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Bordetella pertussis

[bor''-də-tel'ə pər-tus'is]

Named for Belgian bacteriologist Jules Bordet, members of the genus *Bordetella* are small, gram-negative, aerobic coccobacilli that infect the respiratory epithelium in mammals. In 1906, Drs Bordet and Octave Gengou succeeded in isolating and cultivating the bacterium, later called *Bordetella pertussis* (from Latin *per*, intensive, and *tussis*, cough), which causes whooping cough, a deadly disease in young children. For this work and his pioneering immunologic studies, Dr Bordet was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1919.

Source: Bordet J, Gengou O. Le microbe de la coqueluche. *Ann Inst Pasteur (Paris)*. 1906;20:731–41. <http://nobelprize.org>; Dorland's illustrated medical dictionary, 31st edition. Philadelphia: Saunders Elsevier; 2007.