

# Studies on Yeast-like Organisms Isolated from the Mouths and Throats of Normal Persons.

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Author(s) : [TODD, R. L.](#)

Journal article : [American Journal of Hygiene](#) 1937 Vol.25 pp.212-20 ref.14

Abstract : The author of this important paper has confirmed the observations of previous workers on the occurrence of thrush fungi in the mouths and throats of apparently healthy persons, and has demonstrated the presence of agglutinating fungi in the blood of many of these people. This observation is of much value because of the significance often attached to the presence of " monilia" agglutinins in the

diagnosing *monilia infection of the lungs*.

The mouths and throats of 1, 000 healthy persons were examined by culture and thrush fungi were grown from 140 of these; 96 were females and 44 males. Of the 140 the fungus was obtained from both mouth and throat, in 31 from the mouth only and in 39 from the throat only.

The sera of 1, 150 persons, of whom 698 had also been examined by culture, were tested for agglutination of *Monilia albicans*. In 529 of the 698 persons examined by the agglutination test was negative, although 9 of these harboured "monilia" in the mouth or throat, in 66 cases the agglutination test was doubtful or occurred at a low titre, and of these only 22 yielded monilia in culture. In 42 the serum end-titre of agglutination reached 1/40, and of these cases 19 yielded monilia. In 30 the end-titre reached 1/80, and 25 yielded monilia. In 26 the titre reached 1/160, and all but one were positive. In 8 the end-titre was 1/320 and in one 1/640, and *all* of these were positive.

From these results the author concludes that "there is a relationship between the titre of agglutinins in the serum and the presence of *M. albicans* in the mouth or throat." [Sixteen years ago the reviewer carried out work of a similar kind (unpublished) on the occurrence of fungi of the "monilia" group in the *faeces* and its relation to the presence of "monilia" antibodies in the blood. The fungi were cultivated from a high percentage of faecal specimens examined, and the presence of monilia antibodies in the blood was definitely related to the occurrence of the fungi in the faeces; antibodies were found in the serum of a person whose faeces, after repeated examinations, yielded the fungi. The monilia antibody titre was greatly increased (sometimes to 1/640) in the existence of derangements of the intestine, associated with sprue, dysentery, malaria, etc., which probably favoured the invasion of the intestinal wall by the fungi. See also cases in Todd's paper, in which agglutinins were demonstrated in the blood of persons who, apparently, had not monilia in the mouth or throat may, therefore, have had instances of intestinal harbourage of the fungi.]

*J. T. Duncan.*

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