SALMONELLA ANTISERA
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INTRODUCTION

Background
*Salmonella* is a leading cause of food poisoning and typhoid fever throughout the world. The increased occurrence of *Salmonella* infections within the last decade has accentuated the need for serotyping of *Salmonella* as a base for proper diagnosis, identification of sources of infection and food control.

*Salmonella* is a Gram-negative, rod-shaped bacteria. The genus consists of more than 2500 different serotypes described in the Kauffmann-White scheme\(^1\). Determination of O (somatic) and H (flagellar) antigens by using specific antisera enables identification of the antigen combinations and thus differentiation of the many serotypes.

For more than 70 years Statens Serum Institut (SSI) has been engaged in the development of the *Salmonella* typing system and in the production of diagnostic *Salmonella* antisera. SSI Diagnostica offers the full product range of *Salmonella* antisera for determination of all serotypes described in the Kauffmann-White Scheme.

Description
The SSI *Salmonella* antisera are intended for serological confirmation and serotyping of *Salmonella*. Our product range includes more than 200 different *Salmonella* antisera, which are divided into O group pool, O group, O factor, H phase pool, H phase, H factor, H:R-phase and H phase inversion antisera. All antisera for slide agglutination are delivered in 3 mL bottles sufficient for 150 tests. Our antisera for serological confirmation and our O group pool and H phase pool antisera are also delivered in 1 mL bottles sufficient for 50 tests.

The diagnostic O and H antisera are polyclonal and raised by immunisation of rabbits. The Vi antibody is monoclono nal and concentrated from a hybridoma culture supernatant.

Advantages of SSI® *Salmonella* antisera:
- Intended for slide agglutination
- Only 20 µL antiserum is used per test
- The result is read within 10 seconds
- Our antisera are carefully controlled and free of any known cross-reactions
- High titer antiserum is available on request

SSI Diagnostica also offers you the H antisera for phase inversion which are high titered and intended for use in swarm agar plates. These antisera are delivered in 3 mL bottles sufficient for 30 tests.

Assortment
- Antisera for serological confirmation
- More than 200 different antisera (O group pool, O group, O factor, H phase pool, H phase, H factor, H:R-phase and H phase inversion sera) for partial or full serotyping
- Sero-Quick Group kit for serotyping to the serogroup level
- Sero-Quick ID kit for serotyping of *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium*
METHODS

Principle of Serotyping

Antigen-antibody complexes are formed (agglutination) when a bacterial culture is mixed with a specific antiserum directed against bacterial surface components. The complexes are usually visible to the naked eye which allows for easy determination of O and H antigens by slide agglutination. Some cultures are monophasic and may be directly H typed, whereas the second phase in a diphasic culture is determined after phase inversion (the Svend Gard method). After full serotyping of the *Salmonella* culture the name of the serotype can be determined by using the Kauffmann-White Scheme. Slide agglutination and phase inversion is described on the next two pages.

Slide Agglutination

The slide agglutination test is done on a glass slide and read with the naked eye in front of a light source against a black background. *Salmonella* antisera from SSI Diagnostica have a quick reaction time and reaction can be read within 10 seconds.

**Procedure**
1. Add a small drop of antiserum (approx. 20 µL) on a glass slide and mix it with the *Salmonella* culture.
2. Tilt the slide for 5 - 10 seconds.
3. A positive reaction is seen as visible agglutination, whereas a negative reaction is seen as homogeneous milky turbidity (Figure 1).

![Figure 1](image.png)

*Figure 1.* Sample A is a positive reaction and sample B is a negative reaction.

Phase Inversion

**Description**

Many *Salmonella* serotypes are diphasic which means that they can appear in two phases. However, a *Salmonella* bacterium expresses only one phase at a time, e.g. *S. Typhimurium* $[1,4,[5],12:i:1,2]$ either expresses the phase 1 antigen H:i or the phase 2 antigens H:1,2. In a *Salmonella* culture there is usually only one dominating phase which is called phase 1 and this phase can be determined on swarm agar without antiserum. Phase 2 is determined by adding the phase 1 corresponding phase inversion antiserum to the swarm agar which allows the bacteria that express the phase 2 H antigens to swarm.
**METHODS**

