

Genus *Termitispirillum*

Etymology

[Ter.mi.ti.spi.ril'lum] **L. masc. n.** *termes*, termite; **L. neut. dim. n.** *spirillum*, a small spiral;
N.L. neut. dim. n. *Termitispirillum*, a spiral bacterium from termites

Nomenclatural type

Species *Termitispirillum cryptocerci*^{Ts}

Description

Members of this genus are uncultured and spiral or curved long rods that specifically attach to parabasalid protists in the guts of termites and *Cryptocercus* cockroaches. Cells measure 3–13 µm in length and 0.4 µm in width. Genomic analyses indicated that these bacteria possess a Gram-negative-type cell wall and chemoheterotrophic metabolism with fermentation and respiratory pathways. Motility was inferred from the presence of genes involved in flagellar assembly and chemotaxis. Taxonomic assignment is based on the 16S rRNA gene sequence and specific detection by FISH using the oligonucleotide probe RsTz2-092-190 or Deferrri-term-661 (Table S2). The nomenclatural type is *Termitispirillum cryptocerci* with its genome sequence as the type material.

Classification

Bacteria » *Deferribacterota* » *Deferribacteres* » *Deferribacterales* » *Termitispirillaceae* »
Termitispirillum

References

Effective publication: Maruoka et al., 2026 [1]

Registry URL

<https://seqco.de/i:54887>

References

1. Maruoka et al. (2026). Discovery and genomics of H₂-oxidizing/O₂-reducing *Deferribacterota* ectosymbiotic with protists in the guts of termites and a *Cryptocercus* cockroach. *ISME Communications*. [DOI:10.1093/ismeco/ycag002](https://doi.org/10.1093/ismeco/ycag002)