

# **The Microbiology of Solar Water Pasteurization, with Applications in East Africa**

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**Professor, Biological Sciences**

**California State University, Sacramento**

For children in developing countries, each year contaminated water causes:  
2 million deaths  
1.5 billion episodes of diarrhea









**How can contaminated water  
be made safe to drink?**

# **Milk Pasteurization**

**71.7°C (161°F)**

**15 Seconds**

# **Pasteurization of whole eggs**

**60°C (140°F)**

**3.5 min**

# **D - Value**

## **(Decimal Reduction Time)**

**Time to cause 90% kill at  
a given temperature**

# Temperatures which kill pathogens in contaminated water

<u>Microbe</u>	<u>D value &lt; 1 min</u>
<i>Giardia, Cryptosporidium</i>	55°C
<i>E. coli, cholera, typhoid, Shigella bacteria, rotavirus</i>	60°C
<i>Hepatitis A virus</i>	65°C





DORIC Fendicator 400 Type T/°C

65.0

Ohaus N11116

0.208

1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 0  
MC SC/UNIT

nuova II  
STIR PLATE

HEAT  
STIR



T-27 54

T-27 51



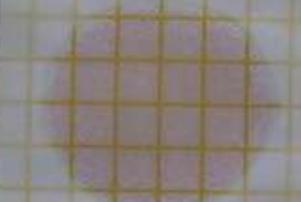
T-27 59

T-27 58

T-27 53

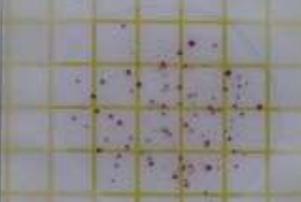


T-19 1min 5/8/04  
60°



TNTC

T-19 2min 5/8/04  
60°



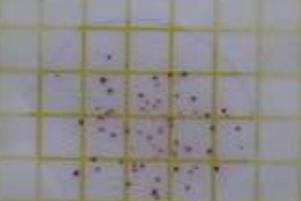
89

T-19 3min 5/8/04  
60°



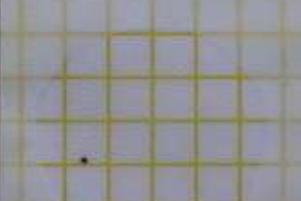
1

T-19 1min 5/8/04  
62°



77

T-19 2min 5/8/04  
62°



1

T-19 3min 5/8/04  
62°



0

T-19 1min 5/8/04  
65°



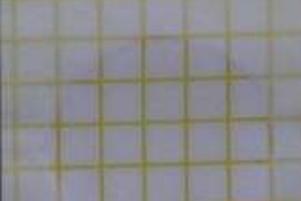
0

T-19 2min 5/8/04  
65°



0

T-19 3min 5/8/04  
65°



0

# D value, *E. coli* in water

60°C      40 seconds

62°C      25 seconds

65°C      10 seconds

# **Solar Water Pasteurization**

**Heating water to 65°C (149°F)  
in a solar cooker will  
pasteurize the water and kill  
disease causing microbes**

# Pasteurization of Naturally Contaminated Water with Solar Energy

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*Department of Biological Sciences, California State University, Sacramento, Sacramento, California 95819*

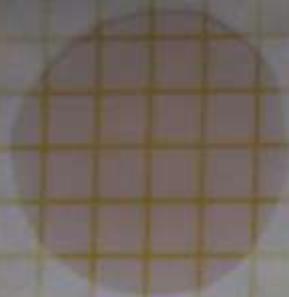
Received 25 July 1983/Accepted 7 November 1983

A solar box cooker (SBC) was constructed with a cooking area deep enough to hold several 3.7-liter jugs of water, and this was used to investigate the potential of using solar energy to pasteurize naturally contaminated water. When river water was heated either in the SBC or on a hot plate, coliform bacteria were inactivated at temperatures of 60°C or greater. Heating water in an SBC to at least 65°C ensures that the water will be above the milk pasteurization temperature of 62.8°C for at least an hour, which appears sufficient to pasteurize contaminated water. On clear or partly cloudy days, with the SBC facing magnetic south in Sacramento, bottom water temperatures of at least 65°C could be obtained in 11.1 liters of water during the 6 weeks on either side of the summer solstice, in 7.4 liters of water from mid-March through mid-September, and in 3.7 liters of water an additional 2 to 3 weeks at the beginning and end of the solar season. Periodic repositioning of the SBC towards the sun, adjusting the back reflective lid, and preheating water in a simple reflective device increased final water temperatures. Simultaneous cooking and heating water to pasteurizing temperatures was possible. Additional uses of the SBC to pasteurize soil and to decontaminate hospital materials before disposal in remote areas are suggested.

Several attempts have been made to use the energy of the sun and solar cookers to cook and bake food. The two most common solar cooker designs are the slant-faced cooker with side reflectors and the antenna dish concentrator. These solar cookers have proven to be impractical for regular cooking and baking because their poor designs allow only one pot to be heated at a time; they have little or no

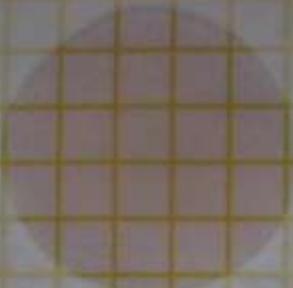
found that several liters of river water in 4-liter cooking pots could be heated to 80°C or greater in 2 h in an SBC, killing coliform and fecal coliform bacteria (M. Logvin, M. thesis, California State University, Sacramento, 1980). We wanted to expand on this particular use of an SBC, and thus we built an SBC which was deep enough to hold three to five 3.7-liter (1-gallon) jugs. We then investigated what temper-

