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## etymologia

### *Shigella*

[shĭ-gel'ə]

Genus of gram-negative bacteria in the family *Enterobacteriaceae*, named for Japanese bacteriologist Koyoshi Shiga (1871–1957). In 1897, Japan experienced a severe dysentery epidemic; >91,000 cases were reported, and the case-fatality rate was >20%. Dr Shiga isolated the etiologic agent from patient stool samples: a bacillus, later called *Shigella dysenteriae*. He went on to describe the toxins that the organism produces; one that causes serious complications during infections is now known as Shiga toxin.

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