

# Micrococcus luteus

**Micrococcus luteus** is a round **G + / Gram variable** coccus of the genus *Micrococcus*. It is grouped in tetrads and packets just like other micrococci. Studies suggest that these bacteria are protective for humans and reduce the risk of skin cancers. . It occurs as a **physiological component** of mammalian microflora, in soil, dust, water and air. *Micrococcus luteus* colonizes the human sweat glands, where it metabolizes effusions and changes their character and odor. Bacteria also colonize the human mouth, oropharyngeal mucosa and upper respiratory tract.

## Cultivation and staining

**Micrococcus luteus** produce a specific *pigment* that absorbs electromagnetic radiation at wavelengths of 350 to 475 nanometers, which corresponds to ultraviolet radiation. It appears blue to dark purple on Gram-stained slides. The name "luteus" (Latin yellow) corresponds to the appearance under a microscope. *Micrococcus luteus* forms yellow colonies on agar with mannitol salt. When culturing *Micrococcus luteus* on toxic organic substances, they overproduce riboflavin, pyridine (an organic aromatic heterocyclic compound of carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen).

## Diagnostics

To differentiate from *Staphylococcus aureus*, a bacitracin sensitivity test (Bacitracin test) can be performed.

## Links

### References

- VOTAVA, Miroslav. General medical microbiology. 2nd edition. NEPTUN, 2005. 351 p.
- WIKIPEDIA®,. *Micrococcus luteus* [online]. [cit. 2018-10-05]. <[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micrococcus\\_luteus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micrococcus_luteus)>