aluminum canisters 5 cm deep and 9 cm in diameter and sterilize with 2.5 megarads of gamma irradiation from a cesium-135 source for 4 days.

Dissolve agar in water and autoclave at 121C for 15 minutes; cool to 45C and dispense into Petri dishes or culture tubes. Float several sterile leaf pieces on each agar surface.

Leave medium at room temperature for 3 to 4 days before use to check for growth of possible contaminants on the leaf pieces.