If cells are labelled for 1 h with a mixture of ^{3}H-uridine and ^{14}C-uracil to final concentrations of 1 μCi/ml and 0.1 μCi/ml respectively, the incorporation into RNA can be measured as described in Methods. The Table shows results from a typical experiment using mouse L cells. Isolation of total cellular DNA followed by analytical isopycnic CsCl gradient centrifugation (data not shown) confirmed the presence of mycoplasma DNA (density approx. 1.68 g/ml). Furthermore, treatment of mycoplasma-infected cells with kanamycin (200 μg/ml) for 7 days suppressed the infection but did not eliminate it; this suggests that incorporation of ^{14}C-uracil indicates the presence of some cell culture contamination.

Since the medium used (modified 199) contains uracil (2.68 μ*M*) but nor uridine, its was necessary to check if the addition of cold uridine (to 3 μ*M* and 30 μ*M*) had any effect on either ^{3}H-uridine or ^{14}C-uracil incorporation. As expected, ^{3}H-uridine incorporation was decreased by addition of cold uridine, but ^{14}C-uracil incorporation was unaffected. Also using a meduim (e.g. F10) lacking uracil slightly increased ^{14}C-uracil incorporation in mycoplasma-infected cells.

So far this method has been successfully applied to the following cell types: to human lymphocyte suspension cultures; to monolayer cultures – human HEP, D98/AH2 and FLA cells, mouse L and 3T3 cells, kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ordii*) cells, marsupial (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*) cells and *Xenopus* kidney cells; and to several human-mouse somatic hybrid cells. Obviously this method will also detect other cell culture contaminants (e.g. viruses) if they produce enzymes that utilize uracil. Mycoplasmas, however, are the most common and troublesome cell culture contaminants.

Summary. A simple, rapid and sensitive double radioisotopic method is described for the detection of mycoplasma infection in tissue culture cell lines.

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PRAEMIA

Prize 'Biochemical Analysis'

The prize of DM 10000.– is donated from Boehringer, Mannheim, and is awarded every 2 years at the conference 'Biochemical Analytic' in Munich, Germany, for outstanding work in the field of biochemical instrumentation and analysis. The donation will take place during the 1976 conference between the 9th and 13th of April. One or several papers concerning one theme, either published or accepted for publication between October 1st 1973 and September 30th 1975, may be sent in triplicate before November 15th 1975 to: Prof. Dr. Ivar Trautschold, secretary of the prize 'Biochemical Analysis', Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Karl-Wiechert-Allee 9, D–3000 Hannover-Kleefeld, Germany.

CONGRESSUS

Canada

International Symposium on Flammability and Fire Retardants

in Toronto, 6–7 May 1976

Papers should deal with flammability and fire retardancy of polyurethanes, plastics, textiles and fabrics, paints and coatings, testing procedures and marketing. Papers are now being solicited and tentative titles should be sent by October 15, 1975 to: Vijay Mohan Bhatnagar, Editor, Advances in Fire Retardands, 209 Dover Road, Cornwall, Ontario, Canada K6J 1T7.

Italy

International Symposium on Thrombosis and Urokinase

in Roma, 30 October–1 November 1975

The Symposium is organized by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità and the chairmen are: Prof. Sol Sherry of Philadelphia, USA, and Prof. R. Paoletti of Milano, Italy. Main topics: Physiopathology of thrombosis. Chemical, biochemical and pharmacological aspects of urokinase. Effects of urokinase on thrombosis. Clinical applications of urokinase.

Registration fee will be US Dollars 30.00. Information and registration by Prof. Rodolfo Paoletti, Via A. Del Sarto 21, I–20129 Milano, Italy.

Corrigendum

MARIAN DORR, HANNAH STEINBERG and M. SHAPERO: *Stimulation of Sexual Behaviour in Rats by a Benzodioxane Derivative*, Experientia *31*, 91 (1975). In paragraph 1, line 6, aminoethyl should read correctly **aminomethyl.**