



University of Queensland

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February 28, 1975

Professor G. J. V. Nossal
Post Office
Royal Melbourne Hospital
MELBOURNE, VICT. 3050

Dear Gus,

Your letter of 17th January concerning pathogenic micro-organisms associated with coral arrived during my absence from the department on a research trip - hence the delay in replying to your letter.

Microorganisms associated with corals have recently received a lot of attention from Yuri Sorokin. His prime concern has been the extent of the involvement of bacteria in the trophodynamics of the coral reef ecosystem but he has looked at several aspects of the association of bacteria with corals. Two of his recent papers which come to mind are:

SOROKIN, Y. (1973). Microbiological aspects of the productivity of coral reefs. In "Biology and Geology of Coral Reefs". Volume II. Biology I. (ed. by O.A. Jones and R. Endean), Academic Press, New York (pp. 17-45).

SOROKIN, Y. (1973). Nature (Lond.), 242, 415.

Recent issues of the Journal of Limnology and Oceanology have carried some of Sorokin's papers but I cannot locate the relevant issues. Incidentally, he intends to work at our Heron Island Research Station from May to August this year.

Apparently the only workers to have made a close study of the Beneckea group of microorganisms in coralliferous waters are Baumann and colleagues at Hawaii. Relevant references are:

J. Bacteriol. 113, 1144-1155 (1973) and Arch. microbiol. 94, 283-330 (1973).

One reference to the Beneckea group was apparently made by Staley and Colwell (1973) Int. J. Systematic Bacteriology, 23, 316-332 but I have not seen the paper.

Some years ago, Ian Mackerras then Director of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, mentioned that someone at the Institute was working on microorganisms associated with coral cuts but I have forgotten the details.

I trust that the above information will be of some use.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

W. Baumann
W. BAUMANN