


Address for correspondence: Andreas Plate, University Hospital Zurich, Division of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology, Raemistrasse 100 CH-8091, Zurich, Switzerland; email: andreas.plate@usz.ch

---

**etymologia**

**Granulicatella [gran'you-lik-ə-tel"e]**

Ronnie Henry

In 1961, Frenkel and Hirsch described strains of streptococci isolated from cases of bacterial endocarditis that grew only in the presence of other bacteria, around which they formed satellite colonies, or in media enriched with sulphhydryl compounds, such as cysteine. These nutritionally variant streptococci were eventually assigned the species *Streptococcus defectivus* (Latin for “deficient”) and *S. adjacens* (because it grows adjacent to other bacteria).

On the basis of later research, these were placed in a new genus *Abiotrophia* (Greek *a*, “un-,” + *bios*, “life,” + *trophe*, “nutrition”) as *A. adiacens* and *A. defectiva*. In 1998 and 1999, 2 additional species of *Abiotrophia* were described, *A. elegans* (Latin, “fastidious,” referring to fastidious growth requirements) and *A. balaenopterae* (isolated from a minke whale [*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*]). In 2000, these new species, along with *A. adiacens*, were reclassified in the new genus *Granulicatella* (Latin *granulum*, “small grain,” + *catella*, “small chain”).

**Sources**


Address for correspondence: Ronnie Henry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd NE, Mailstop E03, Atlanta, GA 30329-4027, USA; email: boq3@cdc.gov

DOI: https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2409.ET2409