

the Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology the organism was identified as a strain of *B. sphaericus*. This was confirmed by Dr Ruth E. Gordon of New Jersey.

The toxin appeared during stationary growth phase and accumulated intracellularly in the sporulating cells before DPA synthesis and appearance of HSF (figure 1). These parameters were used as markers and seem to have no direct correlation with toxin synthesis. This was confirmed with the isolation of asporogenous mutant of this organism synthesizing toxin comparable to parent strain. Interestingly no toxin was synthesized during logarithmic growth phase in both mutant and parent organism. The toxin is proteinous in nature, partially purified from sporulating cells and the toxic activity was destroyed by treatment with proteolytic enzymes. The dry spore powder preparation possessing larvicidal activity was prepared which can withstand storage for more than 10 months at room temperature without loss either in spore viability or toxicity. This information is quite interesting as the organism may be exploited for making bioinsecticide against mosquitoes. The data presented in table 1 clearly showed that the toxin level in this bacterium is quite high or atleast comparable to the best commercially produced bioinsecticides or even many strains of *B. sphaericus* and *Bacillus thuringiensis* available from various sources. These data further suggest that this organism may be used as bioinsecticide against mosquitoes.

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## NEWS

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### MORE WOMEN DYING FROM LUNG CANCER

Lung cancer is gradually replacing breast cancer as the main cause of cancer deaths among women in industrialized countries.

WHO has recently analysed female lung cancer mortality in 28 developed countries and compared the ratios of age-standardized death rates from breast cancer and from lung cancer in 12 countries reporting the highest figures over the past two decades. Death rates (adjusted for age) increased by 200% in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom and by 300% in Canada, De-

nmark, and the USA. This trend may well reflect an earlier breakdown of social taboos against female smoking in industrialized countries, which is particularly apparent in English-speaking countries.

Lung cancer is a self-induced, avoidable and preventable tumour, and these WHO findings clearly indicate the need to establish new priorities and strategies in cancer control. (*World Health Forum*, 1987, Vol. 8, No. 1, p. 116, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland).