

WANTED



Listeria monocytogenes (a.k.a. *Listeria*)

WANTED FOR:

Causing food poisoning from milk, cheese, coleslaw, pâté, deli meats, seafood and vegetables

Favourite Haunts:

Not fussy. Lives on plants, animals or in factories

Lifestyle:

Min Temp	-0.4°C
Optimum Temp	37°C
Min pH	4.3
Min relative humidity a_w	0.92
Oxygen relations	Facultatively anaerobic
Special features	Can grow in refrigerated foods Can cross the placenta and gain access to the foetus

Modus operandi:

Incubation time	2-70 days
Symptoms	Flu like symptoms, meningitis, septicaemia, stillbirth
Infectious dose	Very low for susceptible groups, much higher for other people

Typical Victims:

Pregnant women. Immunocompromised

Classic Job: Pâté or soft cheese

Dislikes: Cooking