

*LIBS for Bacterial Discrimination and Detection and  
the Observation of Nutrient-Induced Biochemical  
Membrane Alteration*

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# Introduction

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## Motivating Questions:

1. Can bacteria be identified from its atomic spectrum alone (using LIBS)?  
Yes! (since about 2003)
2. Can the atomic spectrum be used to do interesting science?  
Yes! (since ???)

# Motivation

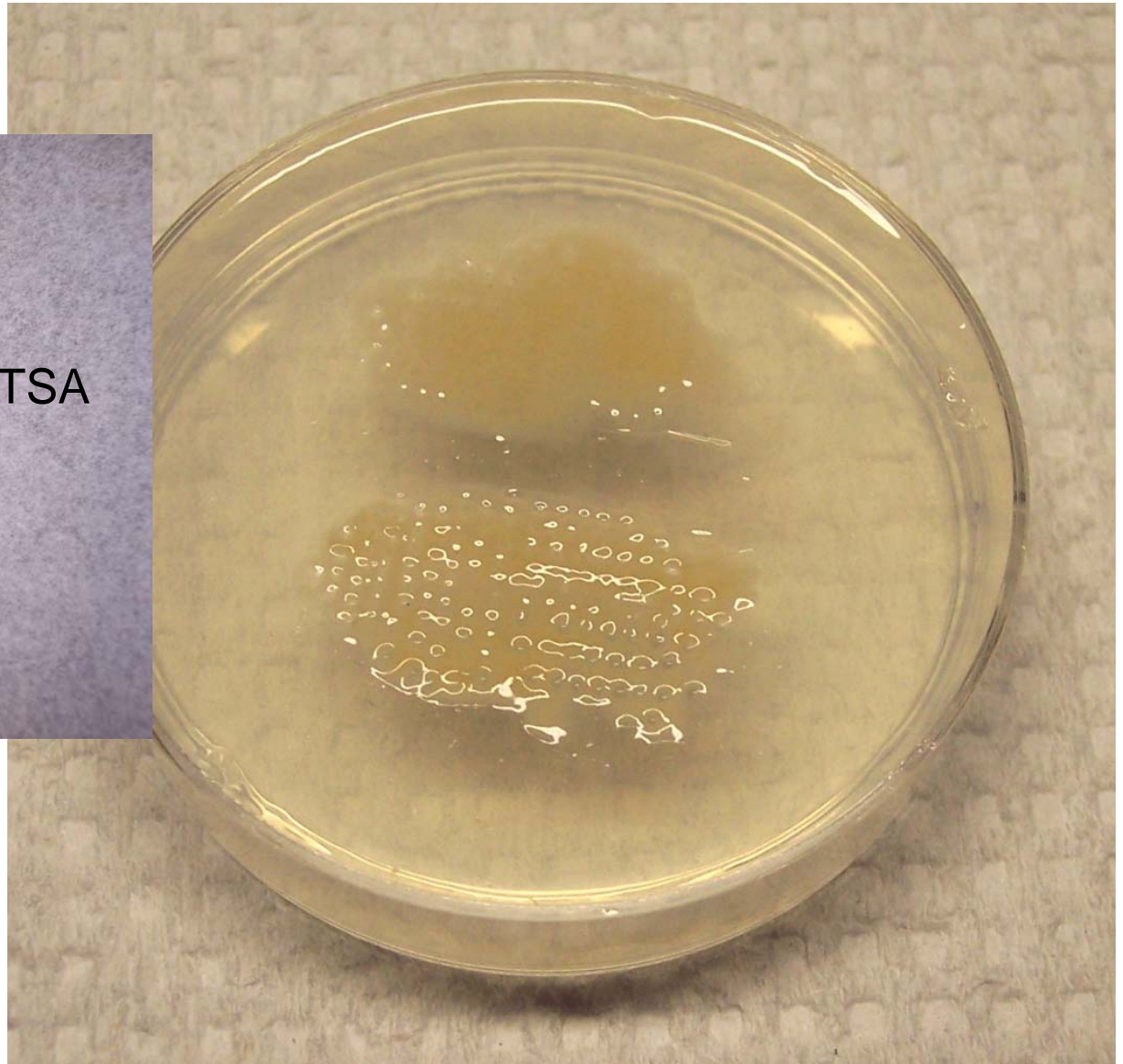
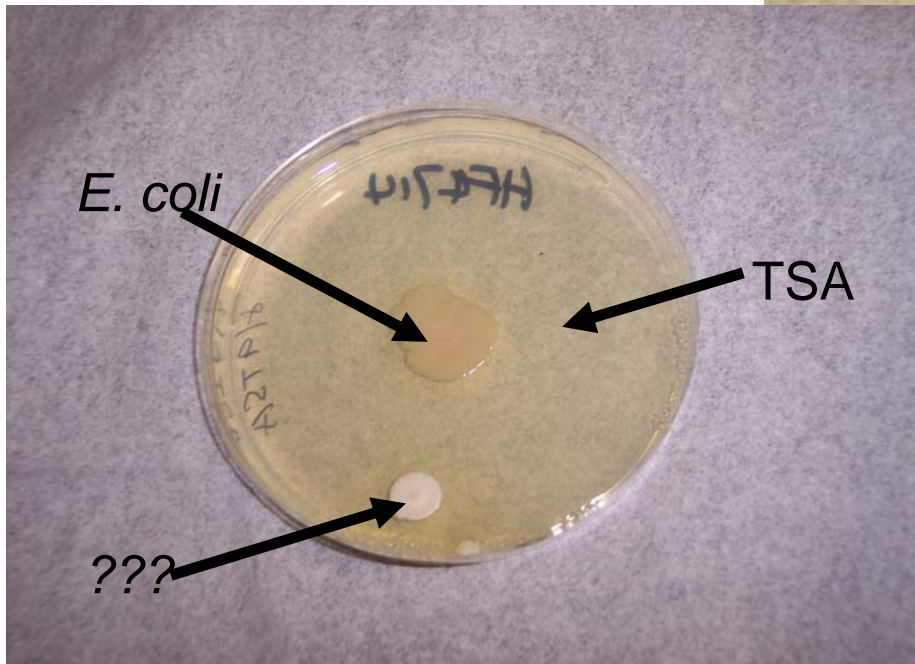
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- To characterize medically relevant bacteria using the LIBS technique.
  - To allow a clinical diagnosis.
  - To use as a research tool.
  
- To exploit the particular advantages of a LIBS-based diagnosis to “compete with” or “complement” other technologies.
  - PCR
  - FISH



# Ablated *E. coli* on Agar (a year ago)

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Now...



