

**Balneatrix alpica gen. nov., sp. nov., a bacterium associated with pneumonia and meningitis in a spa therapy center.**

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In 1987, an outbreak of pneumonia and meningitis caused by an unknown bacterium occurred in a spa therapy centre. Nine isolates of this pathogen constituted a tight DNA hybridization group. rRNA-DNA hybridization and 16S rRNA sequencing showed that the studied bacteria represented a new branch in superfamily II (= gamma subclass) of the Proteobacteria, close to the genus *Oceanospirillum*. The new bacterium was highly polymorphic and, in young cultures, had curved Gram-negative cells, motile by polar single flagella. The new bacterium differed from the genus *Oceanospirillum* by its lacking the NaCl requirement and by reducing nitrate into nitrite, producing indole from tryptophan and producing acid from carbohydrates. The name *Balneatrix alpica* gen. nov., sp. nov. is proposed for the studied organism. The type strain is strain 4-87 (= CIP 103589).

English

0 (RNA, Ribosomal, 16S)