

The influence of the product on the key organisms of the respective body region was examined.

Information about the tested product:

Manufacturer:

True Botanicals
1 Lovell Avenue
CA 94941 Mill Valley
USA

Name of the product:

Phyto-Retinol Anti-Aging Body Lotion

Product type:	Final product
Application:	Leave-on
Dilution:	No
Sample received:	10 September 2025
Test Start:	19 September 2025
Test End:	18 October 2025
Test Standard:	MyMicrobiome Standard 18.11 Face / Body
Test result:	1.7
Certification:	granted

Test description

The MyMicrobiome Standard evaluates the influence of cosmetics, personal care products and pharmaceuticals on microbial key players located at specific skin or mucous membrane sites.

An intact skin microbiome has a fundamental influence on skin health. Skin-friendly products must also be microbiome-friendly and ensure the maintenance of the balance among the skin microorganisms of the user.

Every person's microbiome is unique. Each body area, however, harbors a characteristic composition of bacteria, viruses and fungi. The test examines the product's influence on the key organisms typical for each skin area and thus offers a standardized procedure.

Various aspects are examined:

The microbial quality of the product.

To be evaluated according to our standard, the product needs to be free of contaminants. This is verified in the microbial quality test.

The influence of the product on the natural, healthy skin balance.

The skin-commensal bacterium *Staphylococcus epidermidis* produces antimicrobial peptides (so-called bacteriocins) and regulates skin pH, which keeps harmful microorganisms such as *Staphylococcus aureus* in check. The product should not disturb the balance between friendly and harmful bacteria. This sensitive balance is investigated in conjunction with the product.

The influence of the product on the bacterial diversity of the specific body region.

Each body region is colonized by a certain set of microorganisms. For healthy microbiome, it is particularly important to maintain this biodiversity. The influence of the product on the respective microbial composition is examined in the test. The aim is to find as many key organisms as possible after contact with the product.

The influence of the product on the growth behavior of the microbes of the specific body region.

In addition to the diversity of the microorganisms in a specific body area, the growth of the individual key organisms should not be influenced by the product. The key organisms are brought into direct and indirect contact with the product and their growth is observed.

Results

The microbiological quality of the product.

The prerequisite for the test for microbial friendliness is the microbiological quality of the product based on DIN ISO 17516. The following table contains the limit values for contaminants that must be observed.

Types of organisms	Limit values
Total aerobic microbial count (TAMC) and total combined yeasts/ moulds count (TYMC)	≤ 20 cfu*/g or ml

* colony forming units (cfu)

Results microbiological quality

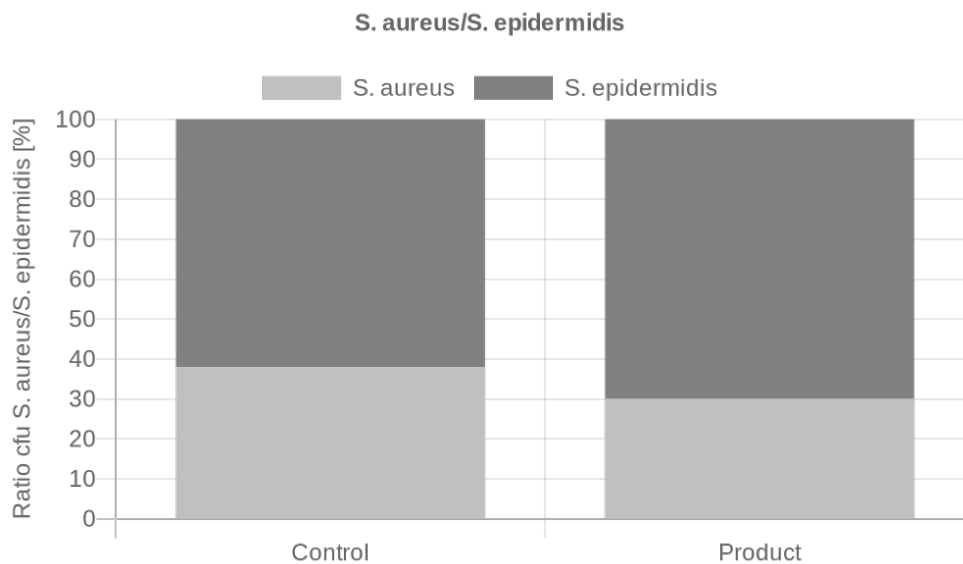
Parameter	Sample no.: 25.1121.18.1
TAMC and TYMC [cfu/0,1 ml]	< 20

The microbiological quality of the product is fulfilled.

