There are Creatures Who Can Live on Energy

You are one of Them

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http://indavideo.hu/video/Breatharian_Boy
Do you know what breatharianism is really about?

Live without food and water - Bretharianism - is it possible?

Is it possible for humans to not eat or consume?

Radiation-eating fungi. They kill trees and they kill people.

Hungry fungi chomp on radiation

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Radiation-eating fungi. They kill trees and they kill people.

In 2002, a robot was sent inside the sarcophagus of the destroyed Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and took samples of mold and fungi which were growing on the walls. Five years later, researchers from the Albert Einstein School of Medicine demonstrated that certain fungi “have the capacity to use radioactivity as an energy source for making food and spurring their growth.”

With Fukushima Daiichi & the Japanese burning of tsunami debris spreading nuclear poison over the whole earth, we have a recipe for fat, healthy fungi and sick, dying people.

RADIOTROPHIC FUNGI

These fungus species are known as radiotrophic fungi. They use the pigment melanin to convert gamma and beta radiation into chemical energy for growth.

ALL MELANIZED FUNGI ARE POTENTIAL RADIOTROPHIC FUNGI

In the original paper, the researchers Dadachova et al showed that ionizing radiation changes the electronic properties of melanin, and enhances the growth of melanized fungi. So any fungus species that contain melanin have their growth spurred in the presence of ionizing radiation. These are not mutant fungi, they are ordinary fungus species found everywhere in the environment. Some of them are common molds that grow in your basement or bathroom.
So these fungi do not actually feed on radiation, they change the properties of melanin, so that it can be converted into energy for growth. Think of radiation as an enzyme that allows melanin to be “digested”. Effectively, it’s the same thing, though.

**FUNGI ARE RADIATION-TOLERANT AND ACCUMULATE RADIONUCLIDES**

In this paper, Dadachova and Casadevall discuss the radiation tolerance of fungi, and its role as an adaptation mechanism. There is evidence of widespread prevalence of melanized fungi in the early days of Earth, when radiation was at a much higher level than it is today. Anyone that follows Chernobyl and radiation measurements of food in Japan know that the worst radioactive contamination in any foodstuffs are in mushrooms. Fungi are very efficient at absorbing radionuclides. Actually, they will eat anything.

**RADIONUCLIDES ACCUMULATE IN TREE BARKS**

Researchers in Turkey found that cesium-137 (from Chernobyl) accumulates more in oak bark than even lichen (which had been thought to be the most contaminated life form). Professor Mori of the WINEP blog showed an autoradiograph of how radionuclides were found in oak bark. Many mushroom species grow on these barks.

**MELANIZED FUNGI GROW TOWARDS WHERE THE RADIATION IS**

Dadachova and Casadevall also discuss radiotropism. This is the tendency of these fungi to move from less contaminated areas of the plant, to more contaminated areas. In a tree, if the fungi start...
eating in the inmost hardwood area (with the least contamination), they will grow towards the bark on the outside, destroying the tree from the inside out.

**RADIATION PROMOTES SPORE GERMINATION**

The two authors also discussed how radiation increases the amount of spores released by these fungi:

They observed that radiation promoted spore germination in species from contaminated regions, which they called “radiostimulation”. Contrary to their previous results they observed the “radiostimulation” only for the species from contaminated regions but not for isolates from the clean areas. They named this phenomenon “radioadaptive response”.

![Downed tree on Long Island](image)

**SPORES MAY TRAVEL IN THE JET STREAM**

In the 1930’s, spores were collected in a weather balloon between the levels of 36,000 – 71,000 feet. This is higher than the level of the jet stream (30,000 feet).

**MELANIZED FUNGI SURVIVE FOOD IRRADIATION**

Food is treated with gamma rays, which destroy bacteria and microorganisms in the food. The authors also noted that melanized fungi are radioresistant to the typical radiation levels used in this treatment.
**RHIZOMORPHS**

*Rhizomorphs from an armillaria fungus*

*Rhizomorphs in New York City*

**Rhizomorphs or mycelial cords** are aggregations of hyphae growing from fungi, which resemble tree roots. They provide water and nutrients for the organism. They can grow very long, under streets and pavements, and can draw nutrients from decomposing leaves at the surface. These leaves may be contaminated with radioactivity, which is all the better for them. They also colonize new hosts (trees), in this manner.

**DIFFERENT KINDS OF FUNGAL DAMAGE TO TREES**

This link provides illustrations of different tree diseases caused by fungi. My son and I recently went on a field trip to 5 different sites in the local area, and saw different kinds of damage. Sometimes the crown goes first, sometimes it is at the bottom, etc.
This pdf provides a good summary on how melanized fungi grow in domestic environments. Many species evolved in unusual ecological niches, and fit right into today’s home. They love dishwashers.

**MELANIZED FUNGI CAUSE HUMAN DISEASE AND DEATH**

This excellent article (pdf) reviews the current state of medical knowledge of health impacts of melanized fungi. They include the diseases eumycetoma, chromoblastomycosis, and phaeohyphomycosis. The authors classify the conditions into the categories allergic disease, superficial and deep local infections, pulmonary disease, central nervous system (CNS) infection, and disseminated disease.
Exposure to these fungi is usually due to breathing or minor cuts from infected agents, like thorns or farm implements. “Surveys of outdoor air for fungal spores routinely show dematiaceous (melanized) fungi. This suggests that all individuals are exposed, though few develop disease. Exposure is primarily from inhalation or minor trauma, which is frequently not even noticed by the patient.” Most of these cases occur in the tropics, but they will widely distributed over the planet from now on.

It is important to recognize that exposure to radiotrophic fungi also includes exposure to radioactivity, which of course increases the risk of disease.
ALLERGIC DISEASE

“Allergic responses to dematiaceous fungi may actually represent the most common clinical manifestation of these fungi. Though asthma has many associated environmental factors, several studies have linked it with exposure to molds and to dematiaceous fungi… Allergic fungal sinusitis is a relatively common condition, with estimates of 6 to 9% of all cases of chronic sinusitis requiring surgery… it is now appreciated that disease due to dematiaceous fungi actually comprises the majority of cases… Allergic bronchopulmonary mycosis (ABPM) is similar in presentation to allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA), which is typically seen in patients with asthma or cystic fibrosis.”

SUPERFICIAL INFECTIONS

“These cases of superficial infections involve only keratinized tissues, such as the fingernails and toenails and the stratum corneum. Consequences of these infections are generally cosmetic… Tinea nigra is an uncommon infection confined to the stratum corneum. The characteristic appearance is that of a pigmented macule, usually on the palms or soles, and may be bilateral.”

DEEP LOCAL INFECTIONS
“Subcutaneous lesions are the most common case reports of infection due to melanized fungi in the literature… Many patients are immunocompetent, and they often are from a rural background, i.e., farmers with frequent, minor trauma from plant material or gardeners… Lesions typically occur on exposed areas of the body and often appear as isolated cystic or papular lesions. Presentation is usually indolent, with weeks to months of gradual enlarging mass, though pain is often absent. Severely immunocompromised patients are at increased risk of subsequent dissemination, though this may rarely occur in apparently immunocompetent patients as well. Occasionally, infection may extend to involve joints or bone, requiring more extensive surgery or prolonged antifungal therapy.”

“The fungal keratitis (inflammation of the cornea) is an important ophthalmologic problem, particularly in tropical areas of the world. In one large series, 40% of all infectious keratitis was caused by fungi, almost exclusively molds.”
PULMONARY INFECTION

“Pulmonary infection is usually seen in immunocompromised patients or those with underlying lung disease, and it may be due to a wide variety of species… Clinical manifestations include pneumonia, asymptomatic solitary pulmonary nodules, and endobronchial lesions which may cause hemoptysis.”