**Swarm agar**

Swarm agar (Schwörmagar) is a soft nutrient-rich medium that allows motile *Salmonella* to swarm. The medium is used with or without phase inversion antiserum in order to determine the H-phases of *Salmonella* (the Sven Gard method). SSI Diagnostica swarm agar can be purchased in:

- 200 mL bottles [Schwörmagar art. no. 29565]
- 60 mL bottles [Schwörmagar, art. no. 82491]

**Procedure**

**Day 1**
- Pour 10 mL swarm agar into a petri dish (6 cm in diameter).
- Leave the petri dish on a levelled table to solidify.
- Inoculate the plate in the centre with a loop full of *Salmonella* culture without breaking the surface of the medium, and incubate the plate on a levelled table at 37 °C overnight.

**Day 2**
- The phase 1 H antigens are determined by doing slide agglutinations with culture from the periphery of the swarm.
- Apply 2 drops of phase inversion antiserum against the phase 1 H antigens to a petri dish and mix with 10 mL swarm agar (see Figure 2).
- When the swarm agar has solidified, inoculate the plate and leave it at 37 °C overnight as described above.

**Day 3**
- The phase 2 H antigens are determined by doing slide agglutination with culture from the periphery of the swarm.

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**Figure 2 A.** Add phase inversion antiserum

**B.** Add swarm agar

**C.** Mix well
FULL SEROTYPING

The following two flowcharts show the steps in a full serotyping of a *Salmonella* culture. The first flowchart shows the procedure in general whereas the second flowchart describes all steps in the serotyping of *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Virchow*, respectively.

Some *Salmonella* O antisera will agglutinate with other bacteria, e.g. *Citrobacter* spp., *Proteus* spp. or *Shigella* spp. as their O antigens can be very similar to the *Salmonella* O antigens. It is therefore crucial to confirm the identification of the *Salmonella* genus with for example a biochemical test, before the serotyping is initiated.

**Salmonella Serotyping Flowchart**

1. **Biochemical confirmation**
2. **Poly A-S+Vi**
   - Poly 42-67
3. **O group pool antisera**
   - OMA ➔ OMG
4. **O group antisera**
   - O factor antisera
5. **H phase pool antisera**
   - HMA ➔ HMG
6. **H phase antisera**
   - H factor antisera
7. **Phase inversion antisera**
8. **H phase pool antisera**
   - HMA ➔ HMG
9. **H phase antisera**
   - H factor antisera
10. **Serotype identified in the Kauffmann-White scheme**

**Confirmation**

**O antigen determination**

**1st Phase**

**H antigen determination**

**2nd Phase**

**Nomenclature determination**
Full Serotyping of S. Enteritidis and S. Virchow

**Serotype: Salmonella Enteritidis** 1,9,12:g,m-  
- **Poly A-S+Vi:** Positive
  - **OMA: Positive**
  - Test against O group antisera: 0.2, 0.4, 0.9, 0.3, 10, 15, 0.1, 13, and 0.21. If 0.9 positive test against 0.12, 0.27, and 0.46.
  - 0:9 and 0:12 positive
    - **HMB positive**
      - Test against HMA, HMB, HMC, HMD, HME, HMF and HMG
      - H:G and H:m positive
        - Phase inversion antisera SG6
      - No swarm - the strain is monophasic

**Serotype: Salmonella Virchow** 6,7,14:r:1,2  
- **Poly A-S+Vi:** Positive
  - **OMB: Positive**
  - Test against O group antisera: 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.13, 0.22, 0.23, 0.24, and 0.25. If 0.6, 0.7, and 0.8 positive test against 0.14.
  - 0:6,7,8; 0:6,14,24,25; 0.6, and 0.7 positive
    - **HMC positive**
      - Culture on swarm agar
      - Test against HMA, HMB, HMC, HMD, HME, HMF and HMG
      - H:G and H:m positive
        - Test against the H phase pool antisera H:L and H:Z4.
    - **HMD positive**
      - Culture on swarm agar
      - Test against HMA, HMB, HMC, HMD, HME, HMF and HMG
      - H:2 positive
        - If the first phase expressed is H:1,2 use SG6 for phase inversion and identify the second phase
SSI Diagnostica offers a Salmonella O grouping kit and a Salmonella ID kit. The Salmonella group kit is used to determine the most common Salmonella groups whereas the Salmonella ID kit is used to identify the two most commonly occurring Salmonella serotypes, S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium. Both kits are mainly used in routine laboratories.

Available products

- Article No. 60898: Salmonella Sero-Quick Group kit, 1 box
- Article No. 62984: Salmonella Sero-Quick ID kit, 1 box
SALMONELLA ANTISERA KITS

Sero-Quick Group Kit
For quick serogrouping of Salmonella

Description
The Salmonella Sero-Quick Group kit consists of eight antisera and is a screening kit for identifying Salmonella isolates to the serogroup level. The kit includes antisera against the most common serogroups of Salmonella, serogroup A-G and the capsule antigen Vi. Antisera are delivered in bottles containing ready to use dilutions and the volumes of the antisera are differentiated according to common use. The antisera can be renewed separately. Around 100 tests can be performed with a Salmonella Sero-Quick Group kit.

Background
Salmonella serogrouping can be used as a surveillance tool to identify Salmonella serogroups, either as preliminary grouping, when full serotyping can be performed by a Human or Veterinary Reference Centre or in the food industry as a screening technique for Salmonella. The most common serogroups are B (S. Typhimurium) and D, (S. Enteritidis). Vi and serogroup A are not common, but clinically important because they are expressed by S. Typhi and S. Paratyphi respectively.

Application
The Salmonella Sero-Quick Group kit is intended for slide agglutination of Salmonella cultures after overnight growth on suitable culture medium, e.g. beef extract agar. We recommend the procedure described in Figure 3.

Table: Designation of O groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serogroup</th>
<th>Antigen present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>0.7 or 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>0.9 or 0.9,46 or 0.9,46,27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0.3,10 or 0.1,3,19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3. Serogrouping with Salmonella Sero-Quick
Salmonella Antiserum Kits

Sero-Quick ID Kit
For quick identification of S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium

Description
The Salmonella Sero-Quick ID kit consists of eight antisera, and is the minimum of antisera needed for identification of S. Enteritidis (1,9,12:g,m:-) and S. Typhimurium (1,4,[5],12:i:1,2). The antisera are delivered in bottles containing ready to use dilutions and can be renewed separately. Around 100 tests can be performed with the Sero-Quick ID kit.

Background
S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium are the most common serotypes and constitute 81 % of all Salmonella strains isolated from humans\(^3\). It is therefore highly important to be able to serotype these strains quickly.

Application
The eight antisera are used as indicated in Figure 4. Start using the O antisera and subsequently the H antisera and the phase inversion antisera. The H:q,s,t,p,u antiserum is used to exclude that the antigens H:s, H:t and H:q do not combine with antigen combination H:q,m in serogroup O:9 [D1].

The serotyping may be expanded to identify additional serotypes, and SSI Diagnostica offers assistance in composing a panel covering the specific needs of our customers.

Limitations
S. Hilligdon [9,46:g,m:-] can not be distinguished from S. Enteritidis using this kit since both serotypes will be positive in 0:9 and H:m and negative in H:q,s,t,p,u. The prevalence of S. Hilligdon is however very low.

Figure 4
Serotyping of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium.

n.p. = not performed
a = SG2 is used for phase inversion of strains initially expressing H:i
b = SG6 is used for phase inversion of strains initially expressing H:1,2
GENERAL INFORMATION

Quality
The quality system of antisera production is certified according to DS/EN ISO 13485 and DS/EN 9001. The antisera are CE labelled.

Support
The Danish Salmonella Reference Centre provides professional assistance with serotyping of Salmonella strains. Please enquire about the charges related to this service.

Storage and Shelf Life
The antisera should be kept in a dark place at 2 - 8 °C. Expiry date is minimum 2 years from date of delivery.

References

Ordering and Information
For ordering please visit our web shop at shop.ssi.dk or contact one of our distributors listed on www.ssi.dk/ssidiagnostica.
For other inquiries please contact:

Statens Serum Institut
SSI Diagnostica
2 Herredsvejen
3400 Hillerød
Denmark
T  +45 4829 9178
F  +45 4829 9179
@  ssidiagnostica@ssi.dk
w  www.ssi.dk/ssidiagnostica