Results

The influence of the product on the natural, healthy skin balance.

A co-culture of *S. epidermidis* and *S. aureus* is incubated with the product for 15 min (rinse-off) or 4h (leave-on). Bacterial counts are determined, the ratio of the two microbes to each other is assessed and compared to the control sample (PBS).

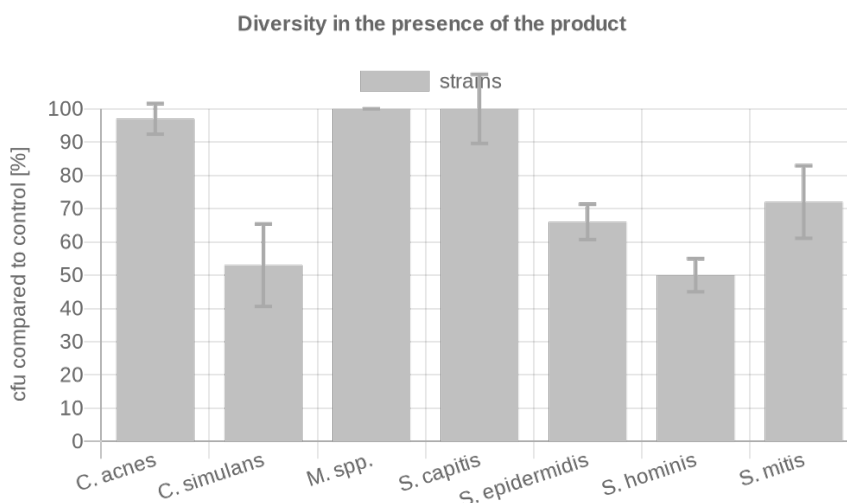


	cfu/ml		Ratio Product/ Control	Grade
	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>S. epidermidis</i>		
Control	5160	8293.3	1.5	1.0
Product	2000	4733.3		

Results – SEBACEOUS SKIN –

The influence of the product on the microbial diversity of the specific body region.

A co-culture of key organisms of the specific body region is incubated with the product for 15 min (rinse-off) or 4h (leave-on). Bacterial colonies are counted, and the ratio of the cfu in the presence of the product compared to the control (PBS) is determined.