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM INFECTION

“Central nervous system infection is a rare but frequently fatal manifestation of phaeohyphomycosis, often in immunocompetent individuals. In a review of 101 cases of central nervous system infection due to dematiaceous fungi, the most common presentation was found to be brain abscess… What is truly unique about this disease is that over half the cases were in patients with no risk factor or immunodeficiency. In addition, no specific exposures were associated with onset of infection, though many cases seem to occur in rural areas. Typical symptoms included headache, neurologic deficits, and seizures, though rarely all three… Mortality was >70%… The pathogenesis may be hematogenous spread from an initial, presumably subclinical pulmonary focus, though this remains speculation. However, it remains unclear why these fungi preferentially cause CNS disease in immunocompetent individuals… Meningitis has also been described, usually in immunocompromised patients.”

DISSEMINATED INFECTION

“Disseminated infection is the most uncommon manifestation of infection caused by melanized fungi. In a review of 72 cases, most patients were immunocompromised, though occasional patients without known immunodeficiency or risk factors developed disseminated disease as well… Interestingly, peripheral eosinophilia has been observed in 9% of cases, and these were generally due to Bipolaris and Curvularia. These same species are often associated with allergic disease… The mortality rate was >70%, despite aggressive antifungal therapy. There were no antifungal regimens associated with improved survival for disseminated infection.”

PSYCHOSIS

This abstract from researchers in China details symptoms of cerebral phaeohyphomycosis.

“Cerebral phaeohyphomycosis is a fungal infection of the brain typically caused by Cladophialophora bantiana, Exophiala dermatitidis, and Rhinocladiella mackenziei, all of which belong to the order Chaetothyriales. The disease results in black, necrotic brain tissue, black pus, and black cerebrospinal fluid. Pathogens usually reach the brain through the bloodstream or lymphatic fluid and occasionally through direct spreading or accidental inoculation. Patients can present with
hemiparesis, tonic spasm, headache, fever, sensory variation, cerebral irritation, and even psychotic behavioural changes.”

The black, necrotic brain tissue is similar to the black, necrotic leaf tissue we have seen in the dying trees. The same thing that is happening to the trees happens to human brains.

Humans are radioactive too. These fungi seek food.

IT’S EVERYWHERE

Read this blog, the Wit’s End blog, or a database of photos I am collecting for more information. Or go to Flickr and enter the search term “Sandy tree”. Most of the uprooted and broken trees from Hurricane Sandy show sign of fungal damage. Tree damage and death is rapidly spreading across the planet.

UPDATE: CDC Responds to Multistate Outbreak of Fungal Meningitis and Other Infections

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with state and local health departments and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is investigating a multistate outbreak of fungal meningitis and other infections among patients who received contaminated preservative-free MPA steroid injections from NECC. Several patients suffered strokes that are believed to have resulted from their infections. The investigation also includes other infections from injections in a peripheral joint, such as a knee, shoulder, or ankle. Patients who received injections in peripheral joints only are not believed to be at risk for meningitis, but they could be at risk for joint and other infections.
As of November 15, 2012, the predominant fungus identified in patients continues to be Exserohilum rostratum, with 84 CDC laboratory-confirmed cases. One patient, the index case, had a laboratory-confirmed Aspergillus fumigatus [JPG - 29 KB] infection. These fungi are common in the environment; fungal infections are not transmitted from person to person.

Multistate Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Investigation
http://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/meningitis-map.html

Exserohilum rostratum is a melanized fungus that is on the list of those that affect human health. More information from wikipedia. 32 36 dead so far.
"Radiation-Eating" Fungi Finding Could Trigger Recalculation Of Earth's Energy Balance

From May 23, 2007

Scientists have long assumed that fungi exist mainly to decompose matter into chemicals that other organisms can then use. But researchers at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University have found evidence that fungi possess a previously undiscovered talent with profound implications: the ability to use radioactivity as an energy source for making food and spurring their growth.

"The fungal kingdom comprises more species than any other plant or animal kingdom, so finding that they're making food in addition to breaking it down means that Earth's energetics--in particular, the amount of radiation energy being converted to biological energy--may need to be recalculated," says Dr. Arturo Casadevall, chair of microbiology & immunology at Einstein and senior author of the study, published May 23 in PLoS ONE.
The ability of fungi to live off radiation could also prove useful to people: "Since ionizing radiation is prevalent in outer space, astronauts might be able to rely on fungi as an inexhaustible food source on long missions or for colonizing other planets," says Dr. Ekaterina Dadachova, associate professor of nuclear medicine and microbiology & immunology at Einstein and lead author of the study.

Those fungi able to "eat" radiation must possess melanin, the pigment found in many if not most fungal species. But up until now, melanin's biological role in fungi--if any--has been a mystery.

"Just as the pigment chlorophyll converts sunlight into chemical energy that allows green plants to live and grow, our research suggests that melanin can use a different portion of the electromagnetic spectrum--ionizing radiation--to benefit the fungi containing it," says Dr. Dadachova.

The research began five years ago when Dr. Casadevall read on the Web that a robot sent into the still-highly-radioactive damaged reactor at Chernobyl had returned with samples of black, melanin-rich fungi that were growing on the reactor's walls. "I found that very interesting and began discussing with colleagues whether these fungi might be using the radiation emissions as an energy source," says Dr. Casadevall.

To test this idea, the Einstein researchers performed a variety of in vivo tests using three genetically diverse fungi and four measures of cell growth. The studies consistently showed that ionizing radiation significantly enhances the growth of fungi that contain melanin.

For example, two types of fungi--one that was induced to make melanin (Cryptococcus neoformans) and another that naturally contains it (Wangiella dermatitidis)--were exposed to levels of ionizing radiation approximately 500 times higher than background levels. Both species grew significantly faster (as measured by the number of colony forming units and dry weight) than when exposed to standard background radiation.

The researchers also carried out physico-chemical studies into melanin's ability to capture radiation. By measuring the electron spin resonance signal after melanin was exposed to ionizing radiation, they showed that radiation interacts with melanin to alter its electron structure. This is an essential step for capturing radiation and converting it into a different form of energy to make food.

Dr. Casadevall notes that the melanin in fungi is no different chemically from the melanin in our skin. "It's pure speculation but not outside the realm of possibility that melanin could be providing energy to skin cells," he says. "While it wouldn't be enough energy to fuel a run on the beach, maybe it could help you to open an eyelid."

Other Einstein researchers involved in the study are Ruth A. Bryan, Xianchun Huang, Tiffany Moadel, Andrew D. Schweitzer, Philip Aisen and Joshua D. Nosanchuk.
Hungry fungi chomp on radiation

Common pigment may allow bizarre feeding habits.

Heidi Ledford

From plastic to asbestos, cardboard to jet fuel, fungi will eat just about anything. Now researchers have found another dish in the fungal diet: radiation. Not radioactive compounds, which have long been known to be on the menu — radiation itself.
Ekaterina Dadachova and her colleagues at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York have discovered that some fungi can use a molecule called melanin, a pigment also found in human skin, to harvest the energy from radiation and use it for growth.

This raises the prospect that astronauts could grow these fungi on long flights into radiation-rich outer space, suggests Dadachova's colleague Arturo Casadevall. The fungi aren't particularly appetizing, however — they resemble the mould on a dirty shower curtain.

Since the 1986 meltdown, at the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station, the numbers of 'black fungi', rich in melanin, have risen steeply. Casadevall speculated that the fungi could be feeding on the radiation that contaminates the ruin of the nuclear reactor.

Dadachova, Casadevall and their colleagues tested how three different species of fungus respond to gamma radiation from rhenium-188 and tungsten-188. They found that all three, *Cladosporium sphaerospermum*, *Cryptococcus neoformans* and *Wangiella dermatitidis*, grow faster in the radiation's presence. The results are published in *PLoS One*.

**Heat seekers**

Some fungi can decompose radioactive material such as the hot graphite in the remains of the Chernobyl reactor. Previous studies have shown that most fungi found in contaminated regions grow towards various different radiation sources, as if trying to reach these compounds.

These fungi also tend to produce the pigment melanin, which is thought to protect fungi from a range of environmental stresses. "Under stress of exposure to ionizing radiation, microfungal communities in soil develop a higher proportion of melanin-containing fungal species," says John Dighton, a microbiologist at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Dadachova's team found that exposure to radiation caused the fungal melanin molecule to change shape so that it was four times better at carrying out a common metabolic chemical reaction. Fungal strains without melanin generally did not grow faster in response to radiation.

