

Ways to Name Microbes in Latin

Microbes are often named using Latin, a really old language that no one speaks anymore.

Here are some ways that microbes are named in Latin:

1 SHAPE

Name your microbe based on its shape!



Rod-Shaped = **Bacillus**



Spherical = **Coccus**



Comma-Shaped = **Vibrio**



Helical-Shaped = **Spirochaeta**

2 COLOR

Name your microbe based on its color!

Golden = Aureus



Red = Rubra



White = Albus



Green = Viridis



Violet = Violaceus



Orange = Aurantia



3 HABITAT

Name your microbe based on where it lives!

 Sea or ocean = Marinus	 Aquatic = Aquaticus
 Forest = Sylvaticus	 Ground or soil = Terrestris
 Heat-loving = Thermophilus	 Cold-loving = Psychrophilus
 Salt-loving = Halophilus	

Let's see some examples!

Coccus Albus =  
Spherical, White

Bacillus Terrestris =  
Rod-Shaped, Soil

Spirochaeta Aurantia =  
Helical-Shaped, Orange