01/01/2004



01/01/2004



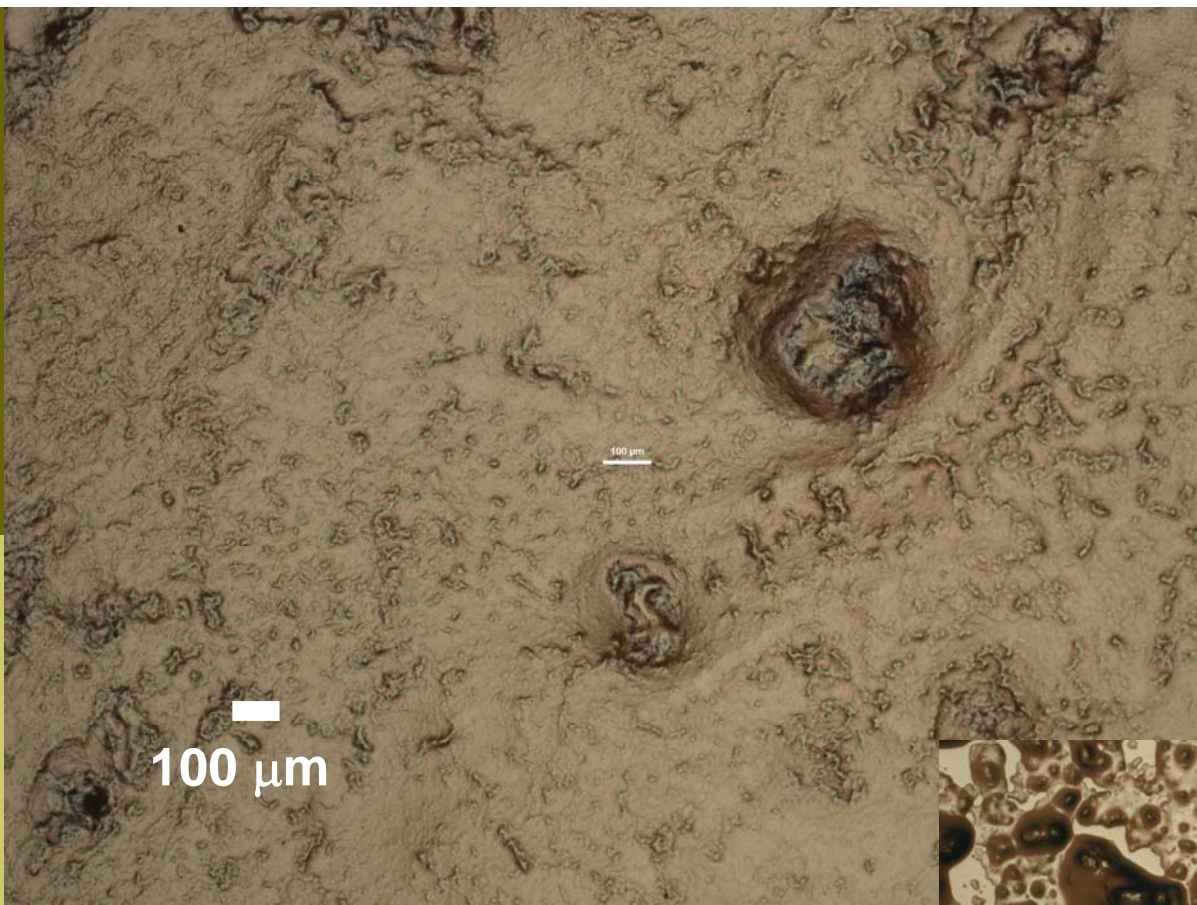
01/01/2004







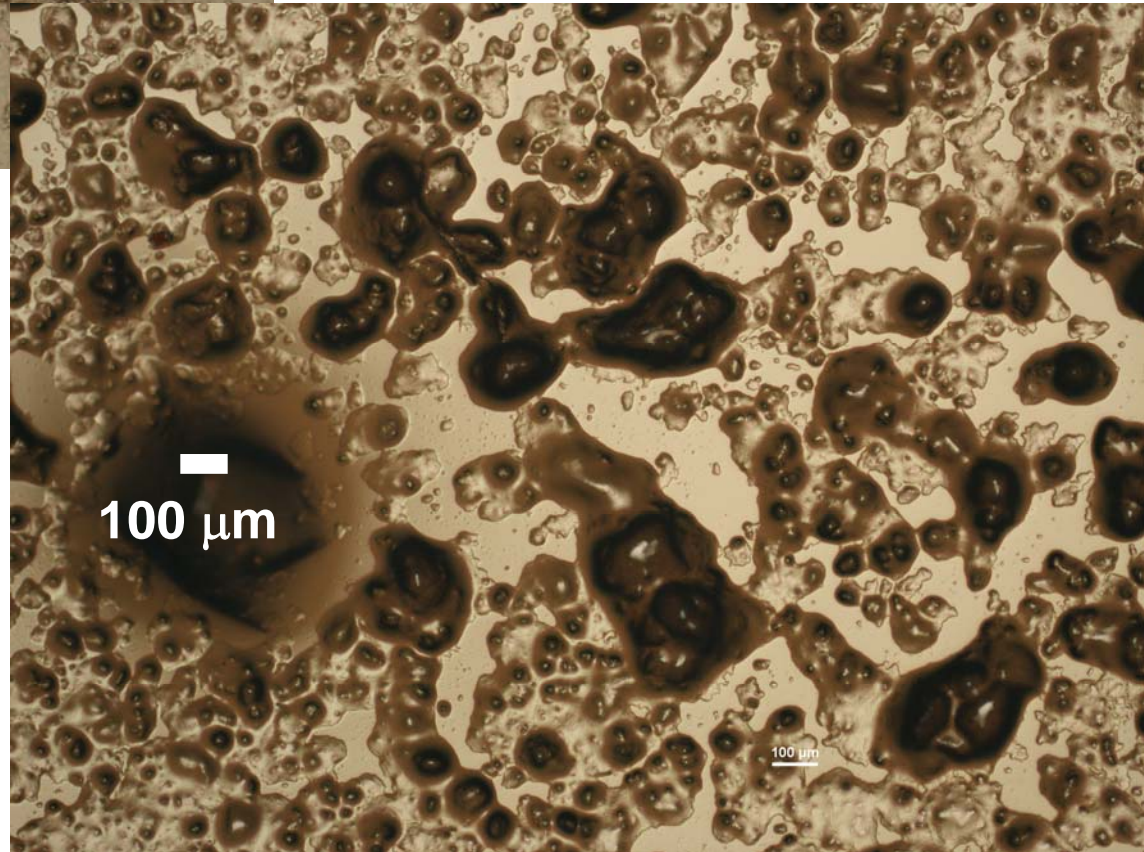




good mounting

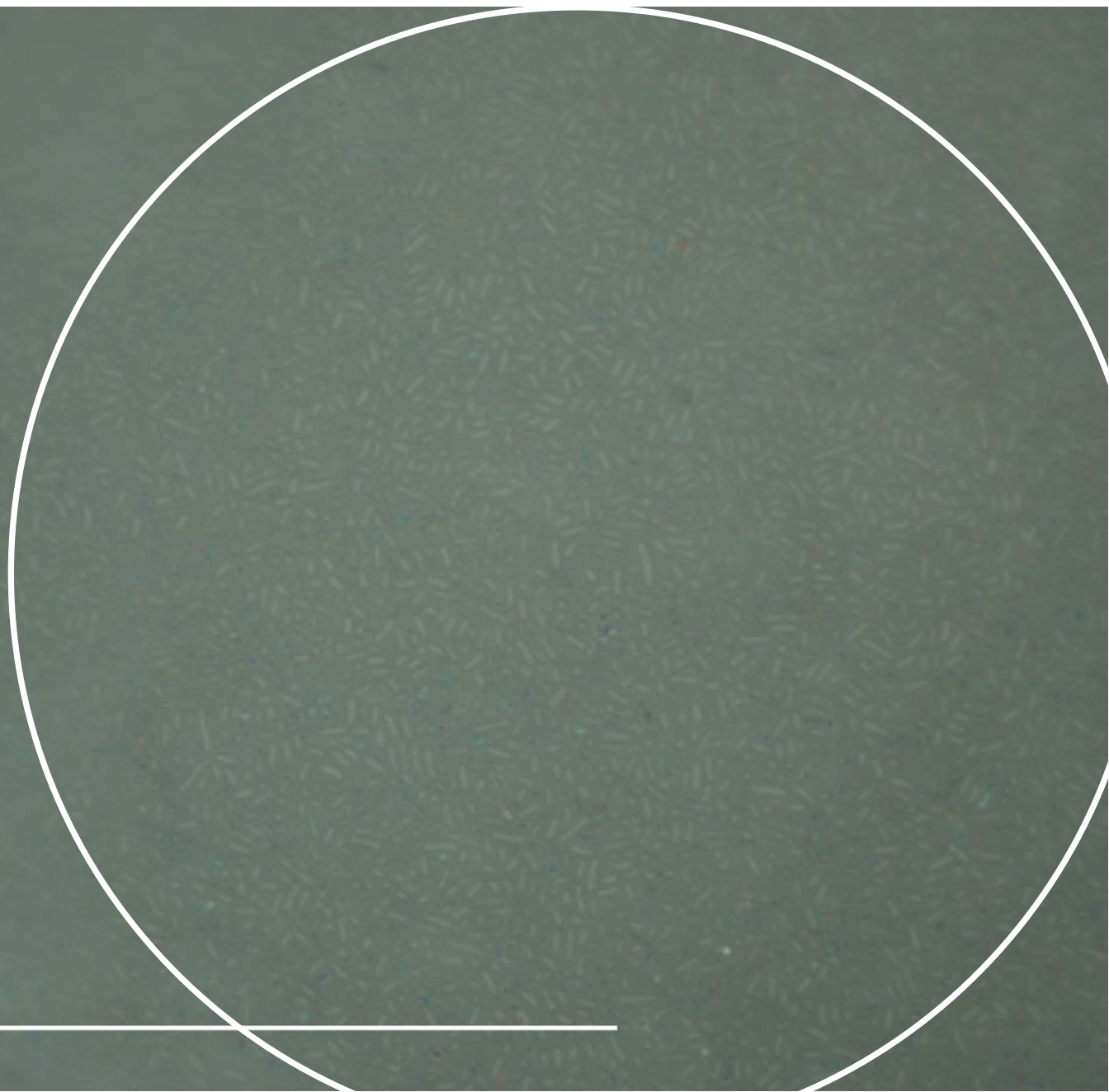


