

MICROBIOLOGY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

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ABSTRACTS

Localization of Proteolytic Activity on Low pH-urea, BSA-included Polyacrylamide Gels. THOMAS A. COLE, Department of Biology, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.—A sensitive method for detection of proteinases has been developed with polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis techniques. Using low pH and low-pH-urea systems, bovine serum albumin (BSA), a soluble protein, is incorporated into the running gel. At low pH, BSA does not move and the proteolytic enzymes, trypsin and chymotrypsin, may be electrophoresed into the BSA-included gels. Incubation of the removed gels at around pH 7 and staining with Coomassie blue produce a gel with clear zones of enzyme activity against a blue background of unhydrolyzed, stained substrate.