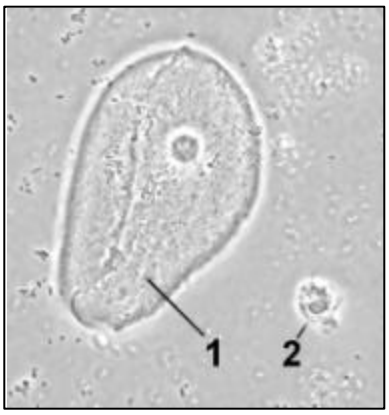
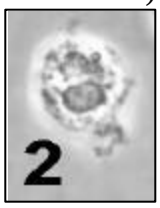
Wet Mount Proficiency 2004 A - Critique

Micrograph A at 1000x

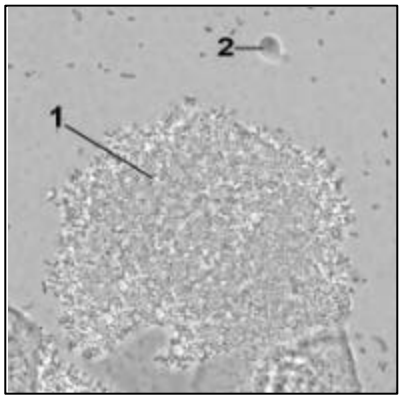


1 2
[**X**] [ ] Squamous epithelial cell(s) - not a clue cell
[ ] [**X**] White blood cell(s)

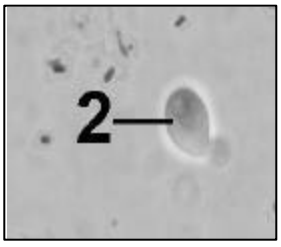


Micrograph A is a phase contrast image taken at 1000x (oil immersion). Object #1 is clearly a squamous epithelial cell without significant adhering bacteria. Object #2 is a polymorpho-nucleocyte (PMN or white blood cell), but it's morphology is not particularly good; some of the cytoplasm is leaking from the cell in the lower right quadrant.

Micrograph B at 1000x

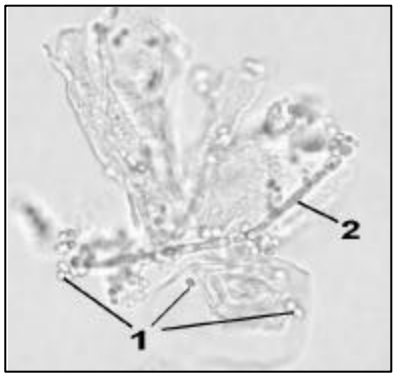


1 2
[**X**] [ ] Squamous epithelial cell(s) - a clue cell
[ ] [**X**] Yeast cell(s)

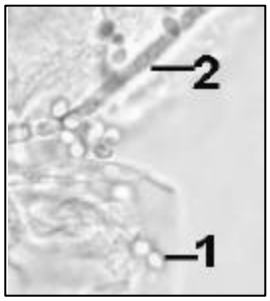


Micrograph A is a phase contrast image taken at 1000x (oil immersion). Object #1 is a squamous epithelial cell that is covered with bacteria; none of the intracellular details (eg nucleus) or edges of the cell are clearly visible. Object #2 is a budding yeast cell; the bud is the small protuberance in the lower right of the mother cell.

Micrograph C at 500x



1 2
[**X**] [ ] Yeast cell(s)
[ ] [**X**] Pseudohyphae



This cluster of epithelial cells was photographed with bright field microscopy at 500X (high dry), so the contrast is markedly less than the phase contrast micrographs above. At this magnification, the yeast cells (objects #1) are hyaline ovals with some apparent buds. The pseudohyphae (object #2) is an obvious filament with uniform diameter and some internal detail.