


# ▶ MALASSEZIA

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# Introduction

- ▶ Important Species–  
*MALASSEZIA PACHYDERMATIS*
  - ▶ *Also known as (PITYROSPORUM CANIS)*
  - ▶ occur as commensals on the oily areas of skin and ears of dogs, cats and probably other animals
  - ▶ Lipophilic yeast
  - ▶ Reproduce by Unipolar budding
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# Predisposing Factors

- ▶ Immunosuppression
- ▶ Allergic dermatitis
- ▶ Hairy or pendulous ears leading to high humidity and wax accumulation in the ear canal.

# Diseases

- ▶ Otitis externa and seborrhoeic dermatitis in dogs.
- ▶ Otitis and feline chin acne.

# ▶ DIAGNOSIS

# Specimen

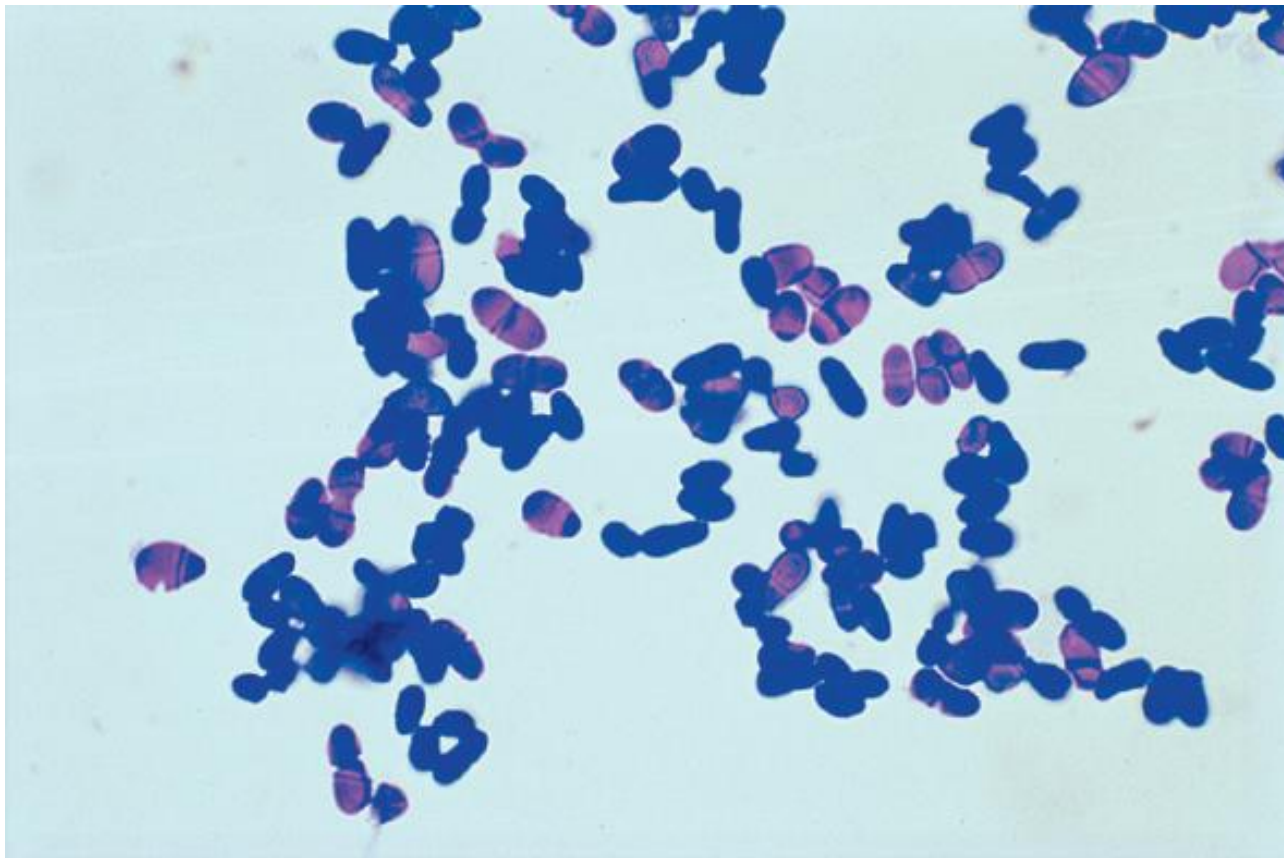
- ▶ Ear Exudate
  - ▶ Superficial skin scraping
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# Direct Microscopy