Could the melanin in human skin cells likewise turn radiation into food? Casadevall speculates that it might, but the amount of energy provided would probably be very small — and certainly not enough for a busy astronaut. "Currently there is no evidence for this," says Casadevall, "however the fact that it occurs in fungi raises the possibility that the same may occur in animals and plants."
Radioactive black fungus in Japan, blowing to the US.

Posted on April 5, 2013

The Australian Enenews contributor vital1 has analyzed a sample of black fungus (black substance) that was originated in Minamisoma, Japan.

I was sent this resin encapsulated sample of black fungus like material. It has reportedly come from somewhere in the Minamisoma area Japan. A contact in Japan sent this sample to a friend. This is my test chart of it. For those of you who have not looked at a scintillator test chart like this before. The position of the peaks in a the chart indicate what isotopes are present... This black fungus started growing on the concrete, and rock surfaces in Japan after the Fukushima Nuclear disaster. It appears to be bio-accumulating Cesium.

Correcting for the weight of the sample, it appears to be highly radioactive, perhaps over 500,000 Bq/kg of cesium. The sample contains cesium-134 and cesium-137 isotopes, and also the sample peak at 795 keV for cesium-134 has shifted to the right. This is likely due to the presence of cobalt-58, which has a peak at 810.8 keV. Cobalt-58 was previously detected in the black substance in Japan.
Cobalt-58 is generated by neutron irradiation of nickel. The metal nickel is used extensively in nuclear power plants, in tubing and alloys. It is likely that large amounts of nickel are present in the molten coriums. The neutrons necessary for transmutation of nickel to Co-58 would have come from either re-criticalities in the coriums, or the presence of neutron emitters like plutonium, curium and californium.

It was shown in a previous post here that an astounding amount of fungi were transported across the Pacific from Japan to the US in spring 2011. It is springtime again, and this is the season for fungus transport. It is likely that fungi are growing on the spent fuel pools and underground coriums. Tepco announced that they are adding hydrazine to the pools in order to control the growth of microorganisms. But these fungi are highly radioresistant, and probably can tolerate toxic chemicals also. They are almost certainly mutated by radiation.

Vital1 has also detected high amounts of radon isotopes in an Australian rain swab. Background radiation in Australia and New Zealand has increased by 20%-40% since Fukushima. Radon is a radioactive daughter product of uranium. Very small uranium particles on the surface emit a much larger amount of daughter isotopes by weight, than large deposits of uranium miles underground. If Australia is being showered with uranium dust from Fukushima, it must be much worse in Japan and the USA. Uranium would have been released in the initial melt-throughs, but continuing releases of uranium would be coming from the underground coriums turning into powder, and being released into the atmosphere and sea… or alternatively by fungus spores growing on these coriums. If this is true, there must be significant amounts of plutonium present in the fungi also.
Fungi borrowed bacterial gene again and again

Multiple independent gene transfers gave fungi ability to colonize plant roots.

- Brian Owens
  02 July 2014

The microorganism that causes potato blight — seen on an apple-tree leaf in this coloured scanning electron micrograph — has acquired genes from bacteria.
A single gene from bacteria has been donated to fungi on at least 15 occasions. The discovery shows that an evolutionary shortcut once thought to be restricted to bacteria is surprisingly common in more complex, eukaryotic life.

Bacteria frequently trade genes back and forth with their neighbours, gaining abilities and traits that enable them to adapt quickly to new environments. More complex organisms, by contrast, generally have to make do with the slow process of gene duplication and mutation.

There are a few examples of gene swapping between eukaryotes — the domain of life that includes fungi, plants and animals — and even from bacteria to eukaryotes (see 'Bacterial gene helps coffee beetle get its fix'). But such events, known as horizontal gene transfer, were thought to be rare.

But Daniel Muller, a microbial ecologist at the University of Lyons in France, and his colleagues have cast doubt on that assumption after studying bacteria in the soil around the roots of plants. They found that the bacterial gene \textit{acdS}, used to promote the growth of plant roots, was also present in several types of fungus. Their work is published today in \textit{Proceedings of the Royal Society B}.

\textbf{Can’t get enough}

Muller and his colleagues scanned the genomes of 149 eukaryotes, and found \textit{acdS}-like genes in 65 of them — 61 in fungi and 4 in parasitic microorganisms called oomycetes, including \textit{Phytophthora infestans}, the microbe responsible for the Irish potato famine. After analysing the organisms' genetic family trees, the researchers determined that the most likely explanation was that three different kinds of bacterium had donated the gene to the fungi and oomycetes in a total of 15 different horizontal-gene-transfer events.

“What we thought happens only sometimes, actually happens at a greater scale,” says Muller, “with multiple donors and multiple recipients.”

Muller also showed that the bacterial gene seems to retain its original function of enhancing the communication between the organism and its plant hosts to help it better colonize roots.
Eukaryotes may therefore be able to suddenly gain characteristics that help them adapt to new environments more frequently than biologists thought. “Bacteria are so abundant and diverse, they could be a rich reservoir of new genes and functions for eukaryotes,” says Muller.

**Fuzzy details**

Charles Davis, an evolutionary biologist at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, says the work shows that the “promiscuity” of gene transfer between bacteria and eukaryotes is unexpectedly high. But it faces the same problem as many such studies: the analysis of the genetic trees is not detailed enough to clarify where and when the transfers took place. “They can’t exclude the possibility that the number of transfers has been overestimated,” he says.

The other big question, he says, is how did it happen? “What’s the ecological context?”

Muller agrees that the mechanism of the gene transfer remains a mystery. His team did not find any evidence of transposable elements — bits of DNA that can ‘jump’ from one part of the genome to another and are typically associated with the appearance of new genetic material. They also found no other bacterial genes near the *acdS* gene in the fungi, although gene transfer normally would involve more than one gene. But however it works, the fact that the fungi and bacteria live close together in the soil near plants would provide plenty of chances for genes to move across.

Davis agrees that physical proximity is key to horizontal gene transfer: “That’s why I study it in parasitic systems,” he says. “It makes the relationship between donor and host more obvious.”

*Nature*

doi:10.1038/nature.2014.15496

**References**

Smart fungus disarms plant, animal and human immunity

Date:
August 20, 2010

Source:
Wageningen University and Research Centre

Summary:
Fungal and bacterial pathogens are well capable of infecting plants, animals and humans despite their immune systems. Fungi penetrate leaves, stalks and roots, or skin, intestines and lungs, to infect their hosts. Researchers have now discovered how this is possible. They found that the fungus secretes a protein that makes stray building blocks of the fungal cell wall invisible for the immune system of the plant. In this way infection remains unnoticed.

The fungus Cladosporium fulvum in action on a tomato leaf.
Credit: Image courtesy of Wageningen University and Research Centre

Fungal and bacterial pathogens are quite capable of infecting plants, animals and humans despite their immune systems. Fungi penetrate leaves, stalks and roots, or skin, intestines and lungs, to infect their hosts. Researchers from Wageningen UR (University & Research centre) discovered, together with Japanese colleagues, how this is possible. They found that the fungus secretes a protein that makes stray building blocks of the fungal cell wall invisible for the immune system of the plant, such that infection remains unnoticed. They report their findings in the Aug. 20 issue of the journal Science.
Fungi prepare their attack, for instance on a tomato plant, rather well. Take for example the fungus *Cladosporium fulvum* that causes leaf mold on tomato plants. Once the fungus starts to infect, the tomato plant would recognize the fungus based on the presence of chitin fragments that are derived from the fungal cell wall. Chitin does not naturally occur in plants, but chitin fragments can always be found near fungi, just like cat hairs betray a cat's presence. The tomato immune system recognizes the chitin fragments as "non-self and unwanted" and alarms the immune system to combat the infection. So far so good.

