

Savage Conjugation

with Treponemal Savage

First of all I have to say that I have been reading your conjugation column probably before I should have, and I love all of your advice and you have helped me through so many relationship problems. I have gotten myself into a bit of a dilemma in the last couple months.

To give you an idea of what you are dealing with I will describe myself... I am a Gram-negative, rod-shaped bacterium who measures 0.5 to 0.8 μm by 1.5 to 3.0 μm , and I have a great polar flagellum I use for some high speed motility. I recently came out to my genus as a *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* who desperately wants a relationship with a eukaryotic cell. Well, I hung out in the normal hangouts known to my species... you know... like, soil and water. That was a total drag for a while, but I met a couple of other great microbes, but like I said, I was on the prowl for a nice eukaryotic cell to mingle with.

Finally, after slumming around in those shady and definitely not classy areas, I was swept up by the feet of a wonderful organism with some great eukaryotic cells. I was so excited and immediately starting playing the field. I got to know some great cells and started to understand the eukaryotic cell scene. That is when I met the most attractive group of eukaryotic cells and we hit it off immediately, and after a few probing questions I found out that they were not completely opposed to the idea of an inter-domain relationship.

We have been seeing each other for the last two days and I feel like we are pretty close, but the relationship has not progressed to the physical level that I feel is necessary for any relationship. Whenever I bring up the subject about getting together physically I am just lectured about complications involved in this type of relationship. What do I do! What are these complications? Should I be more aggressive or more sexy? Help! I need some action!

Sincerely,

Stuck with a Multicellular Prude

You have got a lot to learn about eukaryotes, SWAMP.

First of all, SWAMP, you need to know that an inter-domain relationship with a *P. aeruginosa* is difficult if you are dealing with a eukaryote, but at least you are in the correct phylum because many pseudomonades prefer plants but it sounds like you hooked up with an animal of some kind which is what you prefer. It is not going to be easy to get close to your host, but it is possible.

Forget the sexy part of your scheme. By the sound of description you are hot, and pesky stains won't reveal any exciting features to your appearance. You are non-acid-fast, Gram negative bacteria without any endospores to show off. Don't worry SWAMP you've got it going on without stains.

Now I know this sounds kinky, but you are *P. aeruginosa* which makes you an opportunistic pathogen, meaning that you exploit some break in the hosts defenses to initiate an infection. A little S & M may be in need, but you have to break, burn, or cut the skin... talk this over with your host some aren't into kinky practices... but I say anything is possible with a little persuasion. Once inside you will be able to get down. It should be an awesome 37° C inside, which is your ideal temperature for some fun.

SWAMP, talk to your host and find out if they have a severe burn, cancer, cystic fibrous, or AIDS. You'll find that infection is much easier and definitely faster in a host with an existing condition.

Follow these simple guidelines and you'll find that your love life will be much fuller and you be able to spread to other eukaryotic hosts. Good luck SWAMP!

Sources:

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