bad mounting

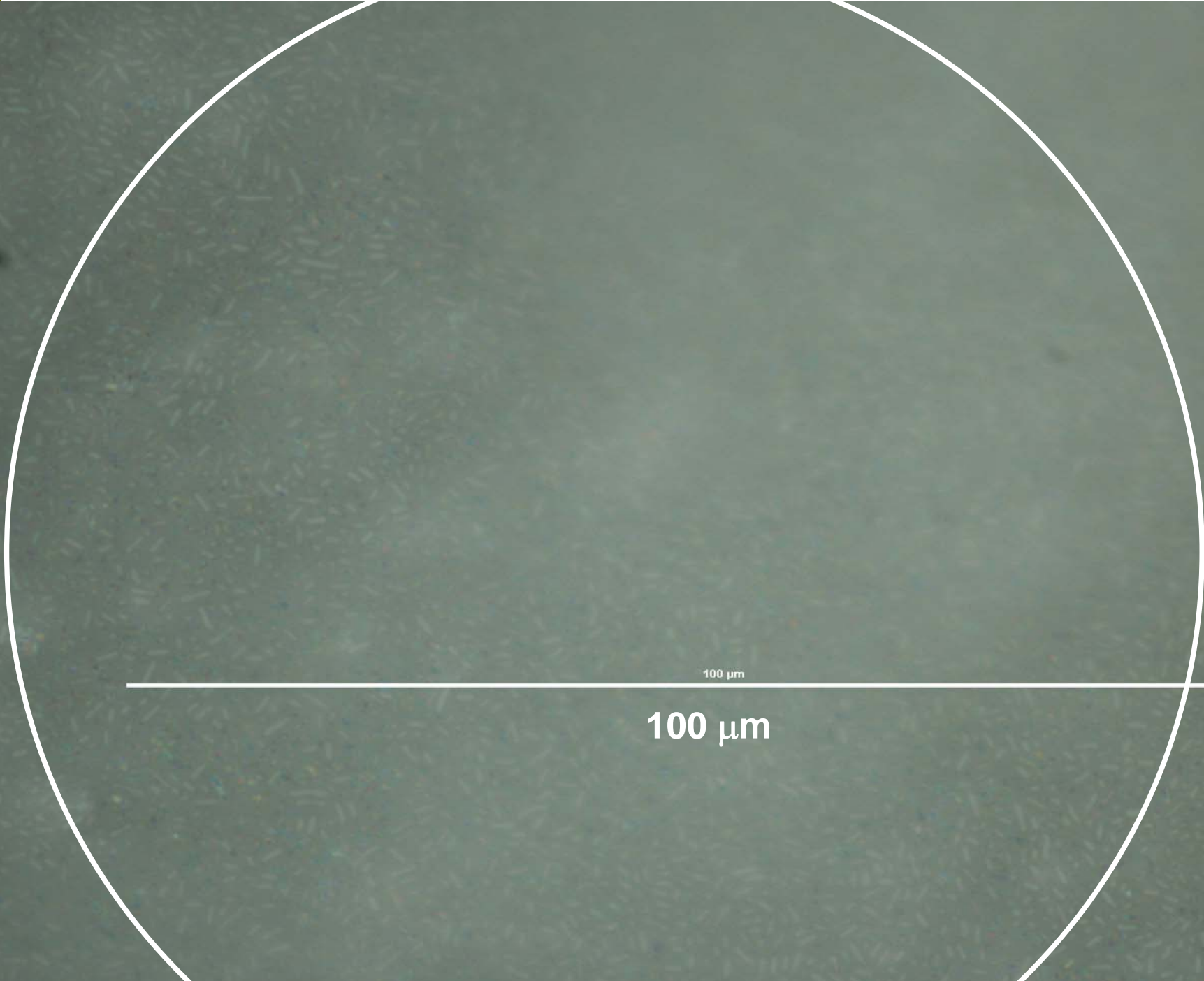


100  $\mu\text{m}$

100  $\mu\text{m}$







100 μm

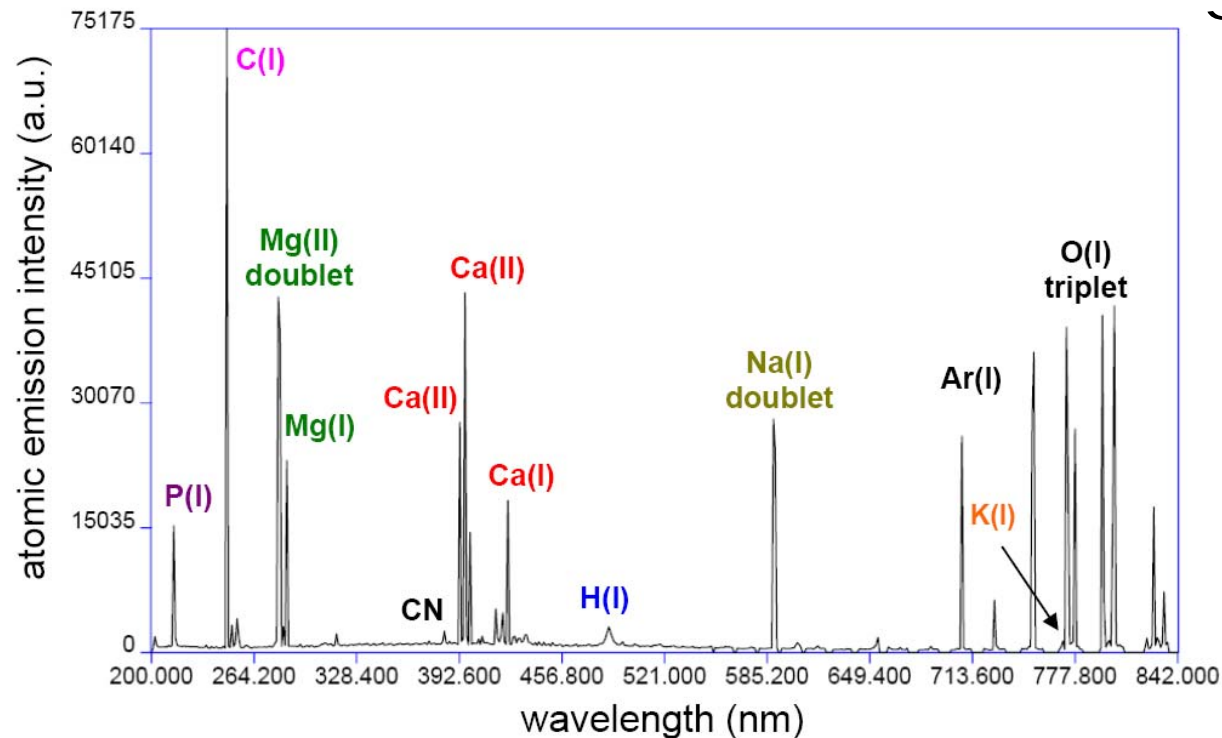