However, *Cladosporium fulvum* as well as nearly all other fungi carry a secret weapon. A team of researchers under the supervision of plant pathologist Bart Thomma discovered that the fungus secretes the protein Ecp6 during host attack. Ecp6 is the code name for 'extracellular protein 6'. Ecp6 finds the chitin fragments that surround the fungus and binds them. This binding makes the chitin fragments invisible for the tomato plant, like a stealth-jet is invisible for radar, such that the immune system is not alarmed. As a result the plant gets diseased. Animal and human fungal pathogens also produce the protein, and are likely to disarm the immune system of their hosts in a similar way.

From experiments that the researchers performed to investigate the role of Ecp6, it appears that a fungus that does not produce Ecp6 is much less aggressive and less capable of causing disease in tomato plants.

Since not only *Cladosporium* but nearly all fungi, including pathogens of humans and animals, have Ecp6, the binding of chitin fragments appears a general strategy of fungi to evade the immune system of their hosts.

This knowledge may enable scientists to design novel methods to combat fungal diseases in agriculture (leaf mould, root and stalk rot, smut, wilt disease, apple scab, rust, tree cancer) and in health care (dandruff, athlete's foot, candida-infections, aspergillosis, etc.).

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**Story Source:**
The above story is based on materials provided by Wageningen University and Research Centre. *Note: Materials may be edited for content and length.*

**Journal Reference:**

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   DOI: [10.1126/science.1190859](http://10.1126/science.1190859)
Biologists discover electric bacteria that eat pure electrons rather than sugar, redefining the tenacity of life

By Sebastian Anthony on July 18, 2014 at 8:51 am

Some intrepid biologists at the University of Southern California (USC) have discovered bacteria that survives on nothing but electricity — rather than food, they eat and excrete pure electrons. These bacteria yet again prove the almost miraculous tenacity of life — but, from a technology standpoint, they might also prove to be useful in enabling the creation of self-powered nanoscale devices that clean up pollution. Some of these bacteria also have the curious ability to form into ‘biocables,’ microbial nanowires that are centimeters long and conduct electricity as well as copper wires — a capability that might one day be tapped to build long, self-assembling subsurface networks for human use.
As you may recall from high school biology, almost every living organism consumes sugar to survive. When it gets right down to it, everything you eat is ultimately converted or digested into single molecules of glucose. Without going into the complexities of respiration and metabolism (ATP!), these sugars have excess electrons — and the oxygen you breathe in really wants those electrons. By ferrying electrons from sugar to oxygen, a flow of electrons — i.e. energy — is created, which is then used to carry out various vital tasks around your body (triggering electrons, beating your heart, etc.)

These special bacteria, however, don’t need no poxy sugars — instead, they cut out the middleman and feed directly on electrons. To discover these bacteria, and to cultivate them in the lab, the USC biologists quite simply scooped up some sediment from the ocean, took it back to the lab, stuck some electrodes into it, and then turned on the power. When higher voltages are pumped into the water, the bacteria “eats” electrons from the electrode; when a lower voltage is present, the bacteria “exhales” electrons onto the electrode, creating an electrical current (which could be used to power a device, if you were so inclined). The USC study very carefully controlled for other sources of nutrition — these bacteria were definitely eating electrons directly.

A beautiful photo of a geobacter metallireducens bacterium, taken by Derek Lovley

All told, various researchers around the world have now discovered upwards of 10 different kinds of bacteria that feed on electricity — and, interestingly, they’re all pretty different (they’re not from the same family), and none of them are like *Shewanella* or *Geobacter*, two well-known bacteria that have interesting electrical properties. Kenneth Nealson of USC, speaking to *New Scientist* about his team’s discovery, said: “This is huge. What it means is that there’s a whole part of the microbial world that we don’t know about.”
As for the repercussions of finding bacteria that eat and excrete electrons, the most obvious use is in the growing fields of molecular motors and nanomachines. These bacteria, at their most basic, are machines that consume raw electricity — and so, with some clever (genetic?) engineering, it stands to reason that we might one day use them to power tiny machines that can perform tasks that are currently carried out by expensive, human-operated machines (cleaning up chemical spills, for example). These bacteria might also allow us to find out exactly how much energy a living cell needs to survive; put them in a test tube, and then slowly dial back the electrode voltage until they die. A cruel experiment, but one that would yield very informative results.

In a separate study a few years ago, researchers at Aarhus University in Denmark found that some electric bacteria also have the ability to form microbial nanowires — long chains of bacteria that can span several centimeters. These nanowires ferry nutrients to bacteria further down the chain, which might be stuck underneath some mud. Curiously, these nanowires are about as conductive as standard copper wires, which leads us to wonder if electric bacteria might one day be coerced into building subsurface networks for human use. It would be a little more efficient than spending billions of dollars on laying submarine cables...

Meet the electric life forms that live on pure energy

- 17:08 16 July 2014 by Catherine Brahic
- Magazine issue 2978, Subscribe and save
- For similar stories, visit the Micro-organisms Topic Guide
  Video: Electric bacteria connect to form wires
  Unlike any other life on Earth, these extraordinary bacteria use energy in its purest form — they eat and breathe electrons — and they are everywhere
  STICK an electrode in the ground, pump electrons down it, and they will come: living cells that eat electricity. We have known bacteria to survive on a variety of energy sources, but none as weird as this. Think of Frankenstein's monster, brought to life by galvanic energy, except these "electric bacteria" are very real and are popping up all over the place.
Unlike any other living thing on Earth, electric bacteria use energy in its purest form – naked electricity in the shape of electrons harvested from rocks and metals. We already knew about two types, *Shewanella* and *Geobacter*. Now, biologists are showing that they can entice many more out of rocks and marine mud by tempting them with a bit of electrical juice. Experiments growing bacteria on battery electrodes demonstrate that these novel, mind-boggling forms of life are essentially eating and excreting electricity.

That should not come as a complete surprise, says Kenneth Nealson at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. We know that life, when you boil it right down, is a flow of electrons: “You eat sugars that have excess electrons, and you breathe in oxygen that willingly takes them.” Our cells break down the sugars, and the electrons flow through them in a complex set of chemical reactions until they are passed on to electron-hungry oxygen.

In the process, cells make ATP, a molecule that acts as an energy storage unit for almost all living things. Moving electrons around is a key part of making ATP. “Life’s very clever,” says Nealson. “It figures out how to suck electrons out of everything we eat and keep them under control.” In most living things, the body packages the electrons up into molecules that can safely carry them through the cells until they are dumped on to oxygen.

“That’s the way we make all our energy and it’s the same for every organism on this planet,” says Nealson. “Electrons must flow in order for energy to be gained. This is why when someone suffocates another person they are dead within minutes. You have stopped the supply of oxygen, so the electrons can no longer flow.”

The discovery of electric bacteria shows that some very basic forms of life can do away with sugary middlemen and handle the energy in its purest form – electrons, harvested from the surface of minerals. “It is truly foreign, you know,” says Nealson. “In a sense, alien.”

Nealson’s team is one of a handful that is now growing these bacteria directly on electrodes, keeping them alive with electricity and nothing else – neither sugars nor any other kind of nutrient. The highly dangerous equivalent in humans, he says, would be for us to power up by shoving our fingers in a DC electrical socket.

To grow these bacteria, the team collects sediment from the seabed, brings it back to the lab, and inserts electrodes into it.

First they measure the natural voltage across the sediment, before applying a slightly different one. A slightly higher voltage offers an excess of electrons; a slightly lower voltage means the electrode will readily accept electrons from anything willing to pass them off. Bugs in the sediments can either “eat” electrons from the higher voltage, or “breathe” electrons on to the lower-voltage electrode, generating a current. That current is picked up by the researchers as a signal of the type of life they have captured.

“Basically, the idea is to take sediment, stick electrodes inside and then ask ‘OK, who likes this?’,” says Nealson.
Shocking breath

At the Goldschmidt geoscience conference in Sacramento, California, last month, Shiue-lin Li of Nealson's lab presented results of experiments growing electricity breathers in sediment collected from Santa Catalina harbour in California. Yamini Jangir, also from the University of Southern California, presented separate experiments which grew electricity breathers collected from a well in Death Valley in the Mojave Desert in California.

