

Summary

- Spirochaetes are very thin, spiral shaped organisms.
- There are a number of species.
- The bacteria take their name from various sources: *Borrelia* (after the French bacteriologist Amédée Borrel), leptospire (meaning “fine coils”), treponemes (“turning, drilling”).
- Spirilla are usually classified separately.
- As yet there is no definitive nomenclature for the various subspecies.

<i>T. pallidum</i>	syphilis, bejel (non-venereal syphilis)
<i>T. pertenue</i>	framboesia (= yaws, = pian)
<i>T. carateum</i>	pinta
<i>L. interrogans</i>	Weil’s disease and more mild forms
<i>B. recurrentis</i>	louse-borne borreliosis
<i>B. duttonii</i> , <i>B. hispanica</i> , <i>B. persica</i> and others	tick-borne borreliosis
<i>B. burgdorferi</i> s.l.	Lyme disease
<i>B. vincenti</i>	tropical ulcer, Plaut-Vincent’s angina, cancrum oris, Fournier’s scrotal gangrene, trench mouth (necrotising ulcerative gingivitis)
<i>Spirillum minus</i>	sodoku or rat bite fever
<i>Streptobacillus moniliformis</i>	Haverhill fever

There are Treponema diseases:

1. Venereal syphilis or Lues
2. Non-venereal syphilis or Bejel

3. Framboesia or Yaws or Pian
4. Pinta