

Elongation *in vitro* of *M. lepraemurium*

TO THE EDITOR:

Recently (THE JOURNAL 36 (1968) 83-86), under the title "Elongation *in vitro* of *Mycobacterium lepraemurium* as a distinction from *Mycobacterium leprae*," we reported results indicating that elongation *in vitro* may prove useful in easily distinguishing the two mycobacteria. In five out of seven authentic strains of *M. lepraemurium*, and in 10 other *M. lepraemurium*-like strains, elongation was observed, while, in contrast, in 30 strains of *M. leprae* (fresh tissue homogenates) elongation was not observed.

In the interval since our report, using the same cultural method, we have observed elongation with the two remaining authentic strains (Fukuoka and Keishiko) of *M. lepraemurium* from mouse preparations kindly sent to us by Dr. T. Mori. Thus all authenticated strains of *M. lepraemurium* have elongated in our hands.

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