Over at the University of Minnesota in St Paul, Daniel Bond and his colleagues have published experiments showing that they could grow a type of bacteria that harvested electrons from an iron electrode (mBio, doi.org/tqg). That research, says Jangir's supervisor Moh El-Naggar, may be the most convincing example we have so far of electricity eaters grown on a supply of electrons with no added food.

But Nealson says there is much more to come. His PhD student Annette Rowe has identified up to eight different kinds of bacteria that consume electricity. Those results are being submitted for publication.

Nealson is particularly excited that Rowe has found so many types of electric bacteria, all very different to one another, and none of them anything like Shewanella or Geobacter. "This is huge. What it means is that there's a whole part of the microbial world that we don't know about."

Discovering this hidden biosphere is precisely why Jangir and El-Naggar want to cultivate electric bacteria. "We're using electrodes to mimic their interactions," says El-Naggar. "Culturing the 'unculturables', if you will." The researchers plan to install a battery inside a gold mine in South Dakota to see what they can find living down there.
Most living beings on this planet need to go through at least several stages before they can extract the pure energy found in food. More and more convincing evidence suggests, however, that there are numerous bacterial species that consume electricity, thus feeding on energy directly. No oxygen, no ATP, nada. There are many things we can learn from these newly found energy sipping creatures; for one, the electric bacteria might tells us what are the minimal energy requirements for life or, as a long shot, how life itself can be generated.

Scientists have known for some time about two such types of bacteria that eat electrons harvested from rocks, called Shewanella and Geobacter. Kenneth Nealson at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles and his colleagues have found however that there are many more such bacteria that can be enticed to surface, many of whom are different species with different behaviours.

**THE ELECTRON MUST FLOW...**

The team collected sediments from the seabed, brought them to the lab, then inserted some electrodes in them. Beforehand, the natural voltage of the sediment is measured. A slightly higher voltage offers an excess of electrons; a slightly lower voltage means the electrode will readily accept electrons from anything willing to pass them off. For the bacteria, a higher voltage means they can ‘eat’, while a lower voltage allows them to ‘breathe’. Each
“Buddha Boy” Goes 10 Months Without Food Or Water, Scientific Community Is Baffled

Is it possible for humans to not eat or consume water for longer than 3 or 4 days? What used to be scientifically impossible is now under great question as a teenage boy in South-Central Nepal meditated for 10 months and did not consume food or water during the entire time. This story is receiving more attention these days as the world continues to open up to new possibilities.

Ram Bahadur Bomjon, also known as “Buddha Boy” decided one day to go to a tree in Nepal and begin meditating for what he initially said would be 6 years. His actions quickly became a huge news story as he received attention from thousands of visitors. The media also had a field day with his story as he attracted journalists and film makers from all over the world. One of the most notable pieces of attention came when a Discovery Channel film crew traveled to Nepal to determine if it was possible for a human to abstain from all forms of sustenance.

Going into the film, the general understanding was that a human could live for several weeks without food simply by living off of fat and protein stores within the body. The troubling thing when it came to studying Buddha Boy was that the average human can only last about 3 or 4 days without water; he was being observed for longer than 4 days and was showing no signs of dehydration.

To determine whether or not it was an elaborate hoax, the film crew set up cameras for 96 straight hours where they observed his every move -or lack there of. Their observations determined there were no hidden water pipes or food sources. What they were witnessing through their extensive filming was what some would call a scientific impossibility.

“After 96 hours of filming, Ram has defied modern science by continuing his meditation and remaining alive.” -Discovery Channel film crew member

As previously mentioned, the film footage revealed that Ram showed no signs of dehydration or physical deterioration during his meditation. Even though he sat in the same position for all of this time, his organs
and body appeared to be functioning normally. Of course not every detail could be determined as Ram chose to stay in a meditative state the entire time. This meant no one could go and medically study his well being.

Ram’s meditation lasted 10 months before he suddenly disappeared. While some had believed he was kidnapped, it was later determined he decided to leave the hype behind and go deeper into the Nepal jungle to continue meditation. He felt there was “no peace” while remaining in an area that had become a tourist attraction in Nepal. He since has appeared on occasion to give speeches and interact with those interested in his story and blessings. Each time, he disappears once again to continue his meditation. Although many believe that Ram is the reincarnation of Buddha, he had denied the fact and simply claims to be enlightened like Buddha through his meditation.

This is not the first time a person has claimed to have not eaten or drank anything for very long periods of time. An Indian man claimed he had not eaten or drank anything for 70 years. He agreed to go under strict observation in a medical hospital where he did not consume food or water for 15 days. In this case, the man claimed to be receiving his sustenance through meditation. A slightly different but similar story can also be seen when looking at an Indian man by the name of HRM who was observed in a medical hospital under strict observation for 411 days. During this time he did not consume any food but he did drink boiled water. He claimed to be feeding off of sunlight which he received while gazing at the sun during periods of zero UV ray emission. In both cases, medical professionals and researchers were baffled by the results and were left with no explanation. While many were quick to pass it off as a hoax and impossible, there has been nothing to back up their denial.

What is interesting about those claiming to not require sustenance while receiving it from some “other” source is that it appears to be much more of a western mentality to violently deny the possibility. In Buddhist tradition, it is seen and understood as something that is entirely possible and many Lama have done this in the past. Is it possible that our denial of such claims and inability to accept the possibility comes as a result of western culture being heavily disconnected from spiritual understandings of ourselves? For me, it seems highly plausible that a lack of self-understanding in western culture creates the inability to look at these claims seriously. Instead of seeing something that is potentially very exciting for humanity, it is viewed as a silly hoax so we can go on with our lives.

The Discovery Channel film crew produced a documentary from the footage they collected and that film can be viewed below. If this story intrigues you, It is highly recommended that you watch the short film as it goes into some very interesting detail and will likely answer some questions you might have. The film is titled “The Boy With Divine Powers”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OMMxFxHgU2U
Live without food and water - Breatharianism - is it possible?

Breatharianism: a Definition

The idea of being able to live without physical food to sustain the body, called Breatharianism, has been around for a long time, but it's only in recent years that it has really been brought to the attention of the media. For example, we have inexplicable cases such as Prahlad Jani (see BBC News article Fasting fakir flummoxes physicians), and also deaths associated with attempting this way of life.

Then, there are also certain examples that defy normal nutritional science, such as the Swedish man who survived for two months trapped in his car.

The usual reaction is one of scorn and derision by people faced with the alleged ability of someone to live without food. Initial criticisms range from direct condemnation without pause for thought, to more varied arguements, such as, if someone can live without food, why can't the starving millions of this planet live without food?

Most of the answers to these questions, however, cannot satisfy the mind of someone immersed in empirical science of the physical world. The scientific mind resides in a purely empirical world, when clearly there are things way beyond its scope, whether it be so-called Breatharianism or other unusual phenomena.

Before providing information on how alleged Breatharianism works, the process to it, but also the people past and present who have apparently lived without food, a few definitions.
Breatharianism is not fasting - though it could be seen as the fast that never ends. Even so, Breatharianism is also called 'inedia', from the Latin meaning fasting.

Also, Breatharianism is meant to denote someone who neither eats nor drinks, though sometimes it is used to denote someone who doesn't eat but does drink. Someone who doesn't eat but does drink is technically a Waterian.

How it works

Breatharianism centers on the notion that everything the human body needs, is in the energy that surrounds and pervades it, and that it can draw on this energy to sustain itself. The term breatharianism infers that the 'breath' is of importance and that the life-force can be inhaled to directly sustain the body. However, others say that in fact, it's possible to draw energy from anything really, as everything is imbued with this energy.