(A) 55°



TNTC

(A) 56°



TNTC

(A) 57°



TNTC

(A) 58°



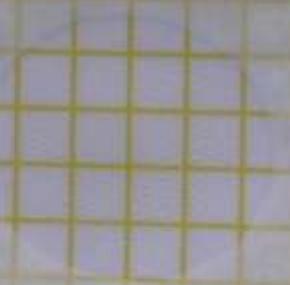
TNTC

(A) 59°



12

(A) 60°



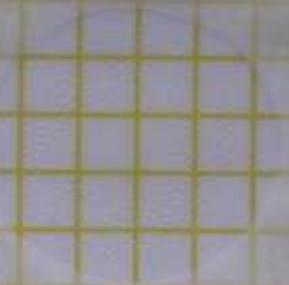
0

(A) 61°

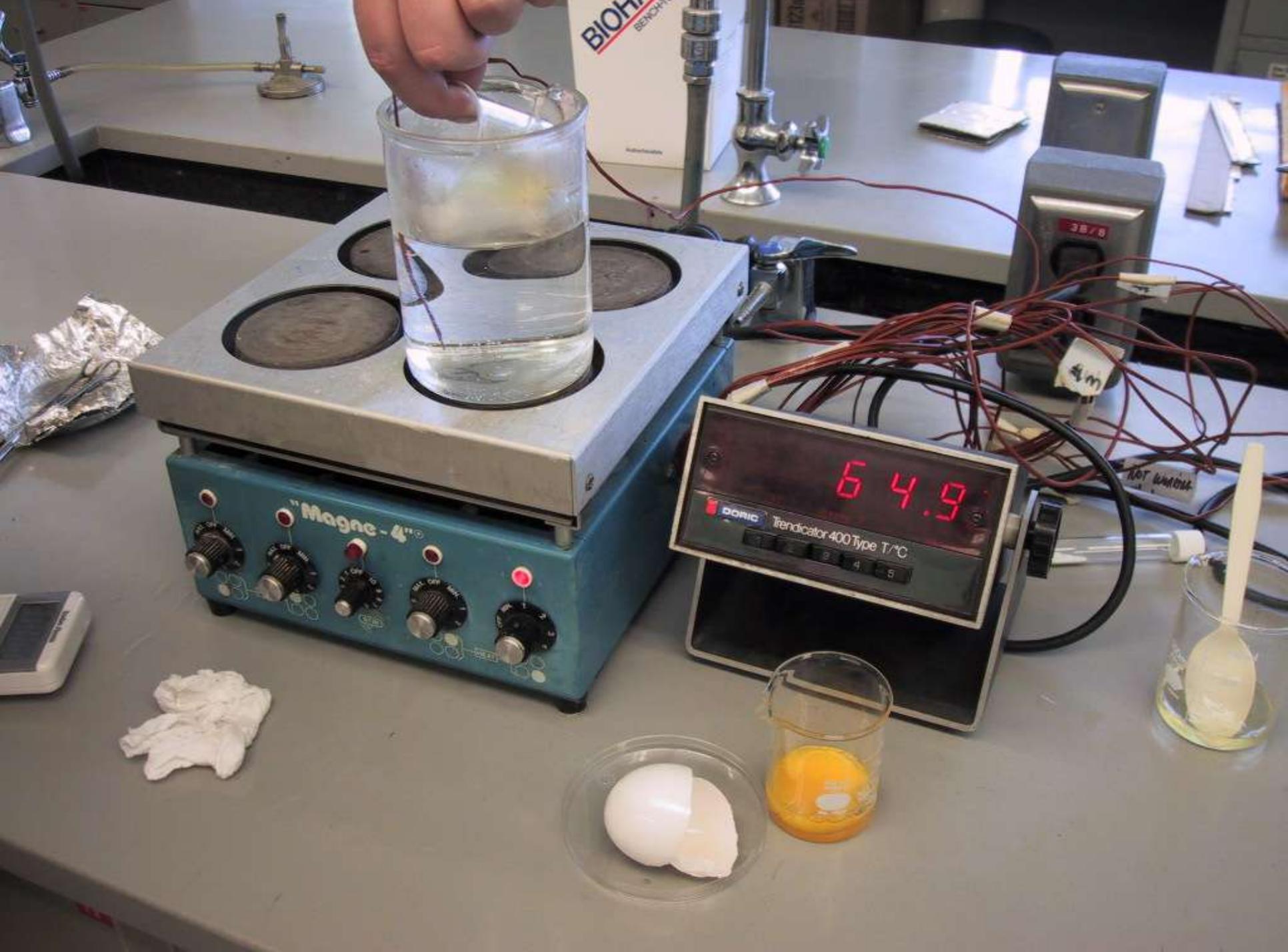


0

(A) 62°



0



BIOHazard

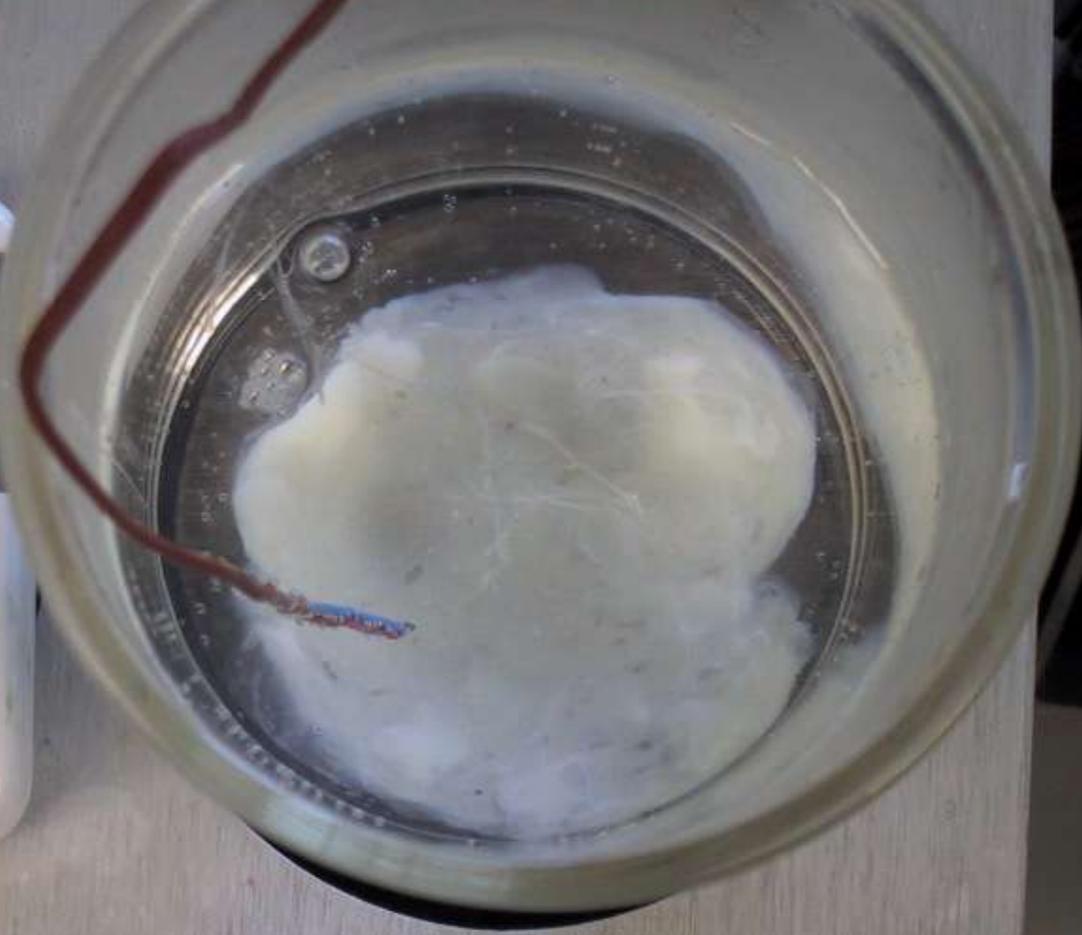
"Magne-4"

DORIC Trendicator 400 Type T/°C

64.9

LOT 140004





How can one verify that water has been heated to 65°C?

# Water Pasteurization Indicator (WAPI)



# Temperatures which kill disease microbes present in contaminated water

## MICROBE

## KILLED RAPIDLY AT:

**Worms, *Giardia*, *Entamoeba*,  
*Cryptosporidium***

**131 °F (55 °C)**

***Escherichia coli*, *Shigella*, cholera,  
Typhoid, Rotaviruses, Polioviruses**

**140 °F (60 °C)**

**Hepatitis A virus**

**149 °F (65 °C)**

**WAPI wax melts**

**149 °F (65 °C)**





የአዲስ አበባ ከተማ አስተዳደር  
የጥሬ ግብርና ሚኒስቴር  
የጥሬ ግብርና ሚኒስቴር

*Coca-Cola* KALANDO BAR *STOP DRINK enjoy Coca-Cola*

THE MIDDLE KALANDOS LODGE

ROAD TO MWAHIZI/HEATU









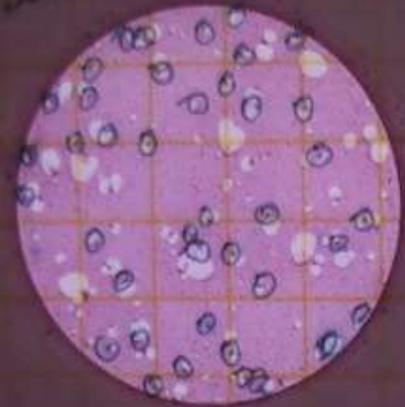


SOLAR COOKING

63.8°C  
38.9%



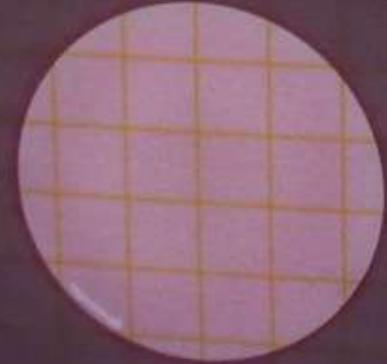
Sinace water stain



40 Ecoti



EC 2003-10 KA EC 2003-10 KA  
1m 30min KALR-6  
Coolant 58°C







## Enhancement of Solar Water Pasteurization with Reflectors

NEGAR SAFAPOUR† AND ROBERT H. METCALF\*

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Received 13 July 1998/Accepted 3 November 1998

**A simple and reliable method that could be used in developing countries to pasteurize milk and water with solar energy is described. A cardboard reflector directs sunshine onto a black jar, heating water to pasteurizing temperatures in several hours. A reusable water pasteurization indicator verifies that pasteurization temperatures have been reached.**

Exposing water in clear plastic or glass jars to sunshine has been shown to inactivate bacteria. However, much variability—from no inactivation to an approximately 3-log decrease in 1.5 h—has been reported (1, 2, 10–12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20). Reasons for this variability include the transparency of the container, water turbidity, water temperature reached, altitude, aerobic or anaerobic conditions, and the amount of solar radiation received (2, 10–12, 15, 17). In addition, only a few studies have included viruses or protozoan cysts, which might not be as sensitive to sunshine as bacteria.

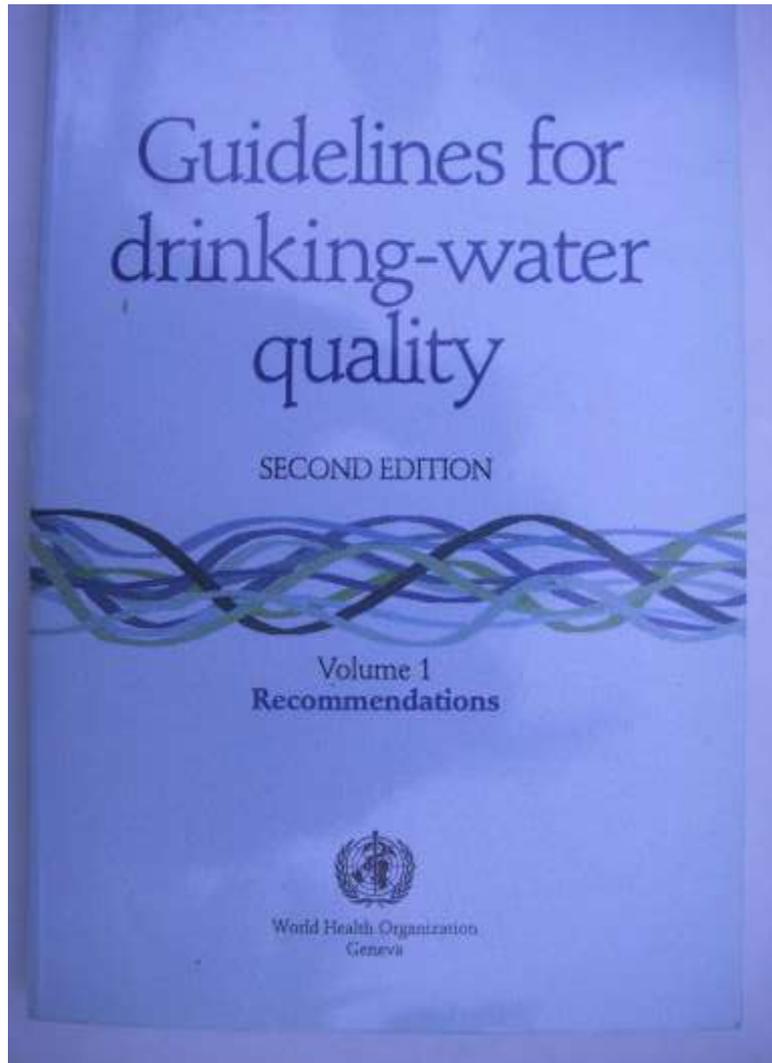
A major limitation of exposing clear containers of water to sunshine is that there is no simple test to perform which would

tube, it indicates that pasteurization conditions have been reached.

The bacteriophage T2 was included in these studies. Although T2 is not a human pathogen, its inclusion tests the validity of extrapolating to nonbacterial microbes *Escherichia coli*'s response.

**Cultures and test conditions.** *E. coli* ATCC 11775 (American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, Md.) was maintained in brain heart infusion broth (BHI; Acumedia, Baltimore, Md.). A stock of T2 phage with  $4 \times 10^9$  PFU/ml was obtained by seeding 100 ml of BHI broth with *E. coli* B and a drop of T2 and incubating at 35°C for 12 h when complete lysis was ob-

# Point Source Water Testing in Developing Countries



- **The most specific of the readily detectable fecal indicators, and the one present in greatest numbers in feces, is *Escherichia coli*, and it is therefore recommended as the indicator of choice for drinking water.**

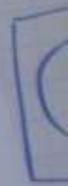


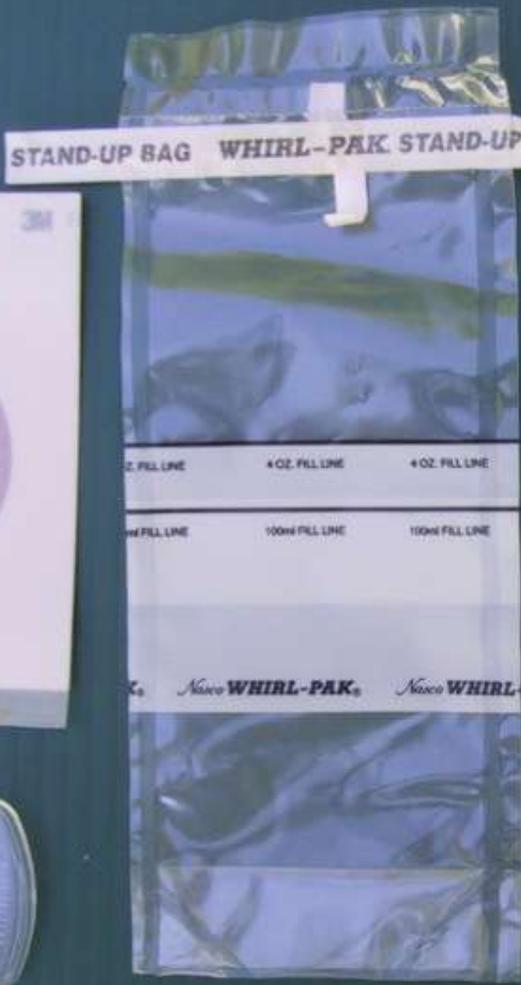
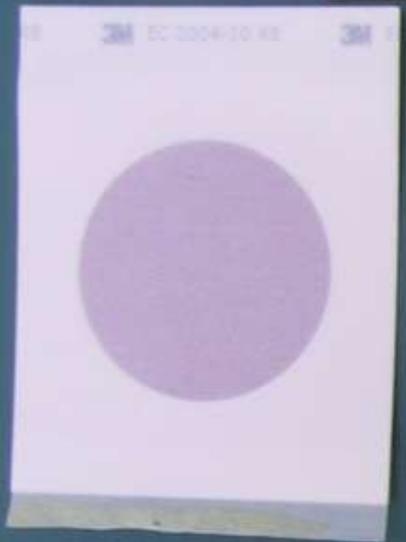
INDICATOR of fe  
BACTERIUM Escherich

Professeur  
METOLF



petri dish  
bacterial culture





STAND-UP BAG WHIRL-PAK STAND-UP BAG WHIRL-PAK

3M

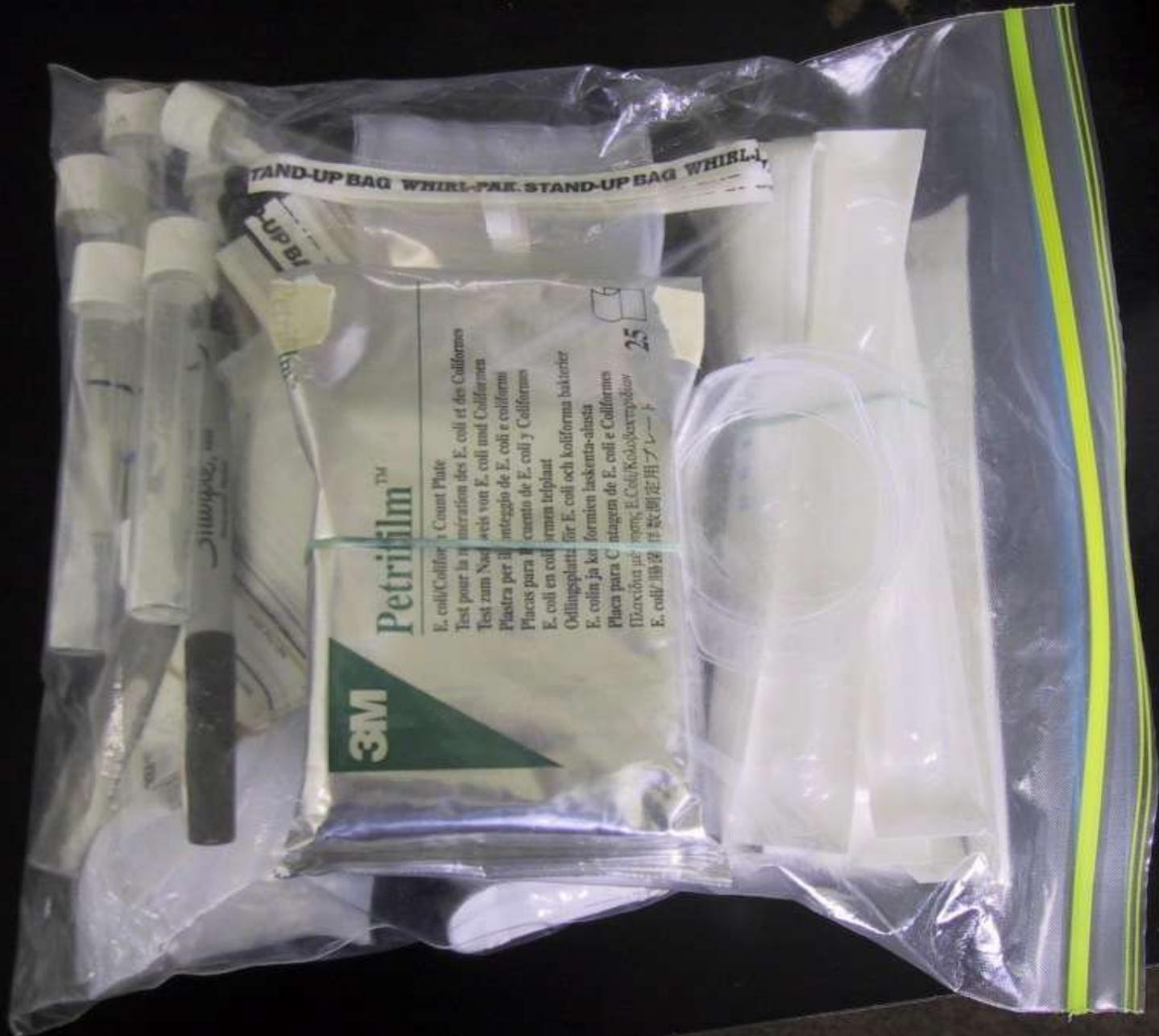
# Petrifilm™

E. coli/Coliform Count Plate  
 Test pour la concentration des E. coli et des Coliformes  
 Test zum Nachweis von E. coli und Coliformen  
 Piastra per il conteggio de E. coli e coliformi  
 Placas para el cuento de E. coli y Coliformos  
 E. coli en count  
 Armeen telplaat  
 Odlingplatta för E. coli och koliforma bakterier  
 E. colin ja koliformien kasvatusalusta  
 Placa para Crecimiento de E. coli e Coliformos  
 Placcina per il conteggio di E. coli e Coliformi  
 Placas para el crecimiento de E. coli y Coliformos



25

詳細説明書  
詳載測定用プレート



# Colilert<sup>®</sup>

An easy 24-hour test for coliforms and *E. coli*



**Colilert has become the number one method in countries around the world because:**

- Colilert takes less than one minute hands-on time per sample.
- Colilert is approved internationally for compliance testing.
- Colilert has been shown to be 20-50% less expensive than traditional methods!







SA-7  
12/20/19  
TS/HR

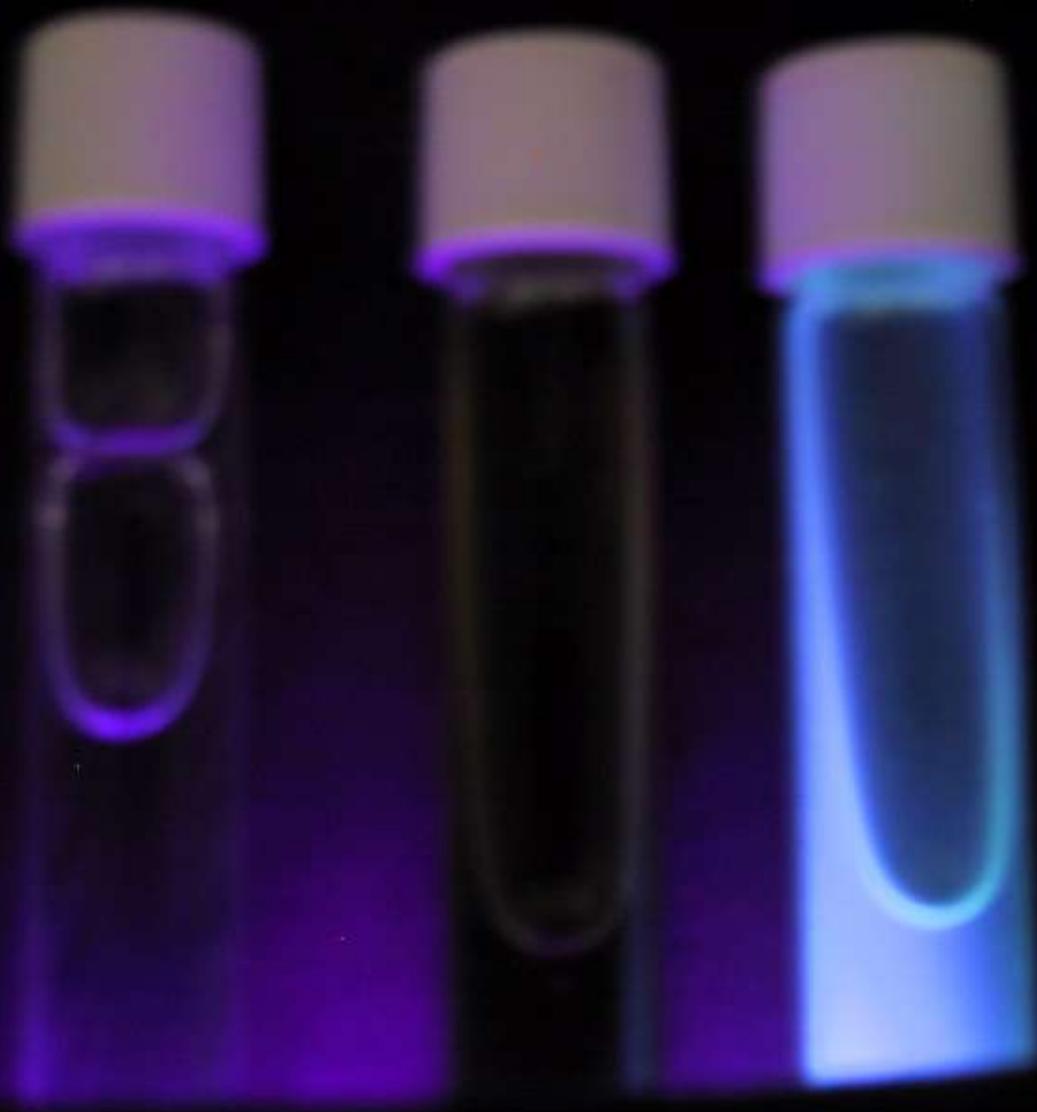
SA-7  
12/20/19  
TS/HR







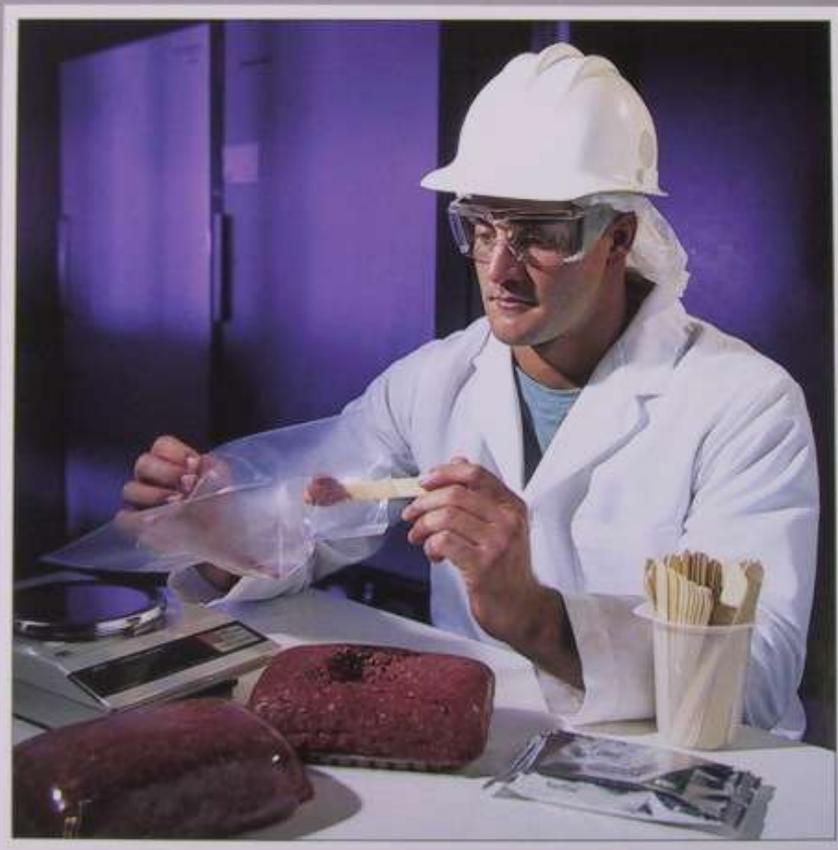




**3M**

● **Petrifilm™ E. coli/Coliform Count Plates**

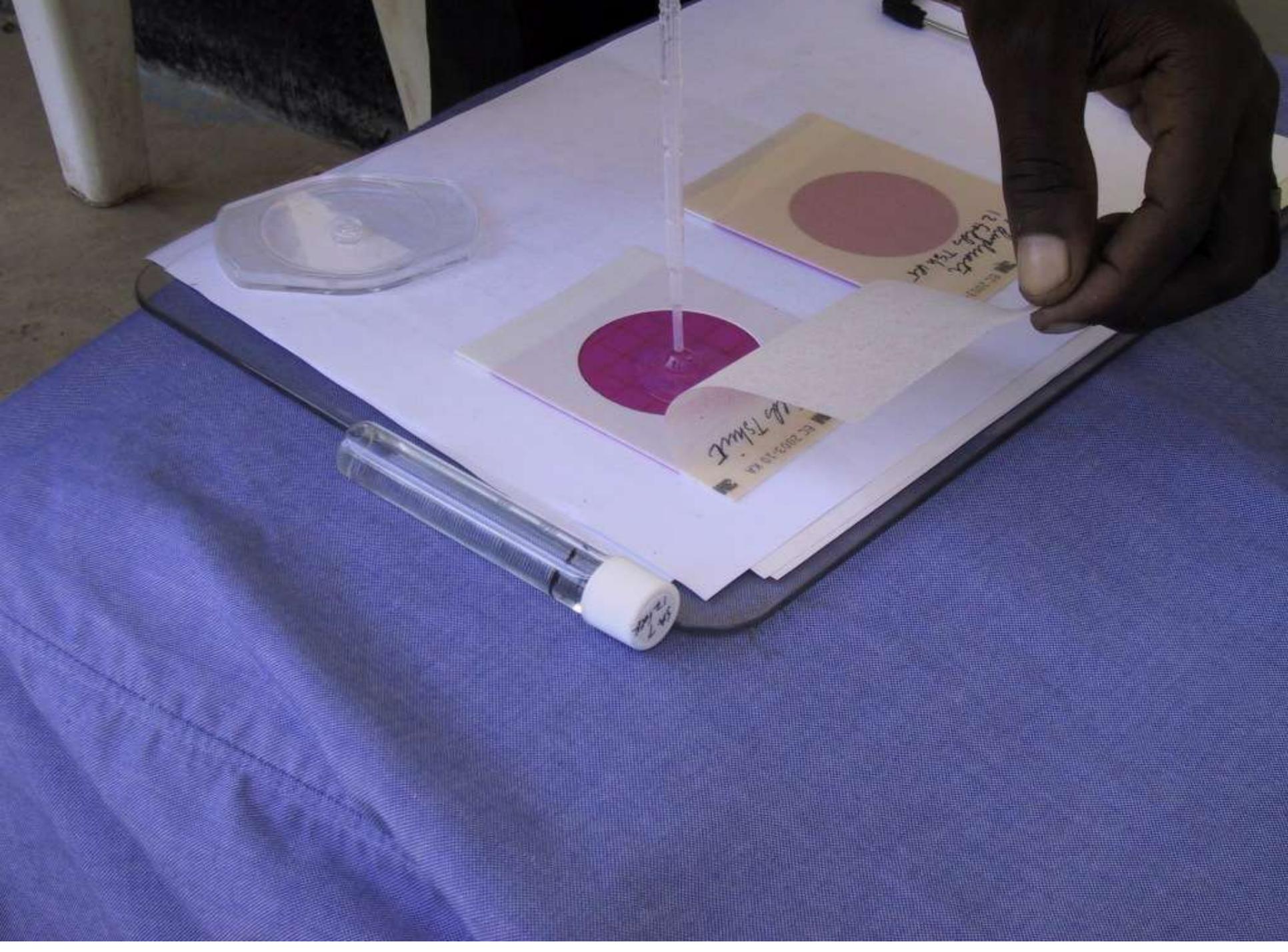
*Easiest and fastest confirmed E. coli test available.*

