The total number of strains tested was 58.

APPEARANCES OF COLONIES ON EOSIN-METHYLENE BLUE

After overnight (18-24 hour) incubation, each plate was examined by direct and transmitted illumination, and the colonial appearances were classified as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCTC Number</th>
<th>Strain</th>
<th>NCTC Number</th>
<th>Strain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8172</td>
<td>Kl. aerogenes</td>
<td>5050</td>
<td>Kl. ozaenae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9633</td>
<td>Kl. pneumoniae</td>
<td>5051</td>
<td>Kl. ozaenae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5046</td>
<td>Kl. rhinoscleroti</td>
<td>5052</td>
<td>Kl. ozaenae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9496</td>
<td>Kl. edwardii var.</td>
<td>5054</td>
<td>Kl. edwardii var.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These results are also found in table I.

Discussion

It can be seen from table I that the appearances on eosin-methylene blue agar correlate with the biochemical classification. Thus, *Klebsiella aerogenes* was rapidly distinguished from the other members of the genus. It is also seen that *Klebsiella pneumoniae* can be rapidly identified, but that the remaining members of the genus all have the same colonial appearance on eosin-methylene blue agar. Its use is thus limited to screening Klebsiella and rapidly eliminating *Klebsiella aerogenes* from consideration in possible cases of Friedlander’s pneumonia.

It is suggested that eosin-methylene blue could be used in the routine media inoculated for cultural diagnosis of chest infections, in which case any Klebsiella encountered would be quickly found to be *Klebsiella aerogenes* or not. A presumptive report could then be issued after only 18 to 24 hours. The inoculation of Donovan’s medium from one of the colonies would confirm the presence of a Klebsiella over the next 18-24 hours, thus allowing a final report to be issued. The only organism likely to produce a similar appearance to *Klebsiella aerogenes* on eosin-methylene blue agar is *Escherichia coli*; this would be detected by the Donovan’s medium, but the significance of the presumptive report would remain unaltered.

Final identification of a pathogenic member of the genus, i.e., Friedlander’s bacillus, would still be done by biochemical means, but the screening procedure should reduce this to a minimum.

References


Book review


The two latest monographs from IARC on the evaluation of carcinogenic risks of chemicals to man follows the format of their predecessors. They provide excellent summaries of current knowledge and the volume which includes the aromatic amines will be of particular value. Some of the contemporary problems in assessing carcinogenic and mutagenic mechanisms (and their interrelationship) are clearly laid out in the WHO booklet.

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Notice

Unwanted ACP Broadsheets

ACP Broadsheets are required to send to pathologists working overseas who have difficulty in obtaining these for themselves due to currency restrictions. Any member who does not require his broadsheets is asked to send them to the Publications Secretary, Association of Clinical Pathologists, c/o The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6AP. A regular commitment to do this would be very valuable.