This Sheet Has Been Replaced



ABSTRACT

METHOD FOR LYSING MYCOBACTERIA

The invention provides a rapid method for lysing Mycobacteria. In one embodiment is provided a method for lysing Mycobacteria which comprises exposing the bacteria to a lysis effective amount of the enzyme achromopeptidase.

The method of the invention is particularly advantageous since only one step is involved, it is expedient compared to prior methods, and little instrumentation is necessary. By practicing the present invention it is possible to lyse Mycobacteria with minimal effort. In addition, practicing the invention results in liberating cellular components including deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) from Mycobacteria. Not only is DNA liberated, but the DNA is suited for subsequent analysis by way of probe hybridization, restriction enzyme analysis, and the like.