**Mycobacterium marinum**

### Characteristics

**Morphology**
Gram positive, non-motile, acid-fast, rod-shaped aerobic bacteria with high genomic DNA GC content. Non-pigmented if grown in darkness but bright yellow if grown in light. Smooth to rough colonies on inspissated egg medium and smooth colonies if grown on oleic acid-albumin agar.

**Growth Conditions**
Growth on inspissated egg medium or oleic acid-albumin agar at 30°C within 2 or more days.

### Health Hazards

**Host Range**
Humans, fish, and other aquatic animals.

**Modes of Transmission**
Passed from fish to humans through breaks in the skin. This typically occurs when cleaning aquariums or fish tanks, handling or cleaning fish, and swimming or working in fresh or salt-water. *M. marinum* is not transmissible from human to human.

**Signs and Symptoms**
Skin lesions or cutaneous granulomas typically near the elbow, knee, foot, finger or toe. More severe forms include tenosynovitis, arthritis, bursitis and osteomyelitis. Disseminated infections are possible but are rare.

**Infectious Dose**
Unknown

**Incubation Period**
Symptoms usually appear within 2 to 4 weeks post inoculation. Some cases have shown symptoms after 2 to 4 months due to the slow-growing nature of the organism.

### Medical Precautions / Treatment

**Prophylaxis**
None available.

**Vaccines**
None available.

**Treatment**
Resistant to isoniazid but susceptible to ethambutol and rifampin.

**Surveillance**
Tissue biopsy for culture and histology.

**Emory Requirements**
Report all exposures.

### Laboratory Hazards

**Sources**
Environmental samples, exudates from lesions, and tissues, water used for aquatic animal habitat or growth.

### SupPLEMENTal References

**Canadian MSDS**

**National Center for Biotechnology Information**

**Iowa State University – Center for Food Security & Public Health**
[http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/mycobacterium_marinum.pdf](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/mycobacterium_marinum.pdf)

### Containment Requirements

- **BSL-2**
  - When handling clinical materials and cultures.
- **ABSL-2**
  - When conducting animal studies.

### Spill Procedures

**Small**
Notify others working in the lab. Allow aerosols to settle. Don appropriate PPE. Cover area of the spill with paper towels and apply an appropriate disinfectant, working from the perimeter towards the center. Allow 30 minutes of contact time before disposal and cleanup of spill materials.

**Large**
Contact Emory’s Biosafety Officer (404-727-8863), the EHSO Office (404-727-5922), or The Spill Response Team (404-727-2888).

### Exposures Procedures

**Mucous membrane**
Flush eyes, mouth or nose for 15 minutes at eyewash station.

**Other Exposures**
Wash area with soap and water for 15 minutes.

**Reporting**
Immediately report incident to supervisor, complete an employee incident report in PeopleSoft.

**Medical Follow-up**

- **7am-4pm (OIM):**
  - EUH (404-686-7941)
  - EUHM (404-686-7106)
  - WW (404-728-6431)

- **After Hours:**
  - OIM NP On Call 404-686-5500
  - PIC# 50464

- **Needle Stick (OIM):**
  - EUH (404-686-8587)
  - EUHM (404-686-2352)


### Viability

**Disinfection**
Greater resistance to disinfectants and require longer contact times for most disinfectants to be effective; 5% phenol, 1% sodium hypochlorite (low organic matter and longer contact times), iodine solutions (high concentration of available iodine), glutaraldehyde and formaldehyde (longer contact time) are effective.

**Inactivation**
Sensitive to moist heat (121°C for at least 15 minutes).

**Survival Outside Host**
Carcass and organs (up to 1 year), cereals (3 years), soil (2 years), water (2 years), manure (up to 154 days), saw dust (230 days).

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

**Minimum PPE Requirements**
At minimum, personnel are required to don gloves, closed toed shoes, lab coat, and appropriate face and eye protection prior to working with *M. marinum*. Additional PPE may be required depending on lab specific SOPs.

**Additional Precautions**
None