
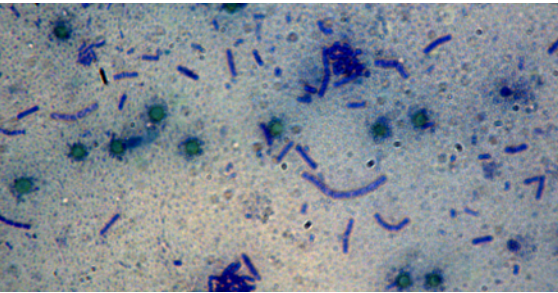
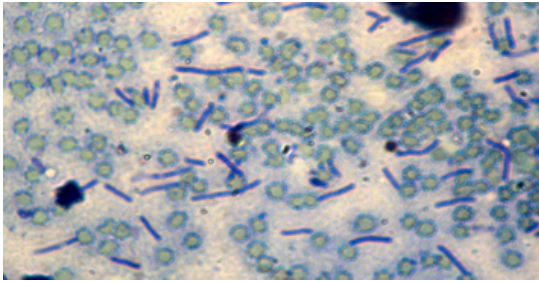
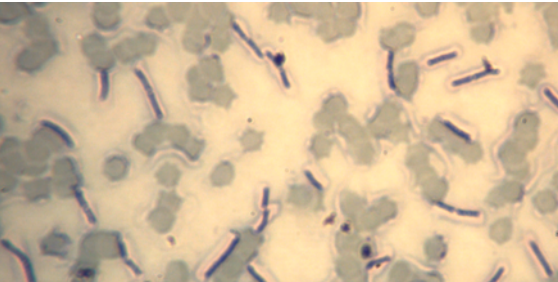
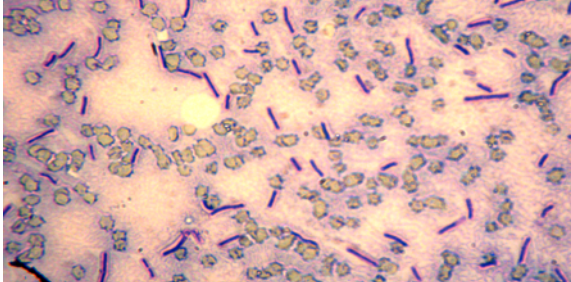
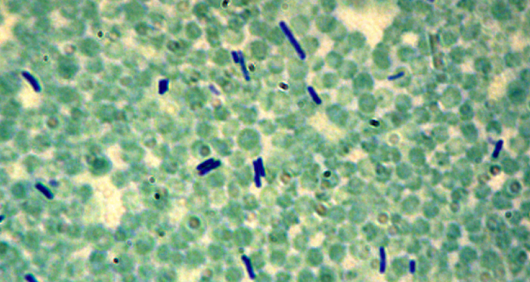


**S 1 Fig. Chart used to establish presence and strength of *Bacillus anthracis* capsule material**

<p>+/-</p>  <p>Presence of capsule well demarcated but not metachromatic. Stained with Giemsa</p>	<p>+/-</p>  <p>Pink outline faintly visible around the bacilli, but not demarcated. Stained with polychrome methylene blue</p>
<p>1+</p>  <p>Capsule is visible as a faint pink weakly demarcated around the bacilli. Stained with azure B</p>	<p>2+</p>  <p>Capsule is moderately stained and well demarcated. Stained with Giemsa</p>
<p>3+</p>  <p>Capsule is strongly stained and well demarcated. Stained with azure B</p>	<p>-</p>  <p>No evidence of capsule seen. Stained with polychrome methylene blue</p>

The strength of the capsule is based on the presence of a demarcated capsule or a 'shadon' surrounding the cell and the metachromatic property of the capsule (Owen *et al.*, 2013). The chart is interpreted subjectively, and all categories (except those with – score) were interpreted as *B. anthracis* positive as they show evidence of the presence of a capsule. Samples with a +/- score are so indicated due to the absence of either a demarcated or metachromatic capsule. Images were obtained from pictures of slides examined in the study.

### Reference

Owen, M. P. *et al.* (2013) 'A simple, reliable M'Fadyean stain for visualizing the *Bacillus anthracis* capsule.', *Journal of microbiological methods*, 92(3), pp. 264–9.