Thus, the difference between someone who is on a hunger strike and dies (or someone who is poor and starving, and dies), and someone who doesn't die from not having any (physical) nutrition, is due to deep inner transformation. Literature on the subject shows that just having the intention to 'live off light' isn't enough, but that something else takes over; that there's a subtle two way process at work,

The path to Breatharianism, involves detoxifying the body, so that it can reside in its perfect state, where it does not need to eat. Inediates perceive the truth, that eating physical substances, conceals the fact that actually the energy that keeps us alive doesn't come from physical food. The Bible's garden of Eden comes to mind, and that fateful apple. The conjecture is that humans, as they forgot their spiritual origins as direct reflections of God (God made man in his own image), needed to sustain themselves in other ways, rather than just from the subtle life-force, and so looked for things to put into themselves, to energise themselves with; and in the process, developed coarser and coarser digestive systems, and eventually even began killing and eating other developed conscious entities, such as animals, which was the final nail in the coffin for developed consciousness.

Christians may have read Matthew 4:4: "Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (New International Version 1984)

The Logos (Christian usage of) can be seen as a direct nourishing force. So whether one calls it 'The force' from Star Wars, Chi, Prana, Love, Logos, or Holy Spirit, it is this same energy that pervades all of Creation. As we will see, a fair number of inediates can be found in the Christian tradition (see list below), where saints claimed to be kept alive solely by the Holy Spirit.

Breatharianism and its stages - Master Liao Fong-Sheng

A concise explanation of Breatharianism, and it's stages, can be viewed here, where a Qigong Breatharian, Master Liao Fong-Sheng, explains things clearly. It does away with some of the explanations that some other Breatharians have put forward, where fancy language and terms confuse the issue. The video is taken from Supreme Master TV which I know little about, except that the main woman is highly revered, while others classify it as a cult.
Do you know what breatharianism is really about?

Posted on September 27, 2013 by Anya
4 Comments

Hello divine beings!

Some of you will not be ready to read an article such as this, if you feel that way, try putting anything you don't believe in an imaginary box, just store it away somewhere. In no way do you have to like/believe/relate to what I'm about to say, it's totally up to you what you are comfortable with.

The topic of this article is breatharianism/pranarianism/living on light – whatever you want to call it.

Definition of a breatharian:

A breatharian is someone who lives without consuming any food and/or water. Just to be clear, it is NOT fasting or starving. You do NOT deplete your body of necessary nutrients, you get all that from the universal energy (prana), i.e. everything your body needs in its purest form. Some people get it through light and sun, some just through the air itself. This is not magic and you don’t need special genes to be able to do this, ANYONE is able to teach themselves this.

I’ve made this little diagram to show how I believe (and I’m by far not the only one) humans “evolve” food wise in the following way (click to make it bigger).
I first came across knowledge of this lifestyle through my yoga teacher, she told us Prahlad Jani (“Mataji”) was coming to Marbella and asked my mum and me if we would like to go see him. He is an Indian 81 year old sadhu who has lived without food and water for the last 70 years. He has had a number of studies done on him and spent time under observation in hospitals – doctors say he’s in perfect health. I figured then that he was one of a kind, that there were very few people who could do that in this world and that they must be real masters to reach such levels! Recently I discovered how wrong I was – there are THOUSANDS (if not more now) of people all around the world who live this way and it’s spreading fast. People are starting to realise that we don’t actually need food if we can get
everything we need from the energies that surround us every day... if we know HOW to use it of course.

**Warning:** please do NOT attempt to just give up food without proper training and guidance, like I said, you need to KNOW how to take in prana in order to survive off it, if you go into this unprepared, you are pretty much starving yourself and can hurt yourself. Just having motivation is great, but it's not enough.

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**Personal experience with breatharianism:**

The reason why I decided to dedicate a section of my blog to this subject is because I had a personal experience with breatharianism, that I would love to share with you.

In May 2012, I went to a workshop (I decided to delete who’s workshop this was since it's not relevant and everyone has different experiences – don’t want people thinking like “oh if I go see this guy, I’ll start living off prana”). The purpose of this workshop was to use sound vibrations to experience forms of ancient Egyptian alchemy and **clear out our chakras**. It was only weeks later that I read that you can’t become breatharian until your chakras are open/cleaned.

I won’t go into the workshop and other changes I experienced through it, but I will tell you about one very very curious effect it had on me the day after – I pretty much went breatharian for a whole week! The guy who led the workshop did say that we will experience “things” for the next 7 days, he even joked and said “try not to quit your job” haha, but I never expected something like this!!
I simply lost my hunger for 7 days!

That morning I had my flight back to London, I wasn't hungry but I thought I should eat anyway since I'm travelling (I'm sure you've all done that!). Airports have this weird effect on me, even if I ate just before getting there, I'll still eat at the airport. This time I wasn’t hungry at the airport. I wasn’t hungry in the plane. And I wasn’t hungry 6 hours later when I had already landed. My body was “speaking” to me, it was telling me not to eat, and so I listened. I have a very good connection with my Higher Self, so I kept asking it every half an hour if I should eat that apple that was in my bag. Every time the answer was “no”.

I thought ok whatever, I must be too overwhelmed with energy from the workshop. I went to sleep. In the morning, I was still not hungry but more from habit than anything else, I made my morning smoothie. I had a few spoonfuls and I was full, my body just physically didn’t want the food I was giving it. Because I spent the weekend watching Jasmuheen’s videos (highly recommended!), I knew it was possible, so I figured I’ll just go along with it, see what the universe has planned for me. I’m not stupid enough to starve myself, I just figured I would eat when I’m actually hungry. Jasmuheen is one of the world’s most famous breatharians (though she doesn’t call herself that because she drinks water) and I have been to see her several times after this and even organised a workshop for her in Spain in 2014. Long story short, that whole week I felt (very slight) hunger only twice, first time I ate a couple of tomato slices, the 2nd time I spent almost £10 pounds on raw sushi… and ate just ONE – I fell into the trap of letting my eyes control my stomach.

http://indavideo.hu/video/Breatharian_Boy
The need-hunger and the want-hunger

Thing is, I have VERY clearly realised that our hunger is divided into the need-hunger and the want-hunger. I honestly believe that a lot of today’s health problems will be fixed if only people would eat when they NEED to, not when they want to.

The incredible thing with that week was, I don’t know exactly how it happened, probably a combination of factors but it was like my feelings of want-hunger were totally suppressed. I would walk around smelling yummy food smells and not caring, not even thinking twice about wanting to eat it. I dont even know how to explain it, it’s like I had lost all interest in food. Even more so incredible….and yes this is a big one….I didnt want any SUGAR!! I have an incredible sweet-tooth, and the fact that I completely ignored all things sweet for a week was a miracle for me.

How I felt emotionally not eating for a week

I can’t even tell you how INCREDIBLE that felt. I felt so free, I felt so clean, so happy that I didnt want to put all that heavy stuff in my body that I didnt need! At the same time though, I must admit I was a little freaked out, who wouldnt be?

Yesterday I was eating pasta and croissants (rural German villages don’t cater too well for raw vegans..) and the morning after I was breatharian, wouldn’t you be a little nervous?! My mum was an awesome support, she kept telling me that its an amazing thing, that I should just go with it. So for those of you wondering, it’s not something people force on themselves, it’s not a difficult process and it’s actually very enjoyable. You don’t starve yourself, your hunger just naturally dissolves when you are ready.

Cleansing and meditating

On day 6 I really felt the need to clean out everything I had in my gut, I read on a breatharian site that at the beginning stages you should be getting an enema done every day, then less and less
until you’re totally clean, so I thought maybe I need to be doing the same. Now I know people are very controversial about this subject, but I am Russian after all, for us its a completely normal thing to do.

I hope I never forget the feeling of having NO food in my body, it was so awesome! I felt so light, so clean, so alive and healthy! The detox sucked (mood wise) for the first few days, but it was so worth it!

During that week, as usual, I meditated every day so I took in vital life energy needed to sustain me. This is by far the most important thing to do because if you are not taking in prana, then your body will eventually go into starvation mode.

