Erratum

Production of trimethylamine from structurally related trimethylammonium compounds by resting cell suspensions of γ -butyrobetaine- and D,L-carnitine-grown *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus* and *Pseudomonas putida*

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Arch Microbiol (1983) 135:305–310

Due to an unfortunate error, part of the Abstract was omitted. It should have read as follows:

Abstract. The degradation of trimethylammonium compounds that are structurally related to γ -butyrobetaine and D,L-carnitine has been examined with variously grown resting cell suspensions of *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus* and *Pseudomonas putida*. *Ac. calcoaceticus* grown on either γ -butyrobetaine or D,L-carnitine and *Ps. putida* grown on γ -butyrobetaine effectively degraded D,L-3-fluoro-4-*N*-trimethylaminobutyric, 4-*N*-trimethylaminocrotonic and 5-*N*-trimethylaminopentanoic acids with stoichiometric formation of trimethylamine. None of these betaine analogs was metabolized by *Ps. putida* grown on D,L-carnitine as sole source of carbon. Only D,L-carnitine-grown *Ac. calcoaceticus* showed a slow but significant utilization of D,L-3-chloro-4-*N*-trimethylaminobutyric acid with equivalent formation

of trimethylamine. Neither *Ac. calcoaceticus* nor *Ps. putida*, grown on either γ -butyrobetaine or D,L-carnitine as sole source of carbon degraded any of the following quaternary ammonium compounds: glycinebetaine, *N*-trimethylethanolamine-*O*-phosphate, *N*-trimethylethanolamine-*O*-sulfate, 3-*N*-trimethylaminopropanol, 3-*N*-trimethylaminopropionitrile, 3-*N*-trimethylaminopropionic acid, 3-*N*-trimethylaminopropane sulfonic acid and 6-*N*-trimethylaminohexanoic acid. Cleavage of the C-N bond of 4-*N*-trimethylaminocrotonic acid, and lack of stereochemical specificity with respect to the configuration at C-3 for the other betaines undergoing a similar degradation with formation of trimethylamine, are inconsistent with a mechanism involving a simple Hofmann-type of elimination reaction.