100 μm





# Composition

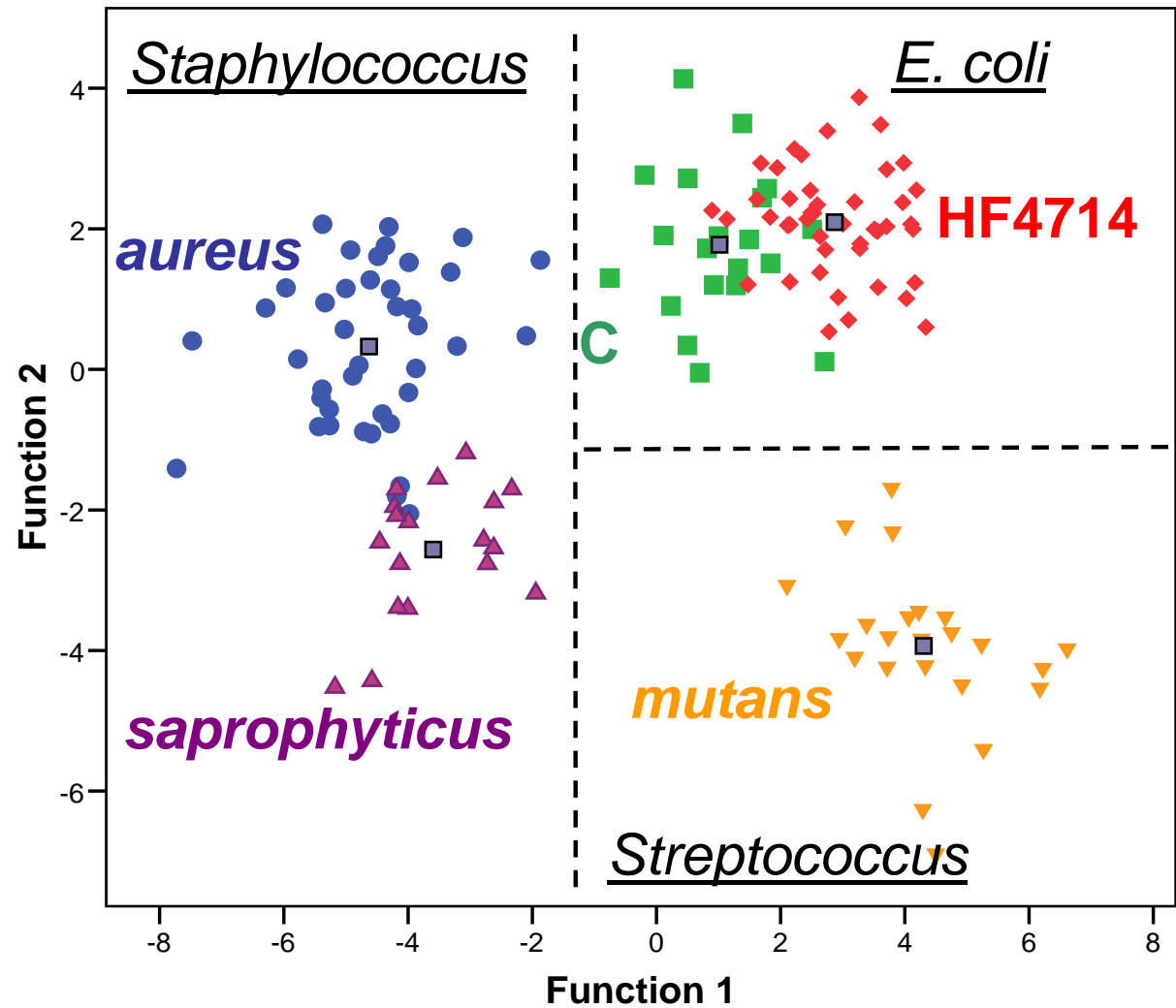
from "*The Bacteria: A Treatise on Structure and Function*" I.C. Gunsalus and R.Y. Stanier, eds