- ▶ Gram-stained or methylene-blue-stained smears
- ▶ Typical bottle-shaped yeast cells with a wide septum between mother and daughter cells

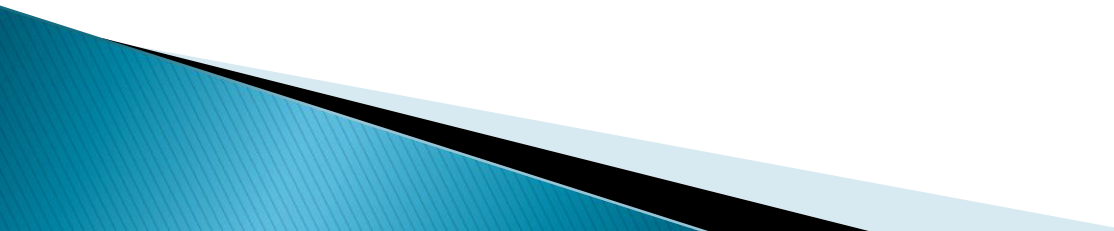
# *Malassezia pachydermatis* from a culture

(Methylene blue stain,  $\times 1000$ )

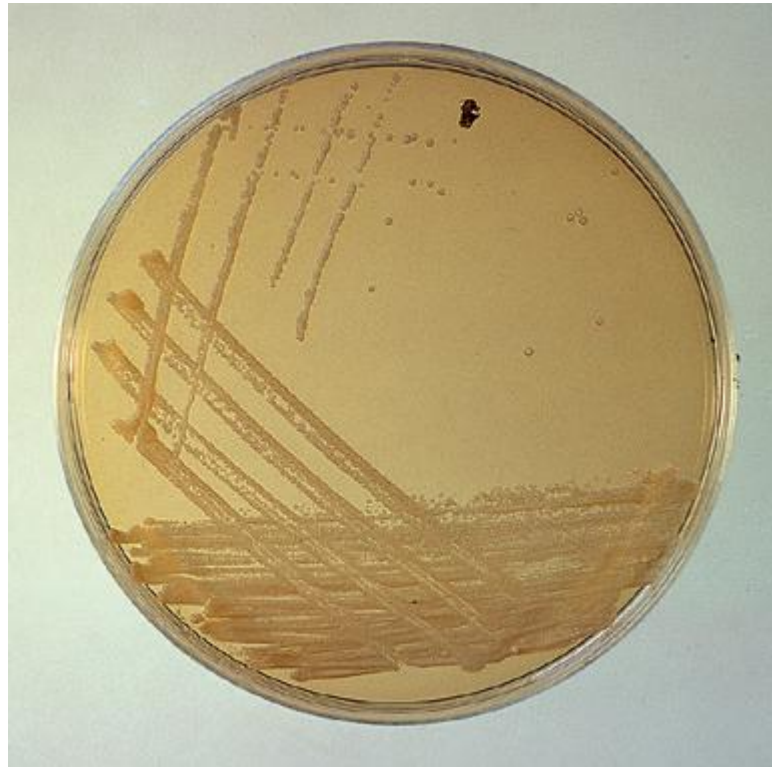




# CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Media–Sabouraud dextrose agar , **Dixon's agar**
  - ▶ Culture incubated at 32–37°C for up to a week in a humid atmosphere
  - ▶ Growth can be improved by placing a film of sterile olive or coconut oil on the surface of the agar before inoculation
  - ▶ Colonies are small, smooth and often have a 'wet–dog' odour
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*Malassezia pachydermatis* on  
*Sabouraud*  
dextrose agar, 10 days



# BIOCHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- ▶ Urease-positive

# Molecular techniques

- ▶ Techniques based on PCR have been developed for the identification and differentiation of *Malassezia species*