

SAMPLES IN STRAWBERRY RED

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INTRODUCTION:

In [August 2016](#) I presented an article about positive staining with three household dyes than can be easily found, I mean gentian violet, methylene blue and dental plaque revealer. Today I am going to present another domestic dye also easy to find at home, I refer to strawberry red food colorant, which is bought as powder and that is used for coloring food, and that is extremely cheap.



In my country this powder is mainly used to give color to a Mexican dish called “tamales de dulce”, which means “sweet tamales”.

This is a powerful colorant that once diluted just a small amount produces a bright red to pink color depending on the amount used.

I applied it to bacterial and mouth epithelial cells with very good results, see below.

DEVELOPMENT:

It is necessary to follow the common procedure for simple staining which is this way:

In this case the first step is to dilute the strawberry red powder in some pure water to avoid contamination of the experiment.

The sample is spread as a diluted or liquid sample upon a slide, it could be bacteria, fungus, mouth cells etc.

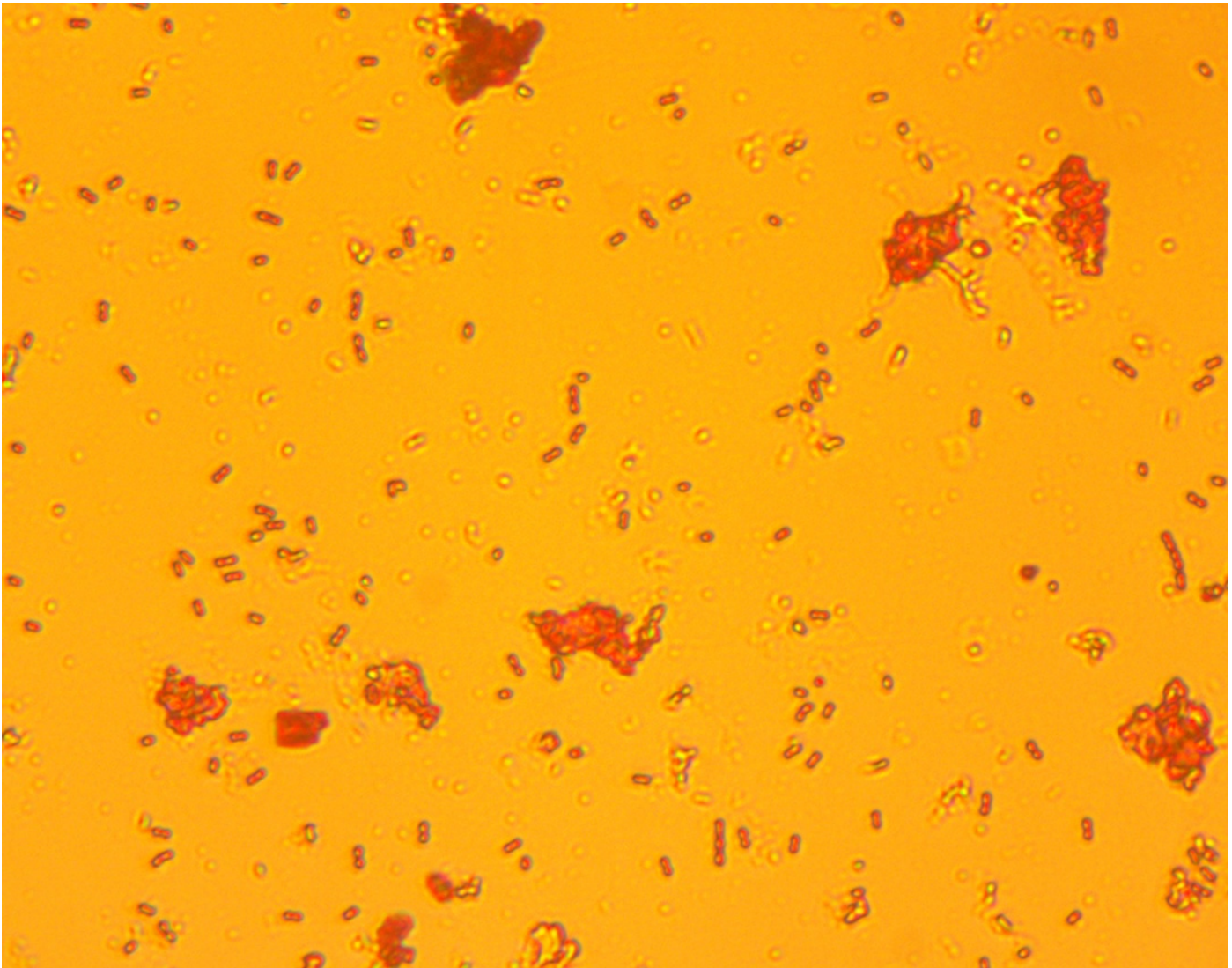
After that it is fixed with heat from a flame; a burner, a candle a lighter can be used for this purpose.

In the next step a drop of the diluted strawberry red is placed upon the fixed samples.

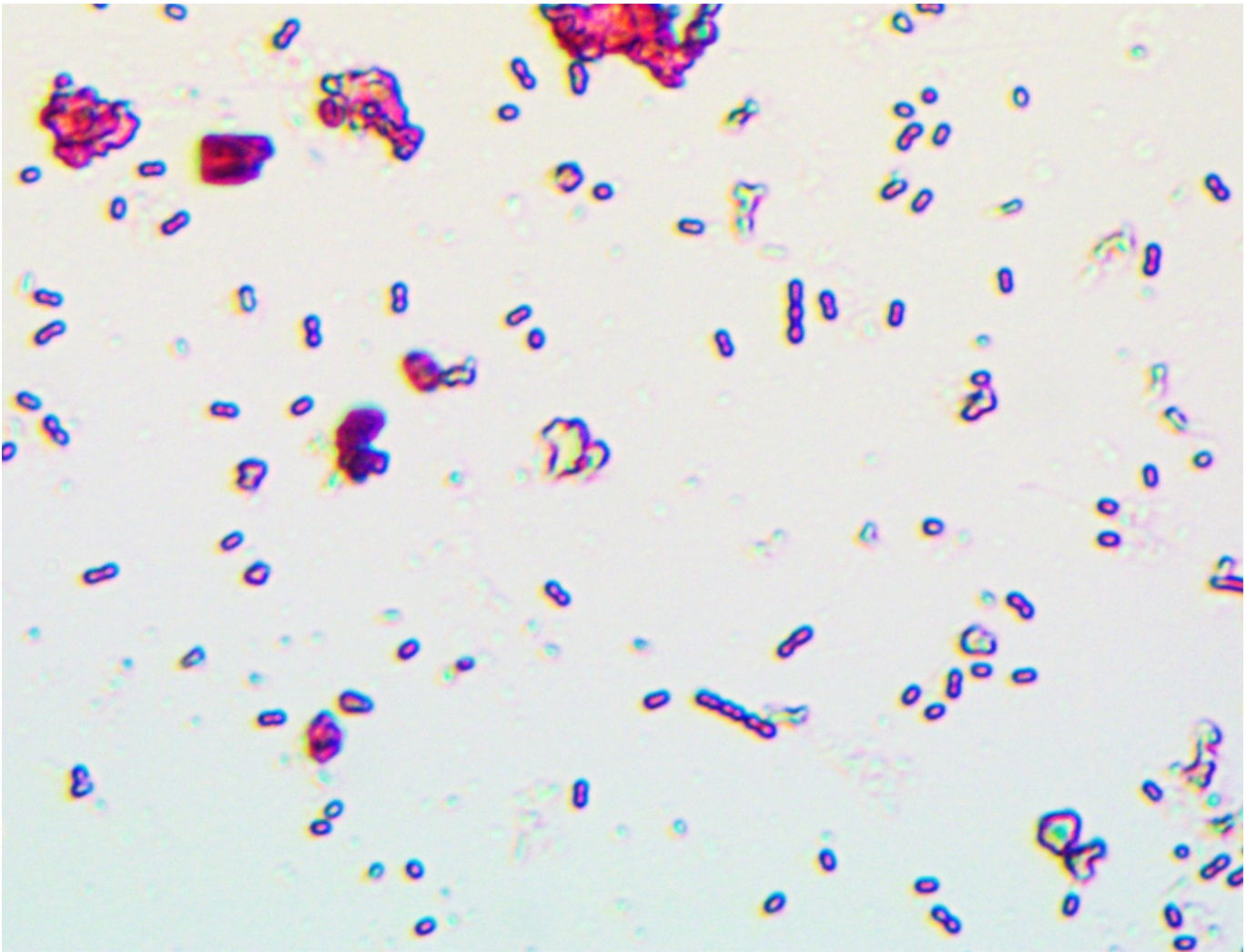
Then the dye is applied, just enough drops to cover the whole sample, leave for a minute to allow it to penetrate bacteria or cells in the sample.