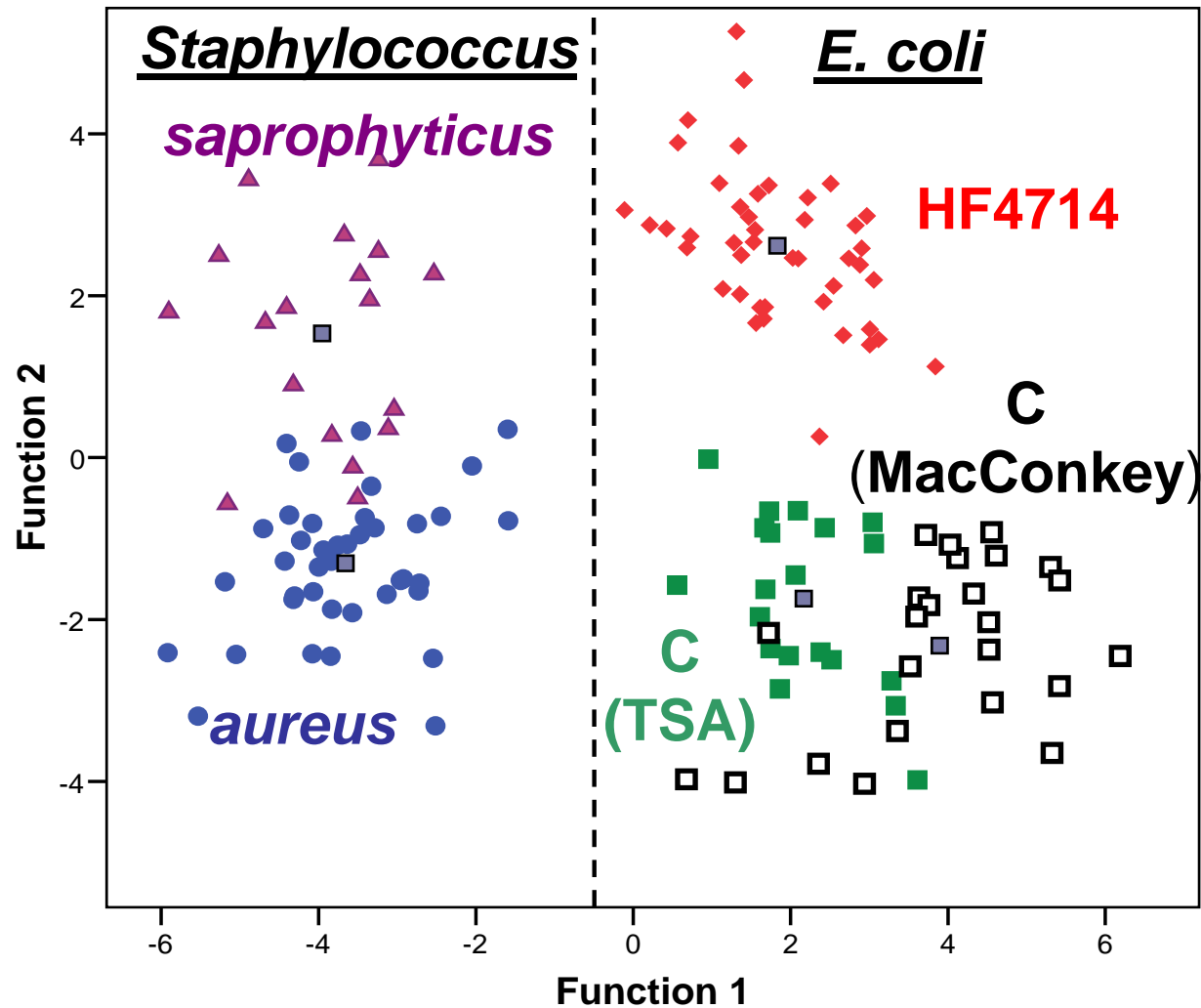
Element	% of fixed salt fraction
Sodium	2.6
Potassium	12.9
Calcium	9.1
Magnesium	5.9
Phosphorus	45.8
Sulfur	1.8
Iron	3.4

