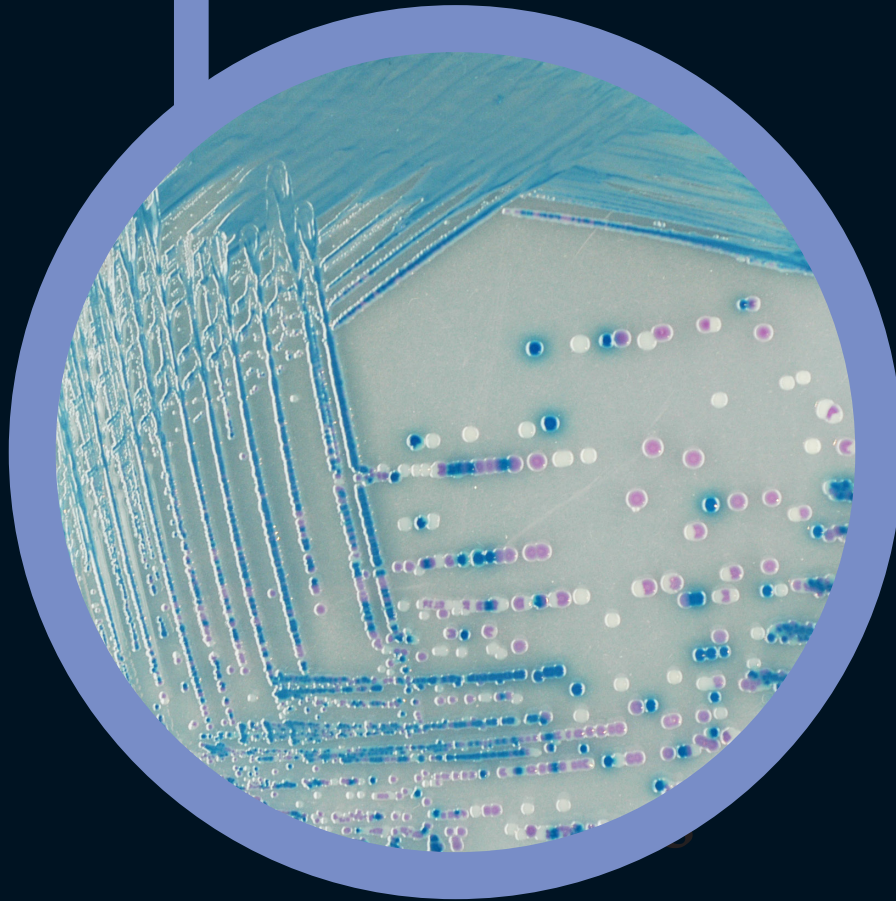


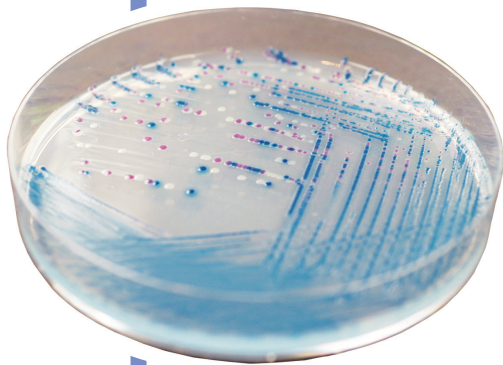
● Colorex™  
O157



**For the selective isolation and differentiation  
of *E. coli* O157**

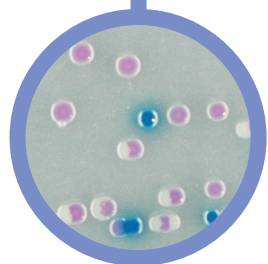
**Colorex™**

Ready to use plates made with the original CHROMagar™ powder base



### Plate Reading

- *E. coli* O157  
→ mauve
- Other bacteria  
→ steel blue, colourless or inhibited



## For the selective isolation and differentiation of *E. coli* O157 in food samples

### Background

*Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) are bacteria commonly found in the gut of humans and warm-blooded animals. Most strains of *E. coli* are harmless. Some strains, however, such as Verocytotoxigenic *E. coli* (VTEC), also known as Shigatoxigenic *E. coli* (STEC) can cause severe foodborne diseases. Enterohaemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC) are a subset of VTEC, which can cause severe disease in humans such as Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (HUS). VTEC have been isolated from the gut contents of many animals, including cattle and sheep. VTEC are mainly transmitted to humans primarily through consumption of contaminated foods, but can also be transmitted through handling animals carrying these bacteria. Symptoms appearing a few hours and up to 10 days after ingestion are: stomach cramps, often bloody diarrhoea, vomiting, urinary tract infections, fever, and they can lead to fatal complications such as HUS. This infection is especially severe in the young and the elderly.

The *E. coli* serotype O157:H7 or its non-motile variant O157:H- is the most common VTEC serotype in relation to public health. Its significance was recognized in 1982, following two outbreaks in the USA. Since then, more than 180 outbreaks have been reported worldwide, with an estimated W.H.O figure of 70,000 infections per year.

### Medium Performance

#### 1 EASIER DETECTION COMPARED TO SMAC

*E. coli* O157 is detected by a characteristic mauve colour after only 24 h of incubation, while most other *E. coli* are blue.

The conventional medium for the detection of *E. coli* O157 is Sorbitol MacConkey (SMAC) Agar, which has very poor specificity, thus exhibiting an abundance of false positives (*Proteus*, *E. hermannii*, etc.). Sorbitol Mac Conkey Agar is also difficult to read because there is a change of colouration in the case of prolonged incubation.

#### 2 HIGH SENSITIVITY

*E. coli* O157 → 98 %\*

\*Sensitivity from scientific study: K.A. Bettelheim, 1998. Reliability of CHROMagar™ O157 for the detection of enterohaemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC) O157 but not EHEC belonging to other serogroups. J.Appl.Microbiol.85:425-428.

#### 3 POLYVALENCE

This medium can also be used with clinical specimens.

### Medium Description

Powder Base	Total .....	29.2 g/L
	Agar .....	15.0
Usual Samples	Peptone and Yeast extract .....	13.0
	Chromogenic mix .....	1.2
Procedure	Storage at 15/30 °C - pH: 6.9 ± 0.2	
	Shelf Life .....	3 years
	Usual Samples	food, meat trimmings, animal or human faecal samples
	Procedure	Direct streaking or after an appropriate enrichment step of the sample. Incubation 24 h at 37 °C.