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# Mycobacterium simiae

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Mycobacterium simiae*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C86548.

A species of aerobic, Gram positive, rod shaped bacterium assigned to the phylum Actinobacteria. This species is acid fast, does not grow on MacConkey agar, catalase, urease and niacin positive, and negative for nitrite reduction and Tween 80 hydrolysis. *M. simiae* is found primarily in the southwestern United States, Israel and Cuba, with tap water as its suspected reservoir. It causes infection mainly in immunocompromised patients and is often resistant to most conventional anti-tuberculosis medications including rifabutin.