The capsule and spore stains from a 24.0 hr culture were negative.

Electron microscopy revealed a thick cell wall encasing the organism in all preparations examined; no specialized intracellular structures could be distinguished in any of the preparations.

The microorganism isolated and examined in this study suddenly appeared in culture media of Drosophila melanogaster; its presence seemed to overwhelm the Dipteran population thereby bringing about total loss of the cultures.

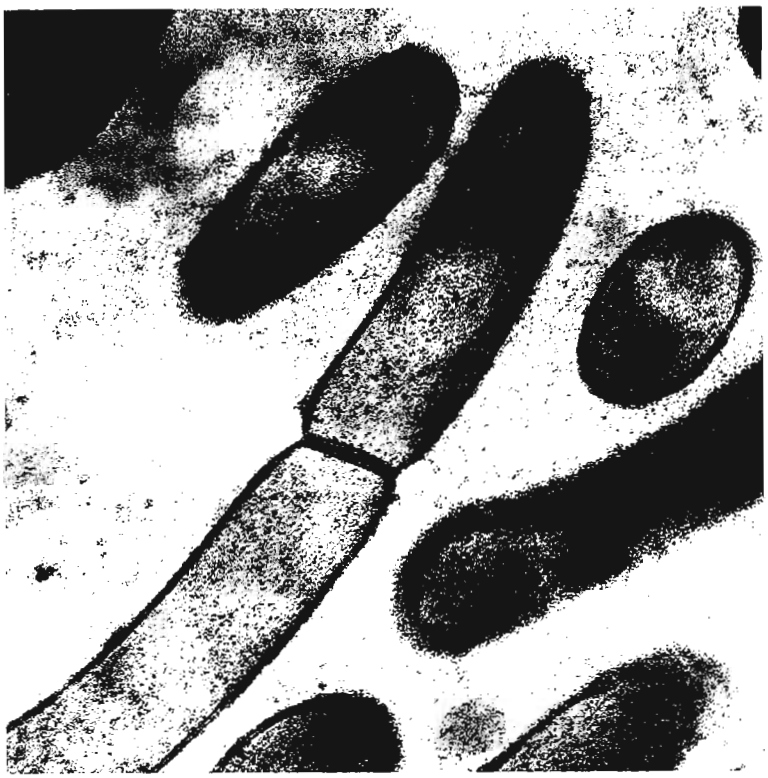

Figure 1. Electron micrograph of bacteria contaminating Drosophila culture media. 48,140 X.

Contamination involving this particular organism is difficult to control in spite of standard sterilization procedures. The organism's resistance to control methods is probably due to the thick cell wall as seen by electron microscopy (Figure 1).

To bring about control of this organism a 50.0% solution of a tincture of Zephiran (Winthrop Laboratories) was used in treating all contaminated media and containers, after which the organism was no longer detectable. Most soaps and alcohol solutions below 80.0% were not effective in controlling the organism; in fact it seemed to thrive in some cases. Antibiotic sensitivity tests indicate a susceptibility to chloromycetin, erythromycin, and penicillin (Table 2).

References: Felix, R. 1969, DIS 44:131; Kellenberger, E., A. Ryter and J. Sechaud 1958 J. Biochem. and Biochem. Cytol.

Gassparian, S. University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran. Reproduction of D. melanogaster for different cross breedings.

For the production of virgin females of D. melanogaster in some laboratories, it is customary to separate and transfer the female from the culture medium when the pupa is nine days old, a few hours before the opening of the wings. As this method is time consuming, a new and more satisfactory method has been developed in the Genetics Laboratory at the University of Isfahan. On the seventh day when the pigments of the eye are formed, the pupae are transferred to several new, small, sterile glass containers which have sufficient nutrients; those pupae which were on the glass walls of the original container are moved by a special spatula, and whose which were on cotton wool being transferred by forcepts with the cotton wool, in order to avoid direct contact. Two days after this procedure the virgin females and males are recognizable and thus separated. By this method the time involved is less than the traditional one and the casualty rate is about 10%.