# Gram-positive / Gram-negative

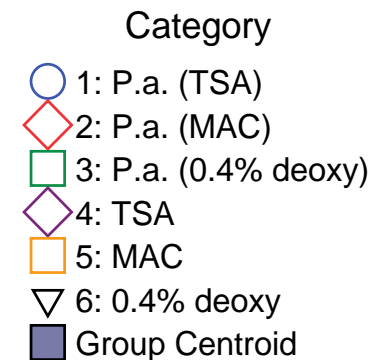
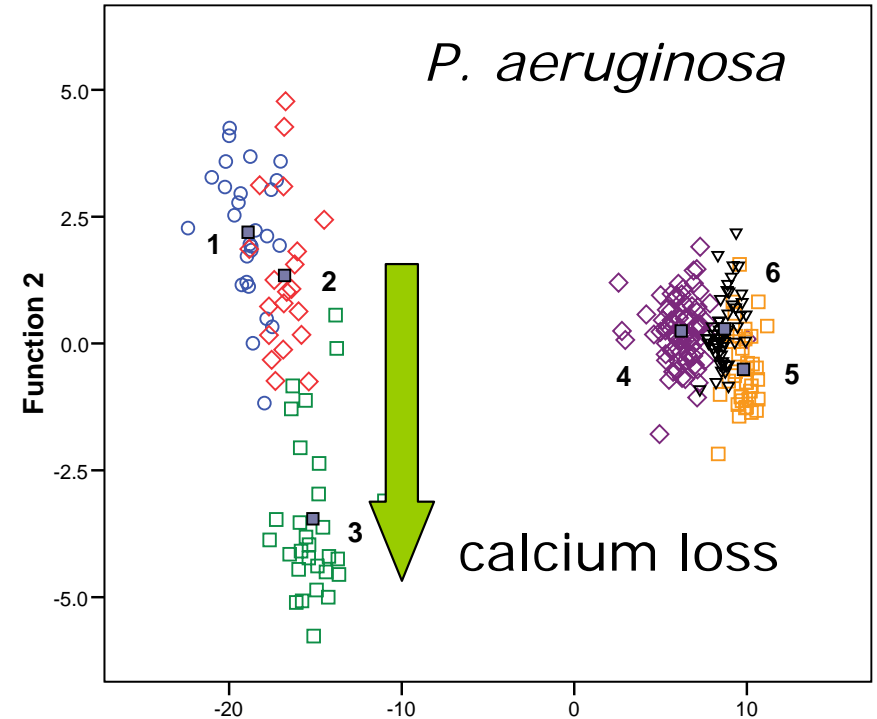
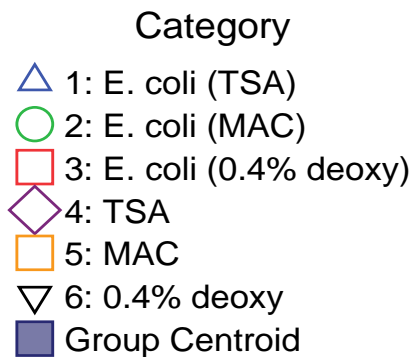
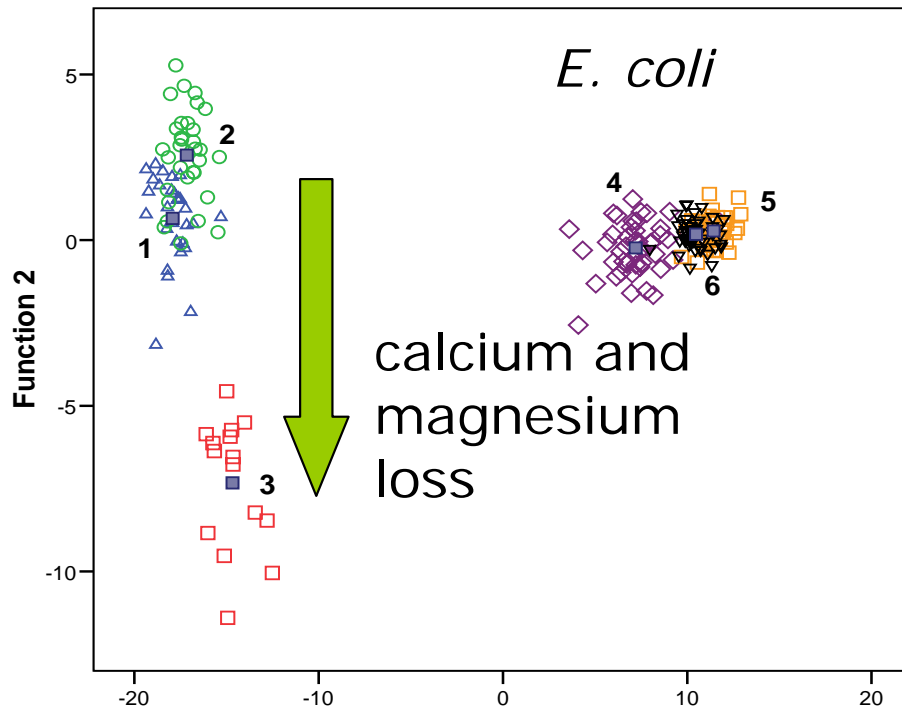
Intensity of  
13 lines used  
in the DFA



# Intentional Membrane Alteration

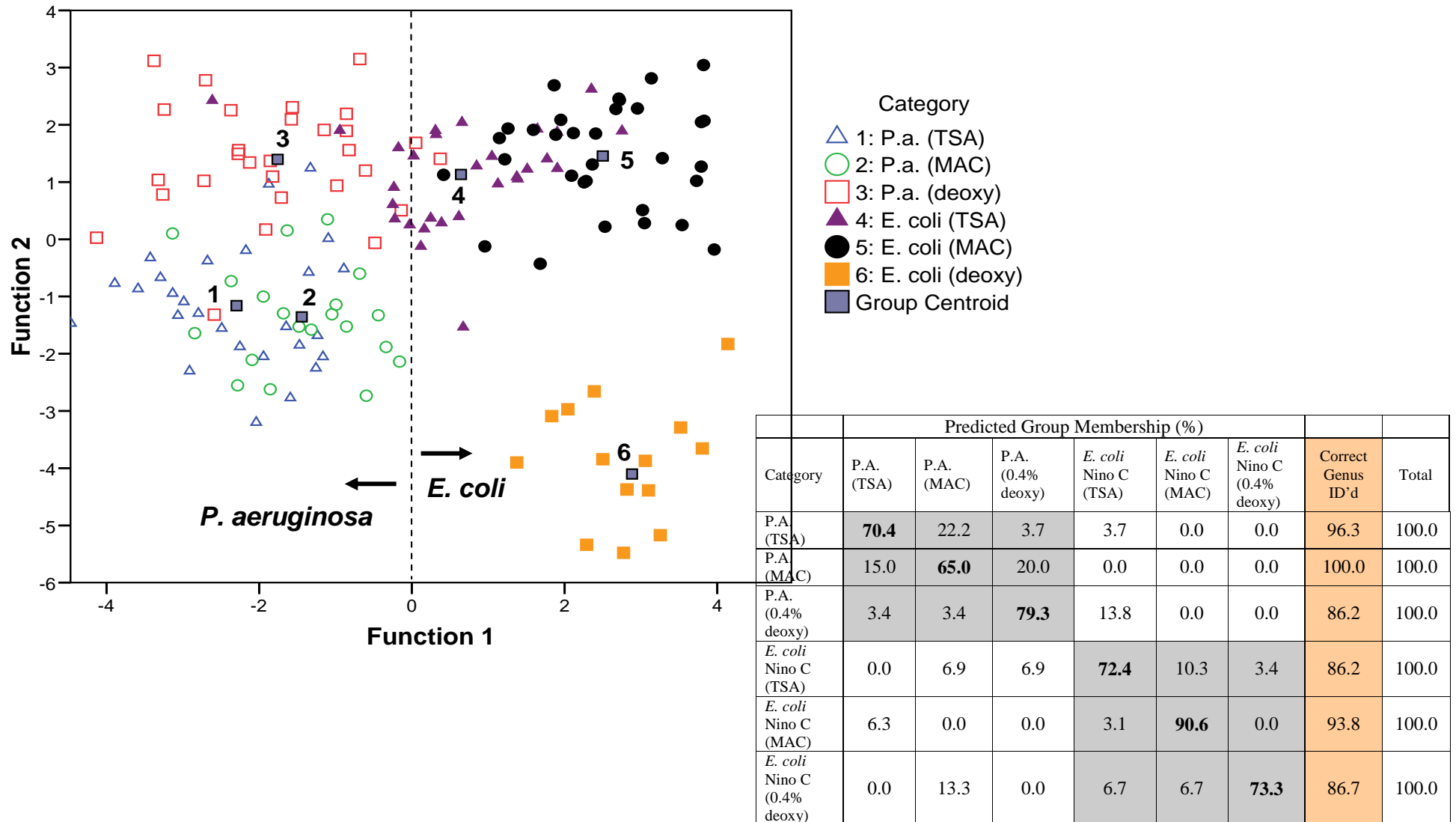


# Intentional Membrane Alteration



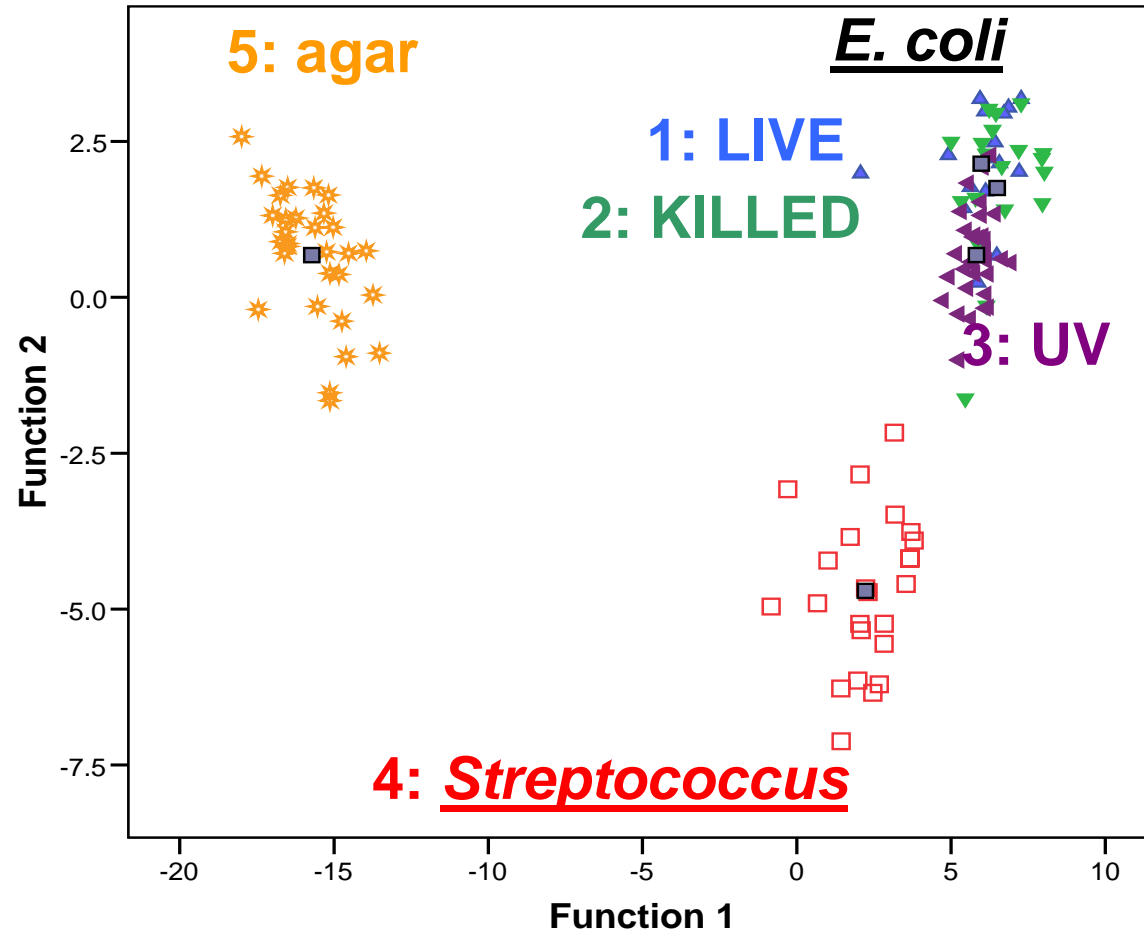


# Membrane Disruption Does not Destroy Identification

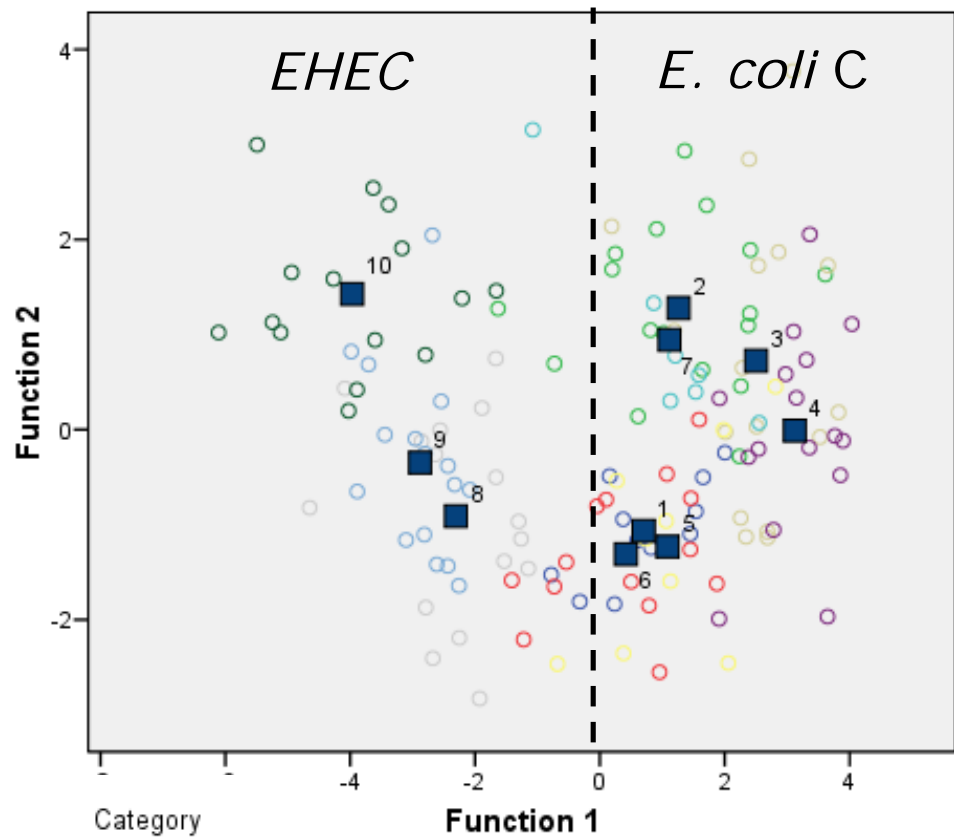


# LIBS Strengths!

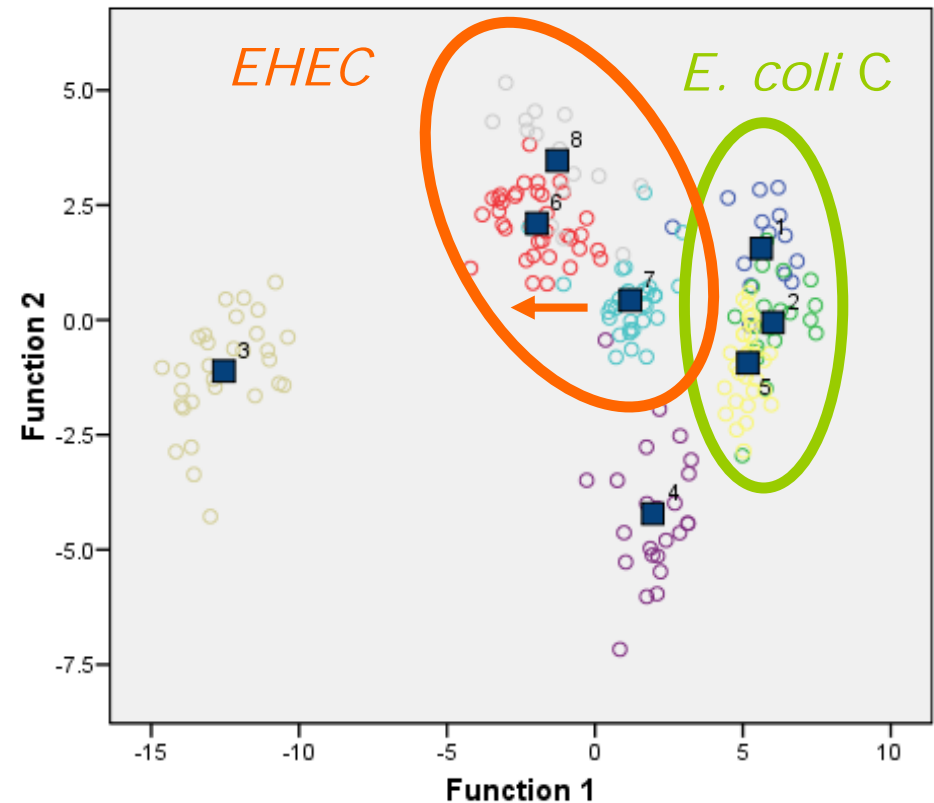
Live/killed/UV exposed



# Starvation of Lysogenic/ Non-lysogenic *E. coli*



- Category
- 1: Nino Day 1
  - 2: Nino Day 2
  - 3: Nino Day 3
  - 4: Nino Day 4
  - 5: Nino Day 5
  - 6: Nino Day 6
  - 7: Nino Day 10
  - 8: EHEC Day 1
  - 9: EHEC Day 5
  - 10: EHEC Day 10
  - Group Centroid



- Category
- 1: Nino LIVE
  - 2: Nino KILLED
  - 3: Agar
  - 4: Strep
  - 5: Nino UV
  - 6: EHEC UV
  - 7: EHEC LIVE
  - 8: EHEC Day 10
  - Group Centroid