**Why did I start eating again?**

So how did it all end? Well I’m hoping it didn’t, it just paused, I got a little taster that life on energy IS possible, and that that is what I should be aiming for in life. Just like with everything else, the universe gives you a taster of some “magic” and then takes it away and says “now you know its real, so go work for it!” haha 😏 I definitely will!

But if you’re really curious why I started eating again, I had a solo to sing at a charity concert, and I got a little nervous and…yes I forcefully ate to stop stressing. How sad, right? Our habits really do make us weak…

Nicholas of Flue

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Jump to: navigation, search

Saint Nicholas of Flüe (Niklaus von Flüe) (1417 - March 21, 1487) was a Swiss hermit and ascetic who is the patron saint of Switzerland. He is sometimes invoked as "Brother Klaus."

Nicholas of Flue, from the altar piece of the local parish church in Sachseln. Enlarge

Nicholas of Flue, from the altar piece of the local parish church in Sachseln.

He was born in the canon of Unterwalden, the son of wealthy peasants, and made himself distinguished as a soldier in action against the canton of Zurich, which had rebelled against the confederation. At around the age of 30, he married Dorothy Wiss, a farmer's daughter. He continued in the military to the age of 37, rising to the position of captain, reportedly fighting with a sword in
one hand and a rosary in the other. After serving in the military, he became a councillor and judge for his canton in 1459 and served as a judge for nine years.

After receiving a mystical vision, he decided to devote himself entirely to the contemplative life, and in 1467 he left his wife and his ten children with her consent and set himself up as a hermit in the Ranft valley in Switzerland. According to legend, he survived for nineteen years with no food except for the eucharist. His reputation for wisdom and piety was such that figures from across Europe came to seek advice from him, and he was known to all as "Brother Klaus." His counsel prevented a civil war between the cantons meeting at Stans in 1481 when their antagonism grew. When he died, he was surrounded by his wife and children.

He was beatified in 1669 and canonized in 1947. His feast day in the Roman Catholic Church is March 21, except in Switzerland, where it is September 25.

http://www.bruneinews.net/story/629648

7 decades of starvation for 82-year-old man

Brunei News.Net
Saturday 1st May, 2010

The Indian military's research wing is examining a man who claims to have not had anything to eat or drink for over 70 years.

India's Defense Research Development Organization, a branch of the Indian military, whose scientists design drone aircraft, missiles and bombs have turned their attention to an 82-year old man who claims not to have had anything to eat or drink for over 70 years.

Prahlad Jani has been kept in isolation at a hospital in Ahmedabad, Gurjarat to ascertain the extent of his abilities and discover how they might be transferred to soldiers. He has not had anything to eat or drink for six days now and is showing no adverse signs of hunger or dehydration.

“If his claims are verified, it will be a breakthrough in medical science,” said director of the Defence Institute of Physiology & Allied Sciences, Dr G Ilavazhagan.

Dr Ilavazhagan added that his capabilities could help authorities train soldiers to go longer periods without food or water in adverse conditions, or help keep disaster victims alive until help arrives, though he was vague on the details of how a training scheme for either situation would be undertaken.

What is remarkable, however, is that after six days, Mr Jani appears unaffected by the fact that he has not eaten or drunk anything, or passed any urine or a stool. He remains in good health and is active, according to his doctors, who say that by 15 days they should see some muscle wastage, fatigue and dehydration.

15 days is the agreed period of the study, beyond that, organ failure becomes likely due to dehydration.

Mr Jani is regarded as a ‘breatharian’ who lives on a ‘spiritual life-force’. He credits his ability to go without food or water to a goddess who pours an elixir through a hole in his palate.

Highly regarded by some as a holy man, and derided by others who claim him to be nothing more than a
village fraud, Indian authorities will know in another 9 days whether they have in their care the resource for their next generation of elite soldiers.

http://indavideo.hu/video/Breatharian_Boy

Inedia (Latin for "fasting") or breatharianism is the belief that it is possible for a person to live without consuming food. Breatharians claim that food, and in some cases water, are not necessary for survival, and that humans can be sustained solely by prana, the vital life force in Hinduism. According to Ayurveda, sunlight is one of the main sources of prana, and some practitioners believe that it is possible for a person to survive on sunlight alone. The terms breatharianism or inedia may also refer to this philosophy practiced as a lifestyle in place of the usual diet.

Breatharianism is considered a lethal pseudoscience by scientists and medical professionals, and several adherents of these practices have died from starvation and dehydration. [1][2][3]

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### Scientific assessment[edit]

Nutritional science proves that fasting for extended periods leads to starvation, dehydration, and eventual death. In the absence of calorie intake, the body normally burns its own reserves of glycogen, body fat, and muscle. Breatharians claim that their bodies do not consume these reserves while fasting. [4]

Some breatharians have submitted themselves to medical testing, including a hospital's observation of Indian mystic Prahlad Jani appearing to survive without food or water for 15 days. [5][6] and an Israeli breatharian appearing to survive for eight on a television documentary. [7][8][9] In a handful of documented cases, individuals attempting breatharian fasting have died. [1][2][3] Among the claims in support of Inedia investigated by the Indian Rationalist Association, all were found to be
In other cases, people have attempted to survive on sunlight alone, sometimes for publicity or monetary gain, only to abandon the effort after losing a large percentage of their body weight.\footnote{[11]}

**Practitioners**\footnote{[edit]}

**Ram Bahadur Bomjon**\footnote{[edit]}

Ram Bahadur Bomjon is a young Nepalese Buddhist monk who lives as an ascetic in a remote area of Nepal. Ram Bahadur Bomzan appears to go for periods of time without ingesting either food or water.\footnote{[12]}[\footnote{13]} One such period was chronicled in a 2006 Discovery Channel documentary *The Boy With Divine Powers*, which reported that Bomjon neither moved, ate nor drank anything during 96 hours of filming.\footnote{[14]}

**Jasmuheen**\footnote{[edit]}

Jasmuheen (born Ellen Greve) was a prominent advocate of breatharianism in the 1990s. She claimed, "I can go for months and months without having anything at all other than a cup of tea. My body runs on a different kind of nourishment."\footnote{[15]} Interviewers found her house stocked with food; Jasmuheen claimed the food was for her husband and daughter. In 1999, she volunteered to be monitored closely by the Australian television program *60 Minutes* for one week without eating to demonstrate her methods.\footnote{[16]}[\footnote{17}] Jasmuheen stated that she found it difficult on the third day of the test because the hotel room in which she was confined was located near a busy road, causing stress and pollution that prevented absorption of required nutrients from the air. "I asked for fresh air. Seventy percent of my nutrients come from fresh air. I couldn’t even breathe," she said. The third day the test was moved to a mountainside retreat where she regained strength.\footnote{citation needed} After Jasmuheen had fasted for four days, Dr. Berris Wink, president of the Queensland branch of the Australian Medical Association, urged her to stop the test.

According to Dr. Wink, Jasmuheen’s pupils were dilated, her speech was slow, and she was "quite dehydrated, probably over 10%, getting up to 11%". Towards the end of the test, she said, "Her pulse is about double what it was when she started. The risks if she goes any further are kidney failure. *60 Minutes* would be culpable if they encouraged her to continue. She should stop now". The test was stopped. Dr. Wink said, "Unfortunately there are a few people who may believe what she says, and I'm sure it's only a few, but I think it's quite irresponsible for somebody to be trying to encourage others to do something that is so detrimental to their health".\footnote{[18]} Jasmuheen challenged the results of the program, saying, "Look, 6,000 people have done this around the world without any problem."\footnote{[19]} Though she claims thousands of people are tuned to this, mostly in Germany,\footnote{[20]}[\footnote{21}] there has been no verification that any have lived for extended periods without food although the documentary *In The Beginning There Was Light* talks to many who claim to do this.
Jasmuheen was awarded the Bent Spoon Award by Australian Skeptics in 2000 ("presented to the perpetrator of the most preposterous piece of paranormal or pseudoscientific piffle").[23] She also won the 2000 Ig Nobel Prize for Literature for Living on Light. Jasmuheen claims that their beliefs are based on the writings and "more recent channelled material" from St. Germain.[24] She stated that some people's DNA has expanded from 2 to 12 strands, to "absorb more hydrogen". When offered $30,000 to prove her claim with a blood test, she said that she didn't understand the relevance as she was not referring to herself.[25]

In the documentary No Way to Heaven the Swiss chemist Michael Werner claims to have followed the directions appearing on Jasmuheen's books, living for several years without food. The documentary also describes two attempts at scientific verification of his claims.[citation needed] As of 2012, four deaths had been directly linked to breatharianism as a result of Jasmuheen's publications.[26][27] Jasmuheen has denied any responsibility for the deaths.

