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### Cecile Cazorla, Aurelie Guigon, Martine Noel, Marie-Laure Quilici, and Flore Lacassin

Author affiliations: New Caledonian Territorial Hospital Internal Medecine Unit, Noumea, New Caledonia (C. Cazorla, F. Lacassin); Institut Pasteur, Noumea (A. Guigon); Direction des Affaires Sanitaires et Sociales de Nouvelle Calédonie, Noumea (M. Noel); and Institut Pasteur, Paris, France (M.-L. Quilici)

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Address for correspondence: Cecile Cazorla, Internal Medecine and Infectious Diseases Unit, New Caledonia Territorial Hospital, BP J5, 98849 Noumea, New Caledonia; email: cazorlac@yahoo.fr



# etymologia

## *Vibrio vulnificus*

[vīb're-o vŭl-nīf'ī-kəs]

From the Latin *vibrio* (to move) and *vulnificus* (causing wounds). *Vibrio vulnificus* is a virulent, gram-negative, comma-shaped, motile bacterium that belongs to the family Vibrionaceae. In 1976, researchers at the Centers for Disease Control identified it as a *Vibrio* sp. and possible emerging pathogen. Because of its association with blistering skin infections, the bacterium was named *Vibrio vulnificus* in 1979.

**Source:** Farmer JJ III. *Vibrio* (“*Benecke*”) *vulnificus*, the bacterium associated with sepsis, septicemia and the sea. Lancet. 1979;2:903; Hollis DG, Weaver RE, Baker CN, Thornsberrry C. Halophilic *Vibrio* species isolated from blood cultures. J Clin Microbiol. 1976;3:425–31; Todar K. Todar’s online textbook of bacteriology. *Vibrio vulnificus*. [cited 2010 Nov 24]. <http://textbookofbacteriology.net/v.vulnificus.html>; Dorland’s illustrated medical dictionary. 31st ed. Philadelphia: Saunders Elsevier; 2007.