

Unusual properties of Toxoplasma gondii produced in Serum-free tissue cultures

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In vitro cultivation of T. g. under-serum-free conditions.

Toxoplasma gondii, strain BK, has been cultured in HEp-2 cells in a ready-to-use, serum-free, low-protein culture medium (Ventrex PC-1) for the first time. Surprisingly, the parasite trophozoites grow more rapidly compared to conventional, Serum-enriched tissue culture and are of considerably larger size in PC-1 medium too. Moreover, lytic antigens produced by these trophozoites are quite different compared to conventionally raised trophozoites, they are much less contaminated with environmental proteins. Thus, in vitro cultivation of Toxoplasma in PC-1 medium offers a convenient source of highly pure and large trophozoites as antigens for different serotests.