### Wiley Brooks [edit]

Wiley Brooks is the founder of the Breatharian Institute of America. He was first introduced to the public in 1980 when appearing on the TV show That's Incredible!.[28] Brooks stopped teaching recently to "devote 100% of his time on solving the problem as to why he needed to eat some type of food to keep his physical body alive and allow his light body to manifest completely.[29] Brooks claims to have found "four major deterrents" which prevented him from living without food: "people pollution", "food pollution", "air pollution" and "electro pollution".[29]

In 1983 he was reportedly observed leaving a Santa Cruz 7-Eleven with a Slurpee, hot dog and Twinkies.[30] He told Colors magazine in 2003 that he periodically breaks his fasting with a cheeseburger and a cola, explaining that when he's surrounded by junk culture and junk food, consuming them adds balance.[31]

On his website, Brooks states that his potential followers must first prepare by combining the junk food diet with the meditative incantation of five magic "fifth-dimensional" words which appear on his website, some of which are words from Kundalini yoga.[32][33] In the "5D Q&A" section of his website Brooks claims that cows are fifth-dimensional (or higher) beings that help mankind achieve fifth-dimensional status by converting three-dimensional food to five-dimensional food (beef).[34] In the "Question and Answer" section of his website, Brooks explains that the "Double Quarter-Pounder with Cheese" meal from McDonald's possesses a special "base frequency" and that he thus recommends it as occasional food for beginning breatharians.[35] He then goes on to reveal that Diet Coke is "liquid light".[36] Prospective disciples are asked after some time following the junk food/magic word preparation to revisit his website in order to test if they can feel the magic.[33]

Brooks states that he may be contacted on his fifth-dimensional phone in order to get the correct pronunciation of the five magic words.[33] In case the line is busy, prospective recruits are asked to meditate on the five magic words for a few minutes, and then try calling again.[33]
Brooks's institute has charged varying fees to prospective clients who wished to learn how to live without food, which have ranged from US$100,000 with an initial deposit of $10,000 to one billion dollars, to be paid via bank wire transfer with a preliminary deposit of $100,000, for a session called "Immortality workshop". A payment plan was also offered. These charges have typically been presented as limited time offers exclusively for billionaires.

**Prahlad Jani ("Mataji")**[edit]

Prahlad Jani is an Indian sadhu who has claimed to have lived without food and water for more than 70 years. His claims were investigated by doctors at Sterling Hospital, Ahmedabad, Gujarat in 2003 and 2010. The research team reported that he did not consume any food or water during the testing periods, although they could not comment on his claim of having been able to survive in this way for decades. The study concluded that Prahlad Jani was able to survive under observation for two weeks without either food or water, and had passed no urine or stool with no need for dialysis. Interviews with the researchers speak of strict observation and relate that round-the-clock observation was ensured by multiple CCTV cameras. Jani was reportedly subjected to multiple medical tests. Jani's only contact with any form of fluid was during gargling and bathing, and the doctors said they measured the fluid that Jani spat out.

The case has attracted criticism, both after the 2003 tests and the recent 2010 tests. Sanal Edamaruku, president of the Indian Rationalist Association, criticized the 2010 experiment for allowing Jani to move out of a certain CCTV camera's field of view, meet devotees and leave the sealed test room to sunbathe. Edamaruku stated that the regular gargling and bathing activities were not sufficiently monitored, and accused Jani of having had some "influential protectors" who denied Edamaruku permission to inspect the project during its operation.

**Ray Maor**[edit]

In a television documentary produced by the Israeli television investigative show *The Real Face* (תויתימא םינפ) hosted by Amnon Levy, Israeli practitioner of Inedia, Ray Maor (ראמ ייר), appeared to survive without food or water for eight days and eight nights. According to the documentary, he was restricted to a small villa and placed under constant video surveillance, with medical supervision that included daily blood testing. The documentary claimed Maor was in good spirits throughout the experiment, lost 17 lb after eight days, blood tests showed no change before, during or after the experiment, and Cardiologist Ilan Kitsis from Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center was "baffled."

**Religious traditions**[edit]

**Buddhism**[edit]

- Ram Bahadur Bomjon (Buddha Boy)
Hinduism[edit]

Hindu religious texts contain account of saints and hermits practicing what would be called inedia, breatharianism or Sustenance through Light in modern terms. In Valmiki's Ramayana, Book III, Canto VI, an account of anchorites and holy men is given, who flocked around Rama when he came to Sarabhanga's hermitage. These included, among others, the "...saints who live on rays which moon and daystar give" and "those ... whose food the wave of air supplies". In Canto XI of the same book a hermit named Māṇḍakarni is mentioned: "For he, great votarist, intent – On strictest rule his stern life spent – ... – Ten thousand years on air he fed..." (English quotations are from Ralph T. H. Griffith's translation).

Paramahansa Yogananda's Autobiography of a Yogi details two alleged historical examples of breatharianism, Giri Bala and Therese Neumann.

There are claims that Devraha Baba lived without food.

Taoism[edit]

Chi Song Zi (赤松子)

Shamanism[edit]

Henri Monfort

See also[edit]

- No Way to Heaven, a 2008 documentary on breatharianism
- In the Beginning There Was Light, a 2010 Austrian documentary on breatharianism
- Fasting girls
- Sungazing
- Johnny Lovewisdom

References[edit]

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27. Jump up "Swiss woman starves to death on daylight diet", Herald Sun, 26 April 2012. Retrieved 26 April 2012. "This was the fourth known death linked to breatharianism and Jasmuheen's books since the practice emerged in the early 90s."


32. Jump up Five magic words download (MS Word document)

Known as the Human Barbie, Ukrainian model Valeria Lukyanova is now advocating Breatharianism, a new age spiritual practice where one lives on light and air alone, without consuming food and water.

“In recent weeks I have not been hungry at all; I’m hoping it’s the final stage before I can subsist on air and light alone,” Lukyanova told the *International Business Times*. With a waist as small as 50cm, the Ukrainian model and singer has become *Internet-famous* for her wild, alien-like appearance and “spiritual teachings.”
Aside from aspiring to live on light and air alone, the Barbie doll look-alike also claims to be able to talk to aliens and time travel. The self described “spiritual teacher” says her out-of-body experiences began when she was a little girl, and that she can travel outside of her body to other planets and universes.
For the last four years, Lukyanova has been teaching seminars on meditation and out-of-body travel.
The website Breatharian.info explains the belief in more detail:
“This is a state of man (breatharian, inediate, non-eater) characterized (among other things) by the absence of eating, resulting from (or rather being a stage on the way to) expanding of the Consciousness sphere in which a person lives. In general an ideal (fully realized) inediate, breatharian, non-eater has no need to eat or drink to keep the body working perfectly. A breatharian consumes no food and no drink, he/she needs only air to nourish the body.”
Breatharianism, also known as Inedia, is a lethal pseudoscience, and several adherents of the new age practice have died from starvation. The practice is extremely dangerous, and foolish.
Don’t try this at home kids.
"Folks, it's time to evolve. That's why we're troubled. You know why our institutions are failing us, the church, the state, everything's failing? It's because they're no longer relevant... We're supposed to keep evolving. Evolution did not stop with us growing opposable thumbs. Did you know that? There's another ninety percent of our brains that we need to illuminate."

- Bill Hicks
1961–1994

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The Next Step in Human Evolution is the Acceptance of the Infinite and Infinitesimal Nature of the Universe + Humanity

Desiree Durboulet