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# Mycobacterium leprae

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Mycobacterium leprae*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C86544.

A species of aerobic, Gram positive, rod shaped bacterium assigned to the phylum Actinobacteria. This species is acid fast, stains with carbol fuchsin rather than a traditional Gram stain, has the longest doubling time of all known bacteria, and has never been cultured in vitro. *Mycobacterium leprae* is pathogenic, being the causative agent of leprosy.