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# Nocardia asteroides

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Nocardia asteroides*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C86611.

A species of aerobic, Gram-positive, rod shaped bacteria assigned to the phylum Actinobacteria. This species is catalase and urease positive, acid-fast, hydrolyzes esculin but not casein, reduces nitrate, and characteristically produces a mycelium that fragments into bacillary and coccoid elements. *N. asteroides* is naturally found in soil, and lake and marine sediment where it digests plant matter; but in humans it is an opportunistic pathogen and one of the causative agents of nocardiosis in immunocompromised individuals.