

Mating Type Determination

1. A small agar plug with mycelium of the unknown sample is placed on each of two rye A plates. On one plate, an agar plug with mycelium of a known A1 strain (usually 1306) is placed on the side of the sample. On the other plate, the same thing is done using a known A2 strain (usually 6636).
2. After about 5-10 days, observe for the presence of oospores. This is done most easily by cutting out a plug from the plate, placing it on a glass slide, covering with a cover slip, and pressing down gently with your finger (be careful not to break the cover slip).
3. If oospores are seen on the plate with the known A1 but not on the plate with the known A2, the sample is A2. If the opposite is seen, the sample is A1.
4. If you see oospores on both plates, check the original stock plate of the strain. Rare strains are self-fertile, making oospores in single culture.