bacterium
*Micrococcus spp.*

**Domain:** Bacteria  
**Division/Phylum:** Actinobacteria  
**Class:** Actinobacteria  
**Order:** Actinomycetales  
**Family:** Micrococcaceae  

**FEATURES**
Bacteria are microscopic, one-celled prokaryotes (no defined nucleus). The members of the genus *Micrococcus* are spherical in shape (coccus). They occur in pairs, tetrads (groups of four) or irregular clusters. Most of them do not have any structures to help in movement. They do not produce endospores.

**BEHAVIORS**
The members of the genus *Micrococcus* are found throughout Illinois. They live on mammal skin and in water, dust and soil. These bacteria are aerobic, using oxygen for respiration. Optimal temperatures for growth are 25 to 37 degrees Celsius.

**ILLINOIS STATUS**
common, native

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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