

bacteria

Bacillus spp.

Domain: Bacteria
Division/Phylum: Firmicutes
Class: Bacilli
Order: Bacillales
Family: Bacillaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS
common, native



(1000x)

ILLINOIS RANGE

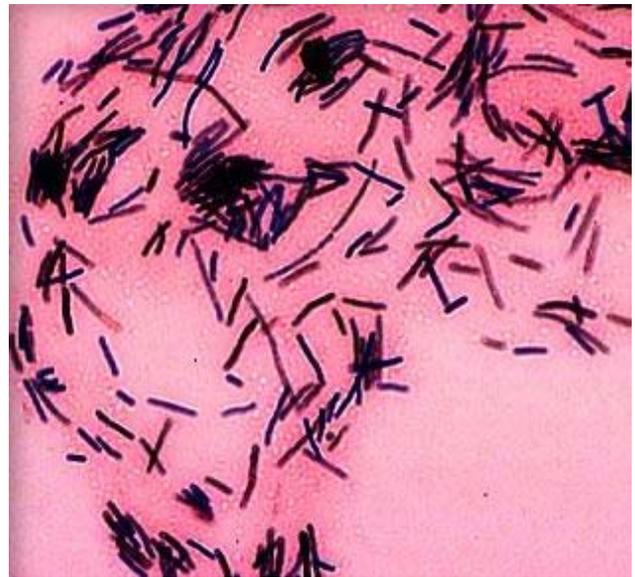


FEATURES

Bacteria are microscopic, one-celled prokaryotes (no defined nucleus). The members of the *Bacillus* genus are rod-shaped. They can be found in pairs or chains. The ends of the cell may be rounded or squared. Flagella are present for moving the cell. An endospore can be formed to help survive harsh conditions in the environment. The endospore is oval.

BEHAVIORS

Members of the genus *Bacillus* live in a wide range of habitats throughout Illinois. A few are pathogens (cause disease) to vertebrates and invertebrates. These bacteria are either aerobes, using oxygen for respiration, or facultative anaerobes, able to grow with or without oxygen. Most are saprophytes, obtaining nourishment from dead or dying organisms.



(400x)

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; lakes, ponds and reservoirs; Lake Michigan; marshes; peatlands; rivers and streams; swamps; temporary water supplies; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie