Introducing this month’s sludge bug…

**N. limicola** is a filamentous bacteria that is easily identified using the Gram and Neisser stains (Gram and Neisser positive) although this can vary in industrial treatment plants. It usually looks like discs or beads stacked on top of each other.

There are three common types (Nostocoida limicola I, II and III) and it is often found coiled inside the floc. When controlled it can help to form stable flocs, however uncontrolled it can cause poor settling, foaming and scum accumulation.

N. limicola is commonly found in wastewater treatment plants where there is readily degradable substrates such as organic acids or simple sugars, low food:microorganism ratios, low dissolved oxygen or nutrient deficiencies.

N. limicola has been controlled in wastewater treatment plants by increasing dissolved oxygen concentrations to greater than 2 mg/l and ensuring that adequate nitrogen and phosphorus is present. It has also responded to anoxic zones and can be temporarily controlled in emergencies by carefully dosing with chlorine or alum.

Have you got interesting bugs? Send us a photo.

Find out what is growing in your treatment plant…

AWT Water provides microscopy, optimisation and troubleshooting for municipal and industrial WWTPs. We can also train your staff at your site.

Have a look at our website [http://www.awtwater.com/Microbial-Analysis_58.aspx](http://www.awtwater.com/Microbial-Analysis_58.aspx)

For more information contact us at AWT Water ph 09 374 1597, glenys.rule@awtwater.com

A scientist is denied entrance to a microbiology lab. When he asks why, he is told that it is for “Staph Only”.

---

**AWT Water Ltd.**  AWT House, 131 New North Road, Eden Terrace, Auckland 1021
PO Box 109 - 601, Newmarket, Auckland 1149, New Zealand
Tel +64 9 374 1599  www.awtwater.com

r:\projects\99995 treatment\marketing\microbiological service\500 - deliverables\sludge bug of the month\sludge bug of the month sept 2011.doc

GR