



DEINOCOCCUS RADIODURANS



Deinococcus radiodurans are bacteria that can survive extremely high levels of radiation. In 1956, these bacteria were isolated from a can of ground meat that had been irradiated at high levels. It was soon named *Deinococcus* after the greek adjective that means strange or unusual. The cells are spherical and exist in tetrads (or groups of four). Typically high levels of radiation will damage a cell's DNA resulting in death; however, *D. radiodurans* have mechanisms to resist this damage. There is a lot of research investigating what those specific mechanisms are.

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