# Conclusions

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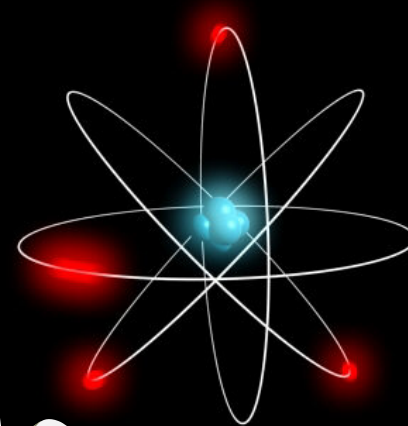
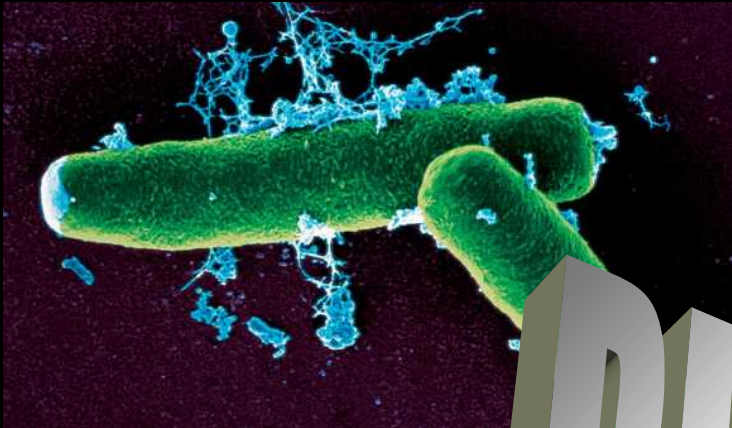
- ❑ Some of LIBS signal is definitely membrane related
- ❑ Membrane alteration (leading to lyses) is detectable
- ❑ Membrane alteration does not destroy identification
- ❑ Good discrimination amongst a variety of organisms
- ❑ LIBS has some real advantages:
  - Testing on killed specimens seems viable
  - Testing on “viable, but non-culturable” states seems viable



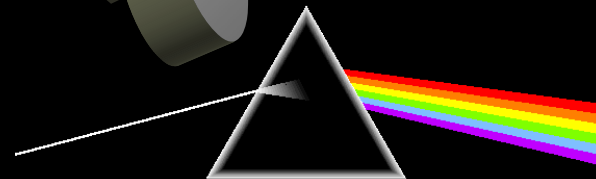
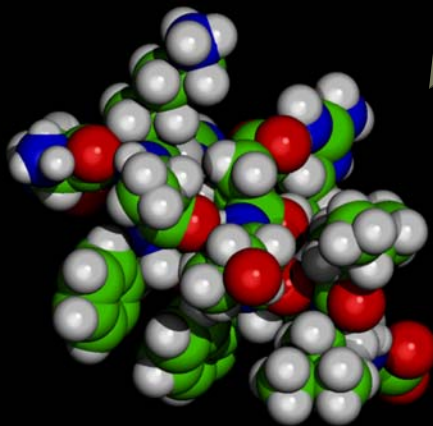
# Thank you!

## The BIOMAS Project at Wayne State:

### Bacteria Identification by Optical, Molecular, and Atomic Spectroscopy



# BIOMAS



Thank you!

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