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**etymology**

*Capnocytophaga canimorsus* [kap”no-si-tof’ə-gə kan”ə-mɔr’əsəs]

**Ronnie Henry**

From the Greek *kapnos* (“smoke”) for its dependence on carbon dioxide, which is a large component of smoke, *Capnocytophaga canimorsus* (Latin *canis*, “dog,” and *morsus*, “bite”) are gram-negative, facultatively anaerobic, rod-shaped bacteria that are part of the normal oral microbiota of dogs and cats. The genus was proposed to distinguish these bacteria from *Cytophaga* spp. (Greek *kytos*, “cell,” and *phagein*, “eat”), which also exhibit gliding motility. *C. canimorsus* was previously known as CDC group DF-2 (dysgonic fermenter type 2) and was first isolated from a man who had experienced multiple dog bites and developed septicemia and meningitis. *C. canimorsus* remains a major cause of septicemia in persons, particularly those who are asplenic or immunocompromised, who are bitten by dogs or cats.

**Sources**


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