It is also necessary to pour off the remainder of the dye and wash it with water and finally leave the sample to dry to the air and it is ready to be observed.

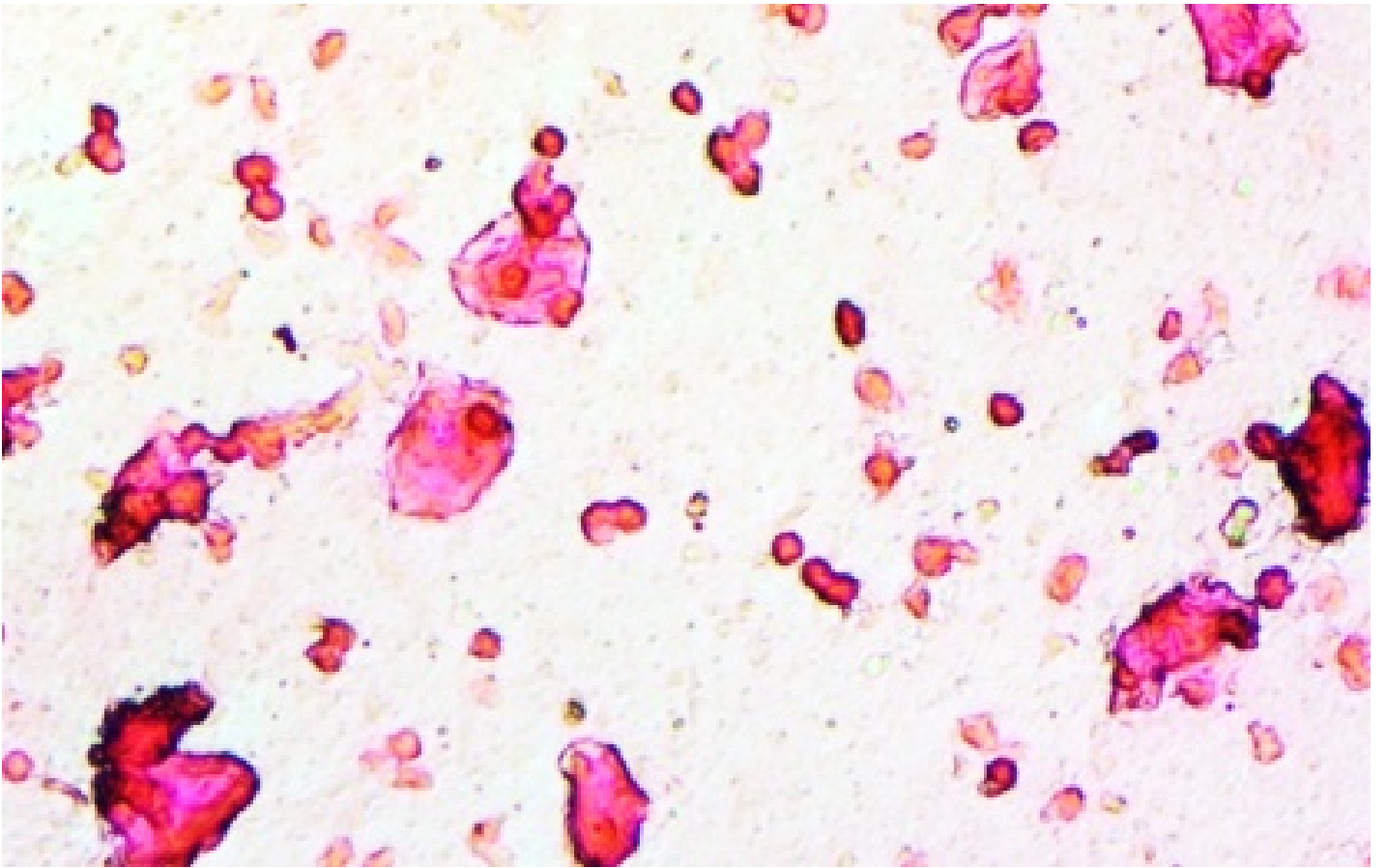
RESULTS:



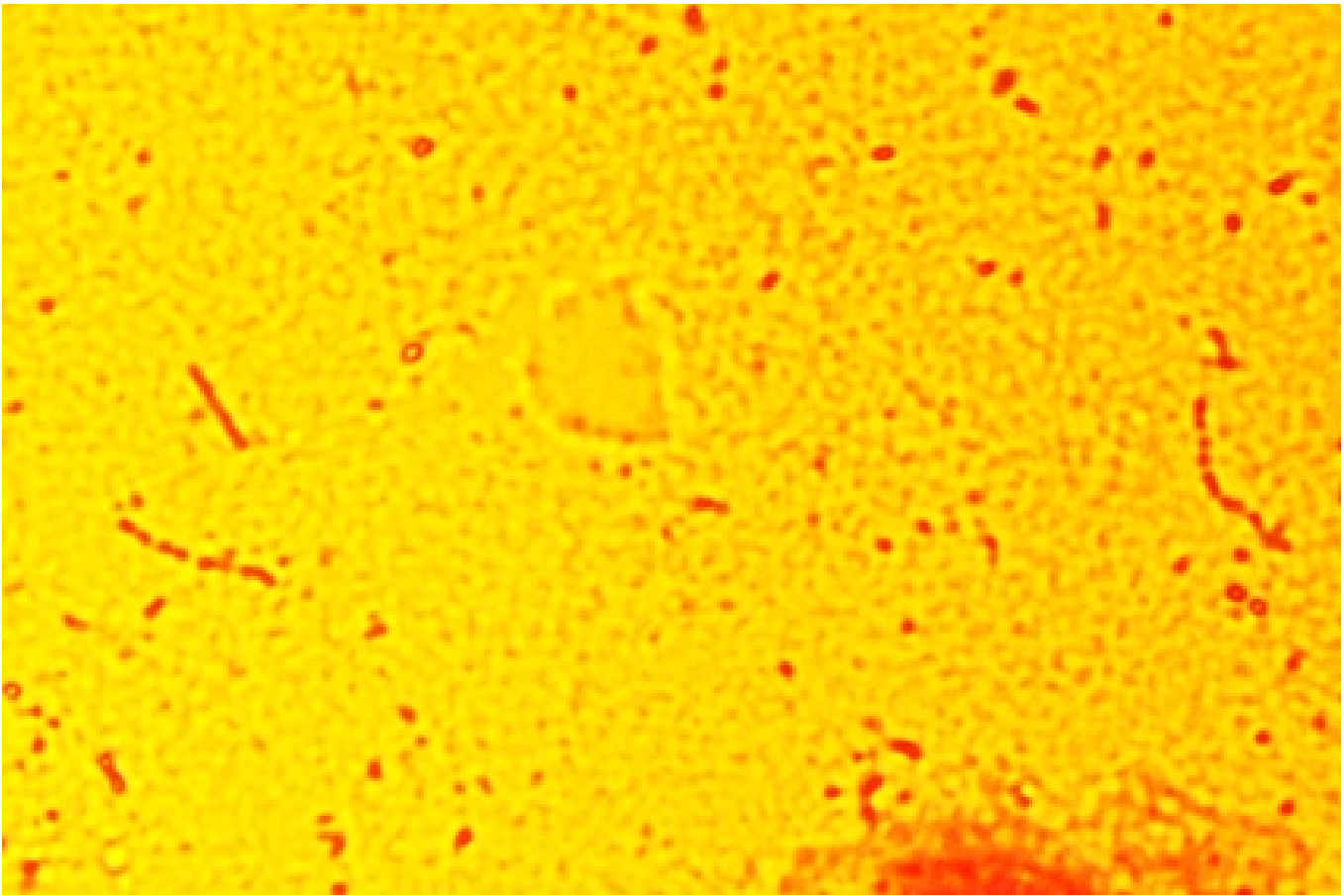
Yogurt *Streptococcus* 40x default of the camera halogen lamp



Yogurt *Streptococcus* 40x white balance application of the camera



Mouth epithelial cells 10x white balance application of the camera



Bacteria found in a drop of saliva 40x defaults of the camera halogen lamp

CONCLUSION:

As it is shown in this work, it is easy to stain a sample with dyes found at home. What to stain? Whatever we want, as for everything in microscopy, imagination is the limit.

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(Above in anti-spam format. Copy string to email software, remove spaces and manually insert the capitalised characters.)

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