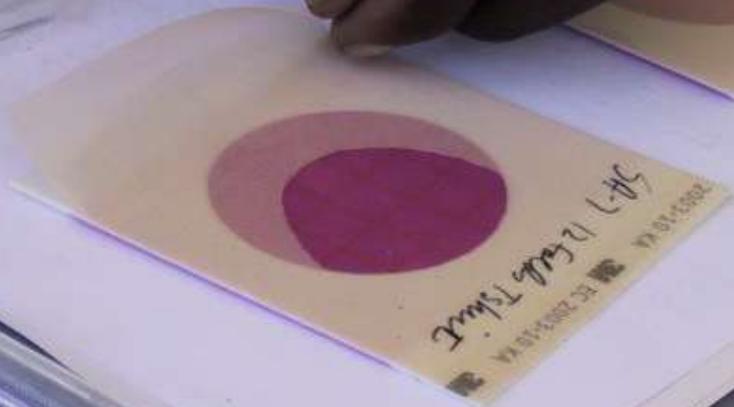
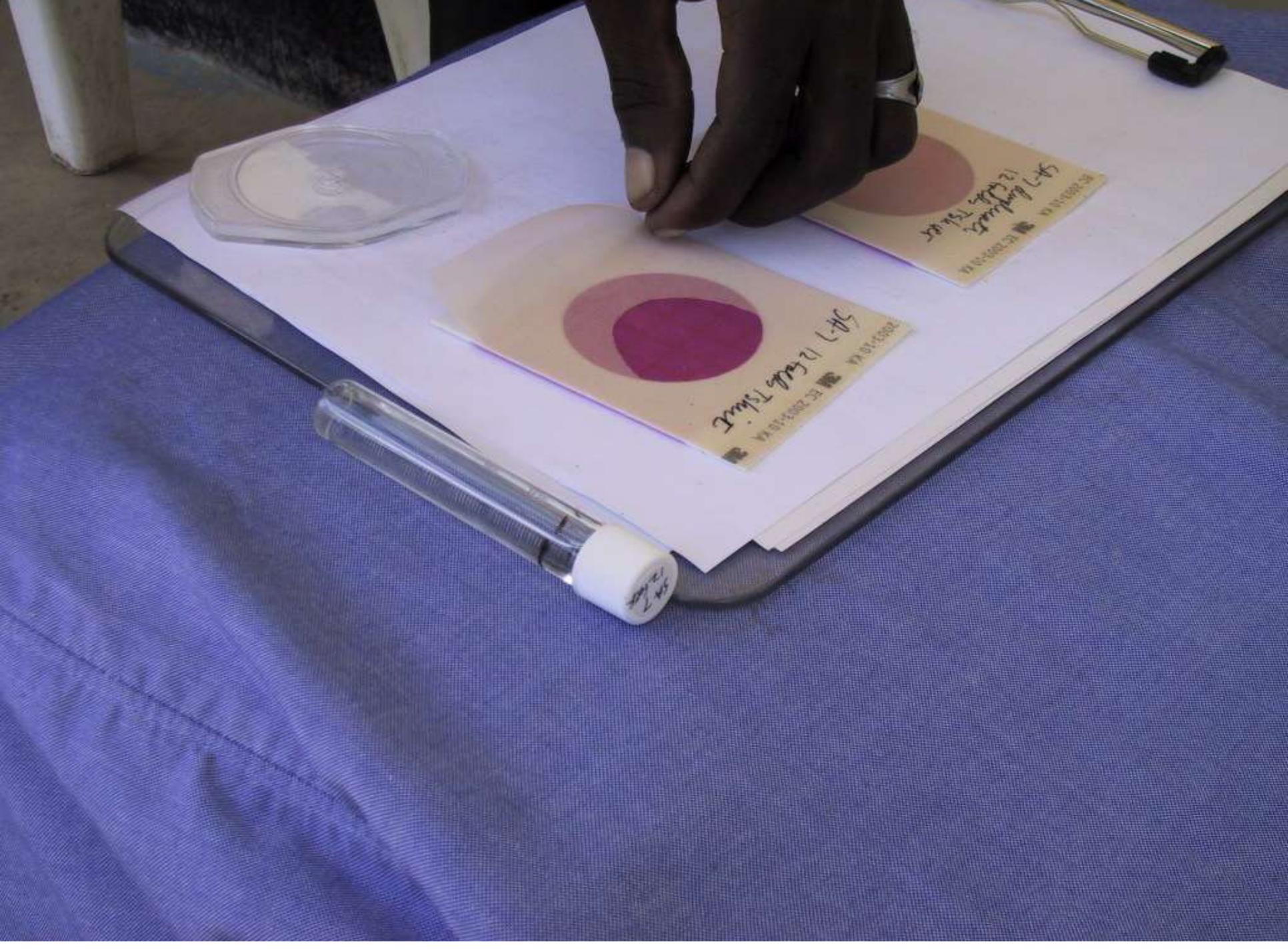


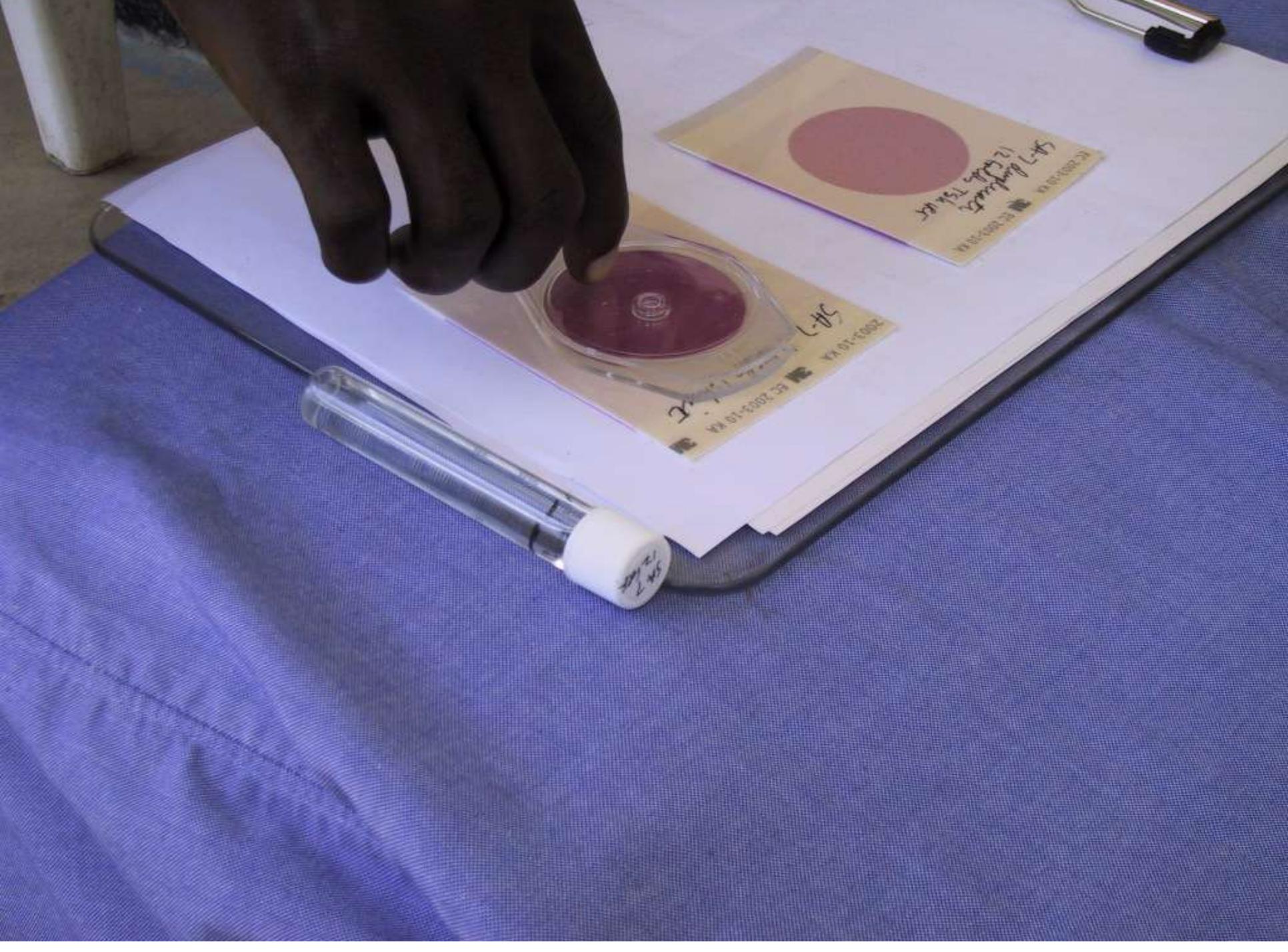












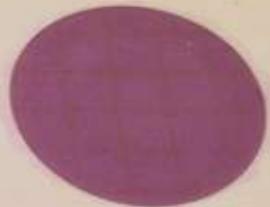
1314



EC 2003-10 KA 3M EC 2003-10 KA  
SA-7 duplicate  
12 folds Tshirts



2003-10 KA 3M EC 2003-10 KA 3M  
SA-7 12 folds Tshirt



ment



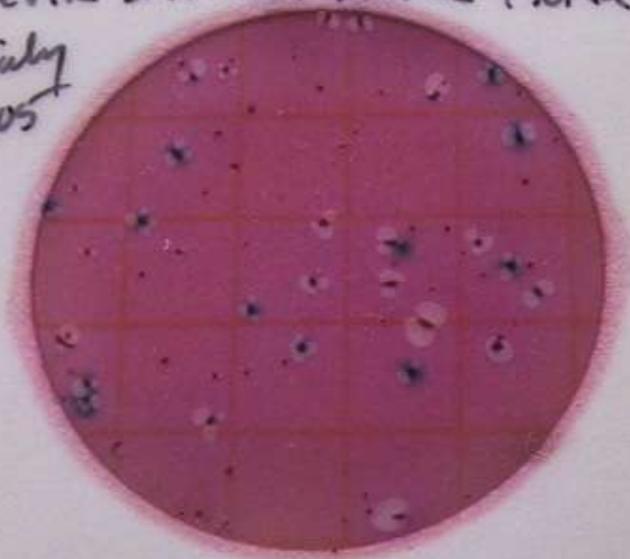
ment

3M EC 2006-10 KF

3M EC 2006-10

800 Inlet R, Kiwa River  
Near Safari Park Hotel

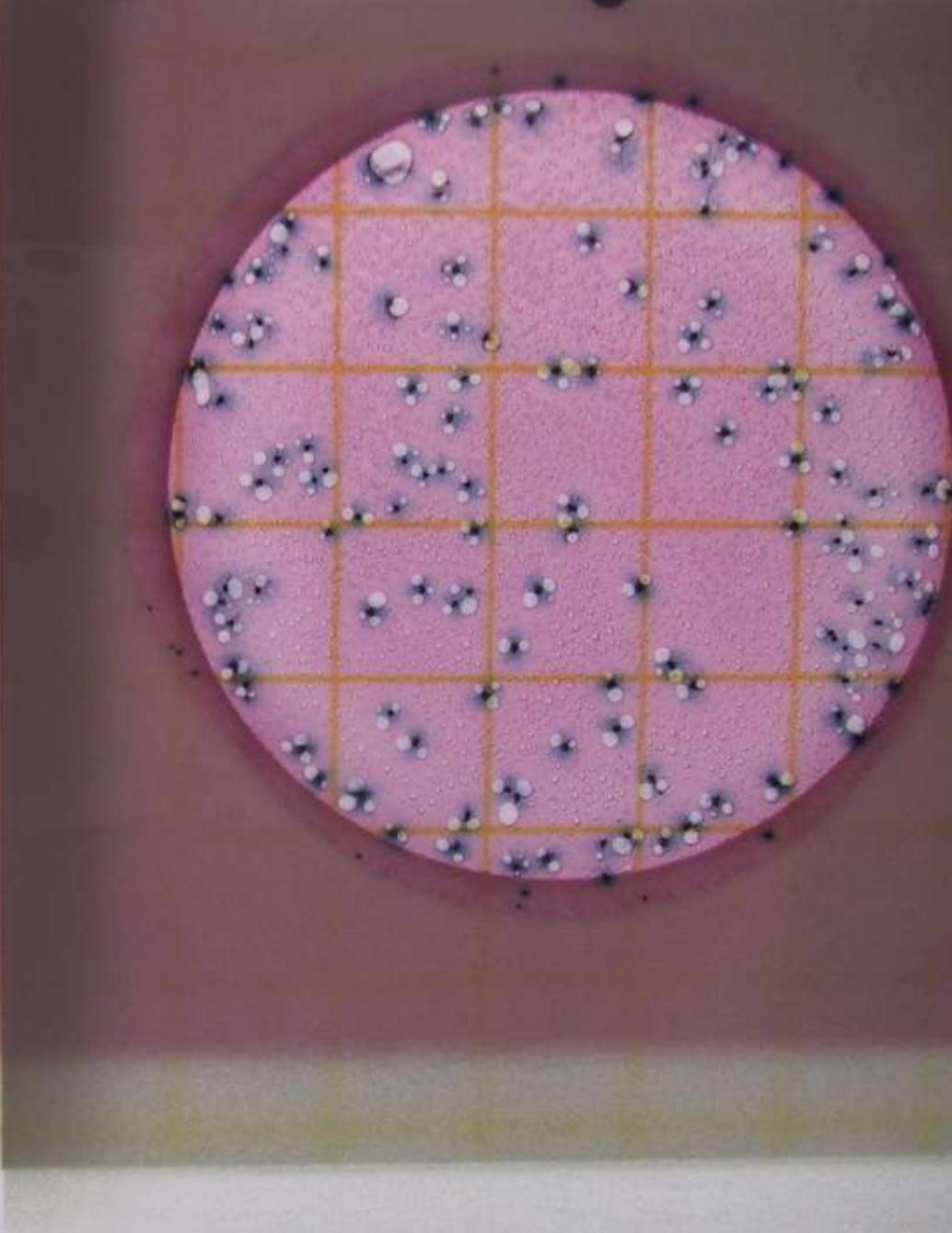
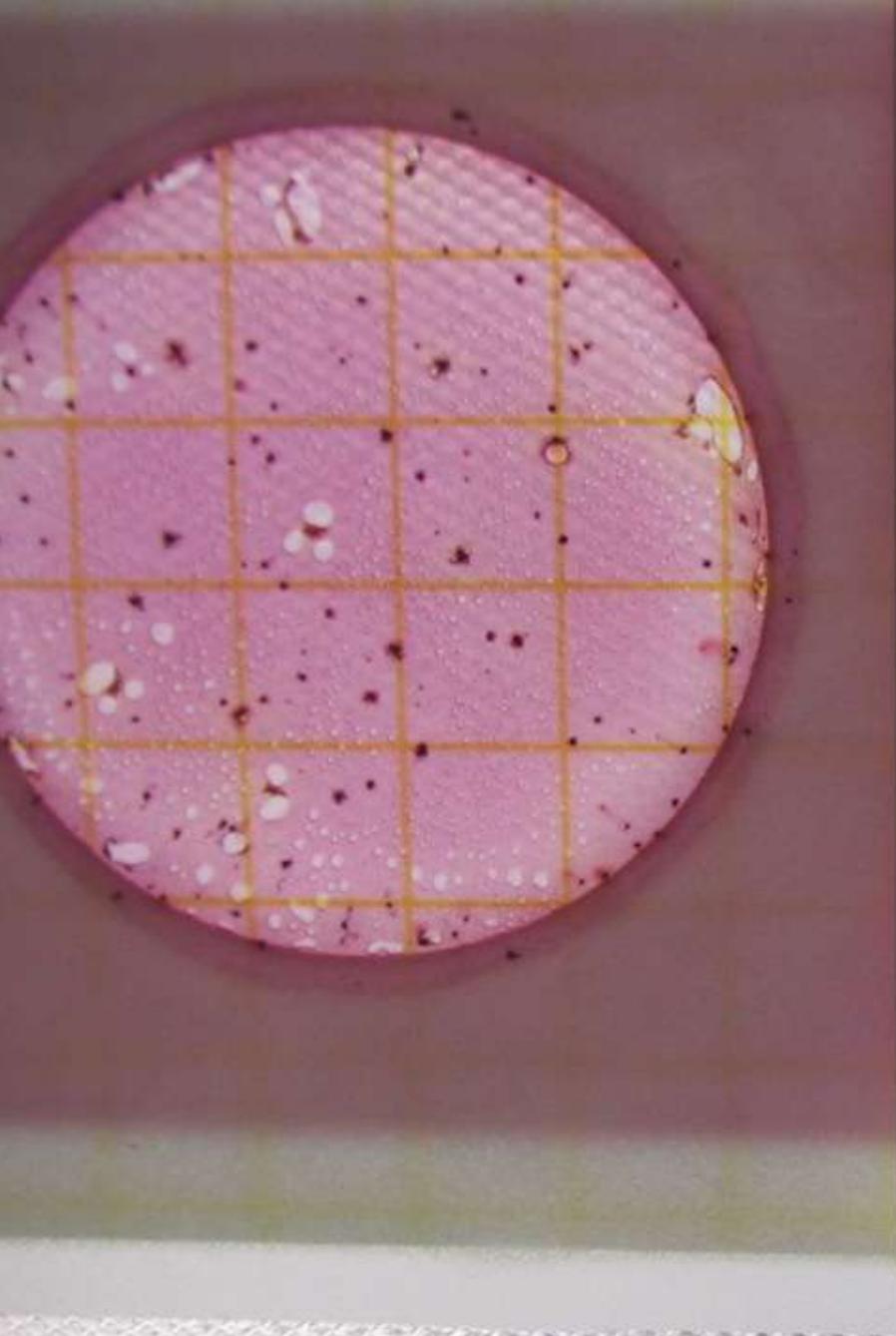
6 July  
2005



Upstream - Sample  
Taken 1 July (5 days  
earlier)

800





# Risk Assessment of Water Sources

Risk Level

E. coli/sample

Colilert MUG

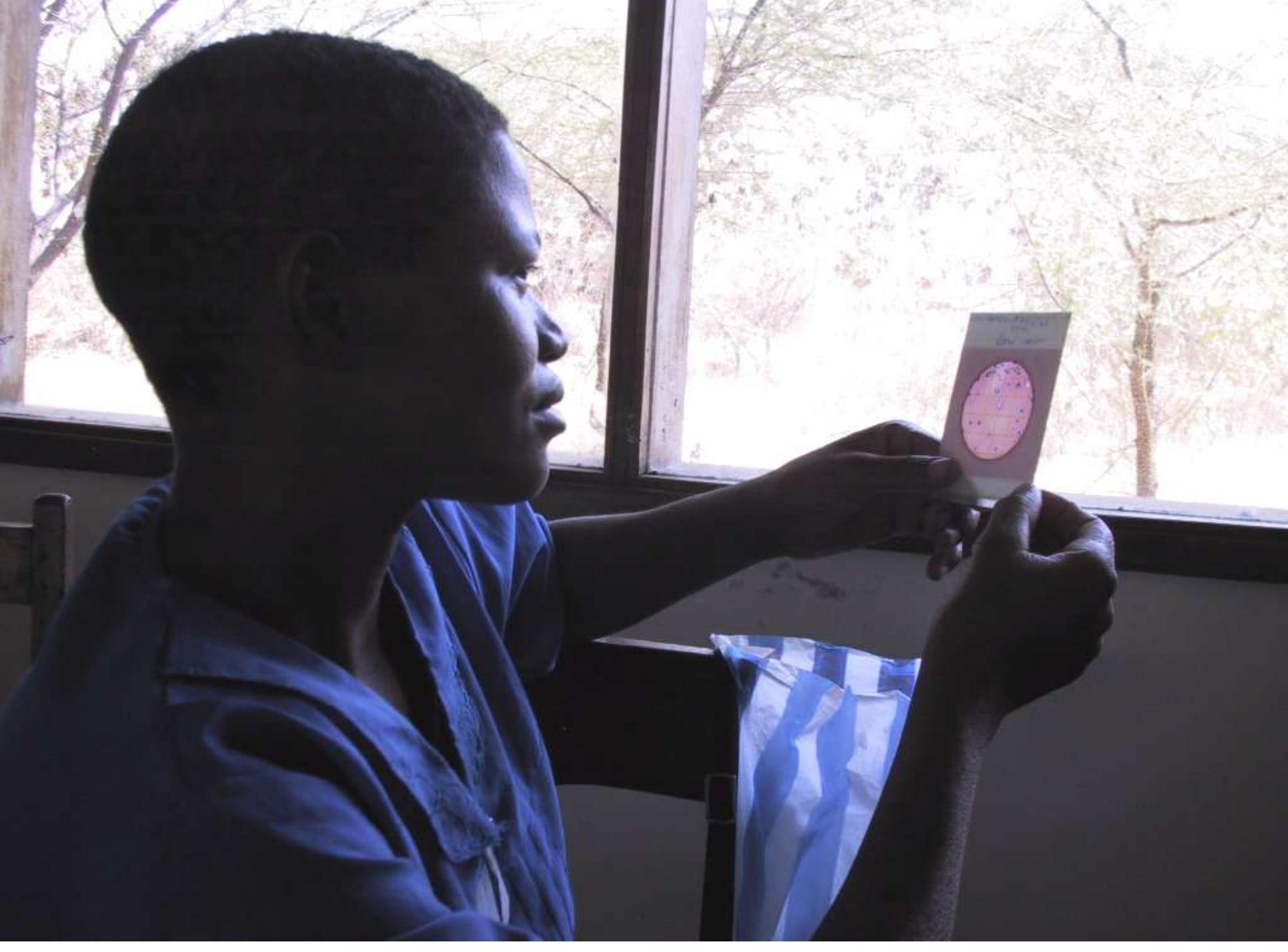
#Blue/Petrifilm

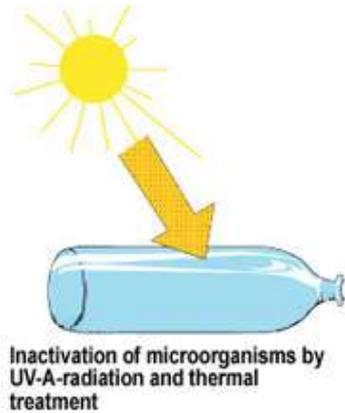
<b>Low</b>	<b>&lt; 1/10 ml</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>1-9/10 ml</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>High</b>	<b>1-10/ml</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>1-10</b>
<b>Very High</b>	<b>&gt; 10/ml</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>&gt; 10</b>



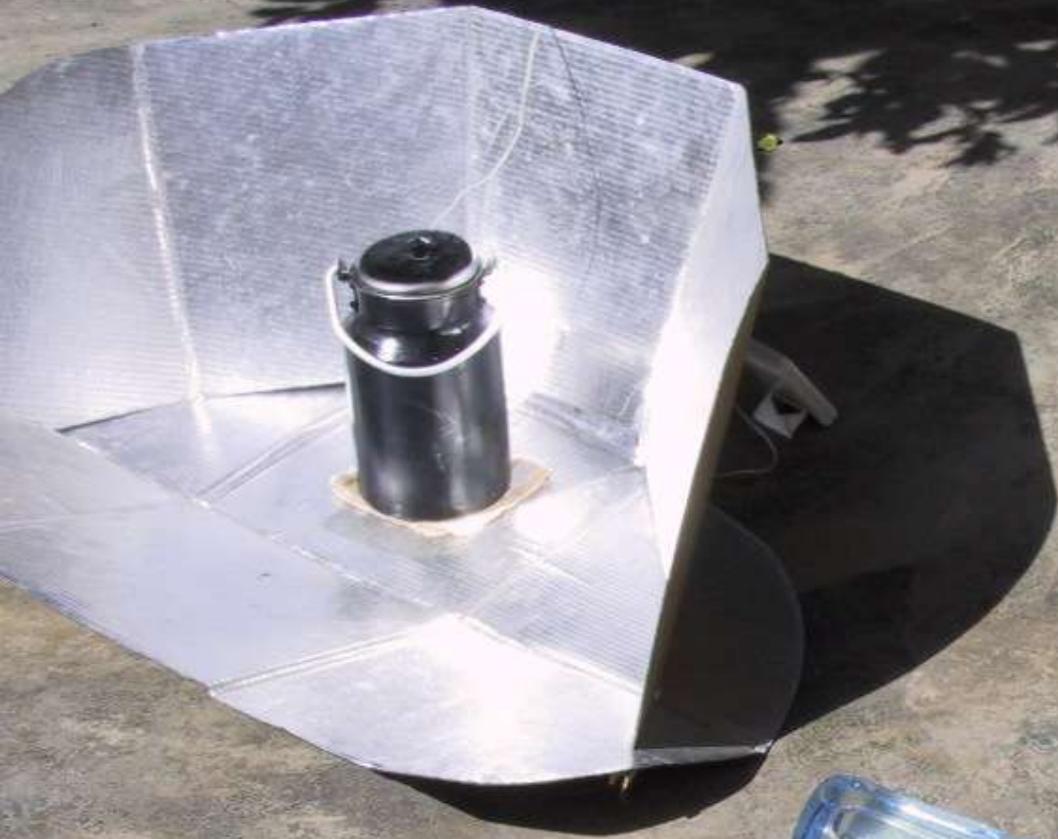








- The Solar Water Disinfection (SODIS) process is a simple technology used to improve the microbiological quality of drinking water. SODIS uses solar radiation to destroy pathogenic microorganisms which cause water borne diseases.
- █ SODIS is ideal to treat small quantities of water. Contaminated water is filled into transparent plastic bottles and exposed to full sunlight for six hours.
- █ Sunlight is treating the contaminated water through two synergetic mechanisms: **Radiation** in the spectrum of **UV-A** (wavelength 320-400nm) and **increased water temperature**. If the water temperatures raises above 50°C, the disinfection process is three times faster.



2 START ROOM

275um



KLJ  
37 E. coli

2 Start room duplicate



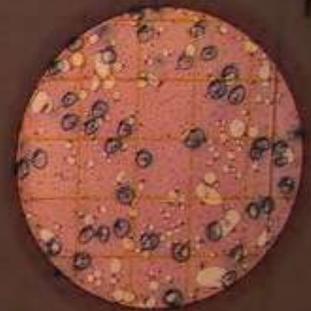
KLJ 44 E. coli

1:45  
#2



42 E. coli

1:45 #2 Day 2



40 E. coli

3hr E-2 KLJ



22 E. coli

4hr E2



16 E. coli

5hr E2



5 E. coli



5hr  
mu6+

7/22/01 initial - Maji Poca  
Sunday  
9:30am  
SODIS



7/22 SODIS - 2 1/2 hr noon  
40.1°C



7/22/01 SODIS 4.5hr 47.4°C  
2pm



16 E. coli  
+ 30 other coliforms



7/22/01 Initial - 2L in Cookit  
Sunday  
9:30am



7/22 Heated 2 1/2 hr noon  
61°C



No COLIFORMS



Coliform 4:30, 7hr  
MUG + in 9ml and 1ml

Coliform noon  
2 1/2 hr  
heated in Cookit

# Sunny Solutions Project

# Nyakach Kenya







WATER SOURCES FROM KITITO WORKSHOP  
PARTICIPANTS 21 July, 2003





WATER SOURCES FROM KITITO WORKSHOP  
PARTICIPANTS 21 July, 2003







Two women in blue dresses are standing on the left side of the well. The woman in the foreground is wearing a blue dress with a white polka-dot pattern on the sleeves and hem. She is looking towards the well. The woman behind her is also wearing a blue dress and is looking down at something in her hands.

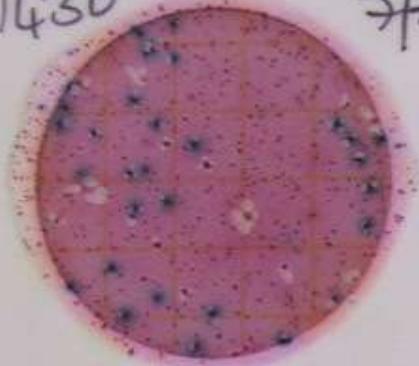
A woman in a dark green dress with a white collar and a blue headscarf is standing in the middle. She is looking down at the well and appears to be assisting with the operation.

The woman in the blue t-shirt is the one operating the well. She is wearing a blue t-shirt with the text "The Garden West 2021" on it. She is pulling a rope that is attached to a wooden bucket hanging in the well. She is smiling and looking down at the bucket.

A woman in a red outfit with white floral patterns is standing on the right side of the well. She is holding a small white object in her hands and looking down at it. She is wearing a red jacket and a red skirt.

A woman in a black and white polka-dot top and a dark patterned skirt is standing on the far right. She is looking towards the well and appears to be engaged in the activity.

Omango Well  
1430 7/7



28 E. coli

Omango Well  
1430hrs 7/7



21 E. coli

Omango Well  
1430 7/7



29 E. coli

004-10 KE EC 2004-10 KE

Omango Well  
1430 7/7



30 E. coli

3M EC 2004-10 KE 3M EC 2

Omango Well  
1430 7/7



33 E. coli



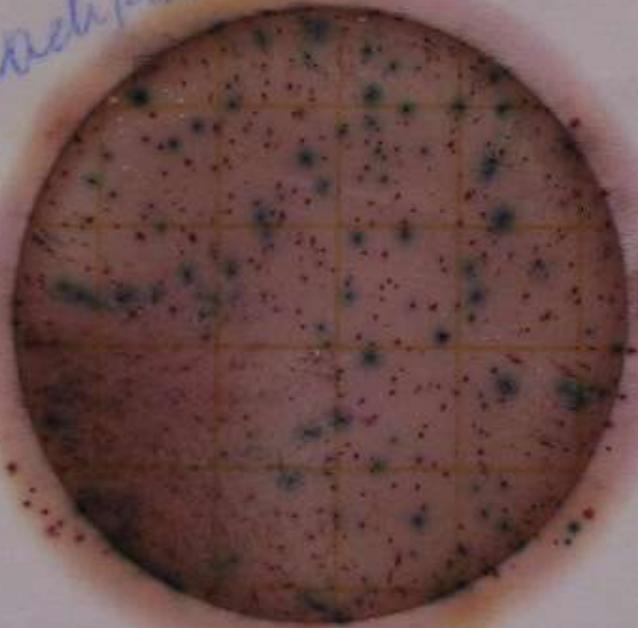
MUG  
+





3M ECOLI 2002-10 PY 3M ECOLI 2002-10 PY 3M

12 July - brown yellow plant  
Awacha River



Awacha River





**MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION  
PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS  
NYANZA PROVINCE**

KISU/WD/1/1



# Thermotolerant Coliform Test, Kenya

3 tube MPN, 10, 1, 0.1 ml

1. MacConkey's broth, 37°C, 1-2 days
2. Gas + to BGLB broth, 44°C, 1-2 days

Gas + = Thermotolerant coliforms















GA  
RIVER WATER

GA  
RIVER WATER



3M MC 2006 25 3M MC 2006  
11A Tap water  
Nybera



**WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**TANA CATCHMENT REGIONAL OFFICE**  
**P. O. BOX 1930 EMBU' TEL. 068- 31271**

**FAX 068- 31315 E-MAIL: [wrmatana @ winnet.co.ke](mailto:wrmatana@winnet.co.ke)**

*Jagg Arts.*

**LAND & BUILDING  
SURVEY DEPT**  
CONTACT SURVEY OFFICE  
FOR MORE INFO VISIT OUR WEBSITE





Handwritten text on the card held by the man on the left, including a pink circle and illegible characters.

Handwritten text on the card held by the man on the right, including a pink circle and illegible characters.

EMU







WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

*This is to certify that*

*Bancy J. Chege*

Attended the Training Workshop on Water Testing, Solar Water  
Pasteurization and Solar Cooking

Held at Farmers Training College Embu from 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June,  
2006.

*Topics Covered:*

- E. coli: An Indicator of Faecal Contamination of Water
- Principles of Defined Substrate Technology (DST)
- Bacterial Multiplication & Culturing
- Water Testing at community level: Demystifying  $\mu$ -Biology
- Solar Water Pasteurization
- Use of Water Pasteurization Indicator (WAPI)
- Solar Cooking: A "Vaccine" against Deforestation

Prof. Robert Metcalf  
California State University Sacramento

P. Oloo  
CEO WRMA









Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

**Fuelwood = 79% of Kenya's  
Total Energy**

**Energy Usage Per Day**

**Wood = 81 million lbs**

**Charcoal = 13 million lbs**

SCI. SUNNY SOLUTIONS PROJECT OFFICE



RFL













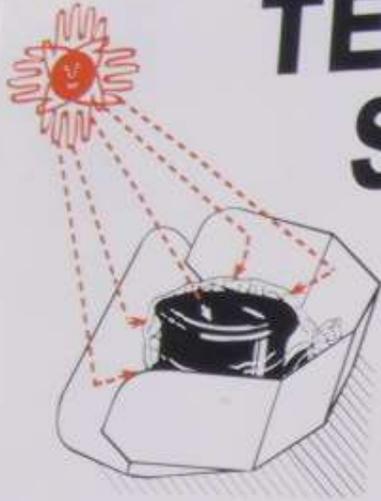












# TEDI GI CHIENG'! SOLAR COOK!

- RIT NGIMANI
- TET MALER
- CHUAK PI MODHO
- GENG' TUOCHE
- KUNG PESA

*COOKER'S SHOP*  
**HARAMBEE MARKET**

OBJECT OF SOLAR COOKERS INTERNATIONAL AND NYAKACH COMMUNITY



THE COOKERS SHOP  
TEDO GICHIENG



TEDO GICHIENG  
SOLAR COOK  
KONGOU MARKET

TET  
MANT  
MAL  
MABI  
MAYO

YOR  
XUNGO  
WAPI  
YIEN









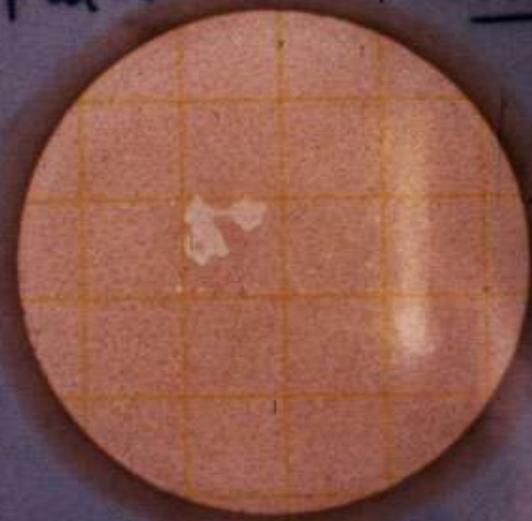


7/1/01 Sunday  
4L Milk - Start H<sub>2</sub>O 1:55  
pm  
28°C



> 200 E. coli

7/1/01 Sunday  
4 liter - 2hr - 65.7°C



0 Fecal + Coliforms



476

Q-209

# Combining Point Source Water Testing with Solar Water Pasteurization in Kenya

Robert H. Metcalf & Christine Polinelli  
Department of Biological Sciences, California State University, Sacramento

Dr. Robert Metcalf  
Biological Sciences  
California State University Sacramento  
Sacramento, CA 95819-4077  
e-mail: metcalf@csus.edu



**Introduction**  
Water quality is a major public health concern in Kenya. The majority of the population lacks access to clean water. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of solar water pasteurization in combination with point source water testing to improve water quality and reduce disease transmission.

**Methods and Results**  
The study was conducted in two phases. In the first phase, point source water testing was performed to identify contamination levels. In the second phase, solar water pasteurization was implemented, and the effectiveness was evaluated using various water quality indicators.

**Conclusions**  
The results of the study demonstrate that solar water pasteurization is an effective method for improving water quality in Kenya. The combination of point source water testing and solar pasteurization provides a comprehensive approach to water treatment.

**Abstract**  
Water quality is a major public health concern in Kenya. The majority of the population lacks access to clean water. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of solar water pasteurization in combination with point source water testing to improve water quality and reduce disease transmission.

Comparing Petri-Culture MPN Tests with E. coli Tests



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