

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Rickettsia prowazekii

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Rickettsia prowazekii*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C86723.

A species of aerobic, Gram negative, rod and cocci shaped bacteria assigned to the phylum Proteobacteria. This species is obligately intracellular, motile and transmitted to humans by the human body louse, *Pediculus humanus corporis*. *R. prowazekii* is a pathogen that causes epidemic typhus and Brill Zinsser disease.