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## Introduction

*Francisella tularensis* (*F. tularensis*) is a facultative intracellular gram-negative bacterium. Morphologically it is an aerobic, non-motile coccobacillus which does not have the capability of creating spores and whose dimension does not exceed 0.8  $\mu\text{m}$ . *F. tularensis* is the generator of the zoonotic disease of tularemia. The discovery of the generator of the disease dates to the beginning of the twentieth century when a strange plague of rodents spread in the area of Tulare in California.

The generator was described in the year 1911 [1] and isolated a year later [2]. At present, the population of hares, rodents and other small mammals in wide open space is considered as the significant reservoir of tularemia. Among significant natural reservoirs, e.g. muskrats (*Ondatra zibethicus*), beavers (*Castor canadensis*), water-rats (*Arvicola terrestris*), hares (*Lepus spp*) and field mice (*Microtus arvalis*) can be

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