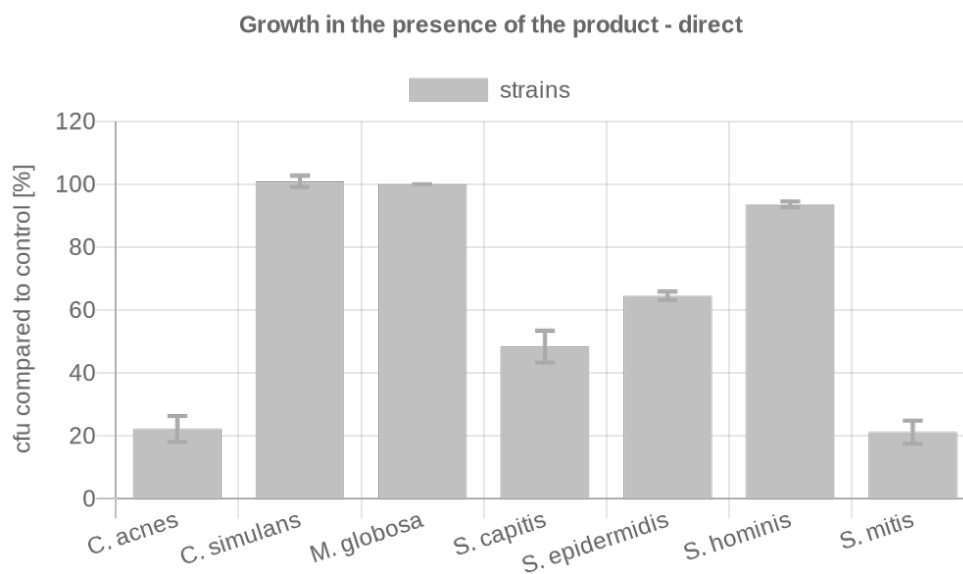


Key-Microbe	t=	4h	Rating
	cfu/ml		
<i>C. acnes</i>	Control	640	1
	Product	620	
<i>C. simulans</i>	Control	1140	3
	Product	603.3	
<i>M. spp.</i>	Control	8000	1
	Product	8000	
<i>S. capitis</i>	Control	1660	1
	Product	1656.7	
<i>S. epidermidis</i>	Control	1160	2
	Product	760	
<i>S. hominis</i>	Control	1790	3
	Product	896.7	
<i>S. mitis</i>	Control	90	2
	Product	65	
Overall rating:			1.9

Results – SEBACEOUS SKIN –

The influence of the product on the growth behavior of the microbes of a specific body region – directly.

The influence of the product on the growth of each individual key organism of the specific body region is investigated and the ratio of the cfu in the presence of the product is calculated in % relative to the control sample (PBS). Product contact with microorganisms is direct.

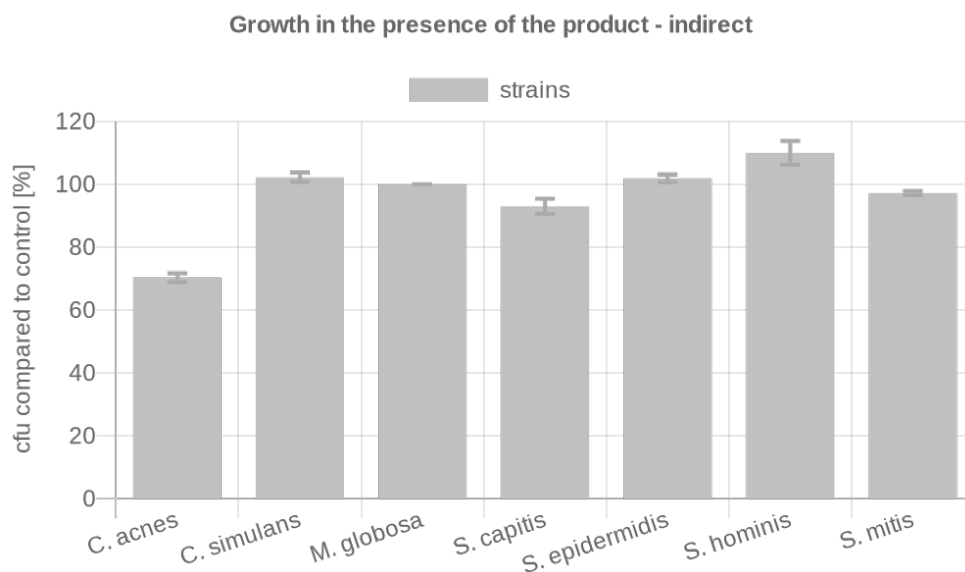


Key-Microbe	cfu/ml		Rating
C. acnes	Control	1316	3
	Product	292	
C. simulans	Control	1085.3	1
	Product	1094.7	
M. globosa	Control	100	1
	Product	100	
S. capitis	Control	2458.7	3
	Product	1189.3	
S. epidermidis	Control	917.3	3
	Product	592	
S. hominis	Control	932	2
	Product	872	
S. mitis	Control	736	3
	Product	156	
Overall rating:			2.3

Results – SEBACEOUS SKIN –

The influence of the product on the growth behavior of the microbes of the specific body region – indirectly.

The influence of the product on the growth of each individual key organism of the specific body region is investigated and the ratio of the cfu in the presence of the product is calculated in % relative to the control sample (PBS). Product contact with microorganisms is indirect.

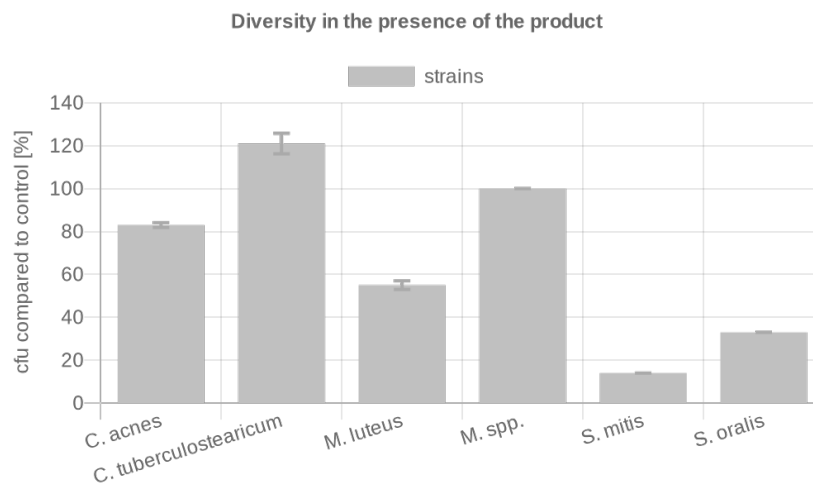


Key-Microbe	cfu/ml		Rating
C. acnes	Control	1616	2
	Product	1136	
C. simulans	Control	328	1
	Product	335.3	
M. globosa	Control	100	1
	Product	100	
S. capitis	Control	290.7	2
	Product	270.3	
S. epidermidis	Control	480	1
	Product	489.3	
S. hominis	Control	146.7	1
	Product	161.3	
S. mitis	Control	5037.3	1
	Product	4896	
Overall rating:			1.3

Results – DRY SKIN –

The influence of the product on the microbial diversity of the specific body region.

A co-culture of key organisms of the specific body region is incubated with the product for t = 15 min (rinse-off) or 4h (leave-on). The ratio of the microbes compared to the control (PBS) is determined.



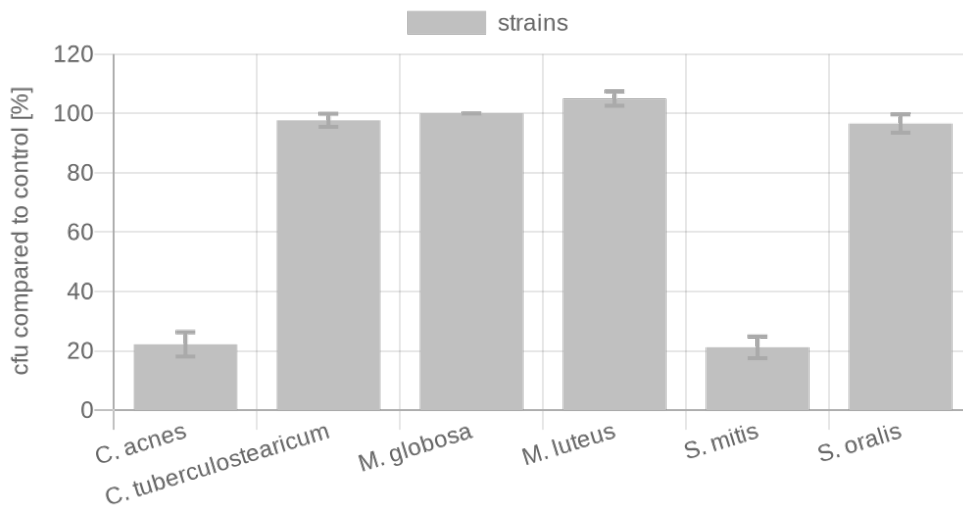
Key-Microbe	t=	4h	Rating
	cfu/ml		
C. acnes	Control	2280	2
	Product	1900	
C. tuberculostearicum	Control	1046,7	1
	Product	1266,7	
M. luteus	Control	3546,7	3
	Product	1960	
M. spp.	Control	9000	1
	Product	9000	
S. mitis	Control	70	3
	Product	10	
S. oralis	Control	30	2
	Product	10	
Overall rating:			2.0

Results – DRY SKIN –

The influence of the product on the growth behavior of the microbes of a specific body region – directly.

The influence of the product on the growth of each individual key organism of the specific body region is investigated and the ratio of the cfu in the presence of the product is calculated in % relative to the control sample (PBS). Product contact with microorganisms is direct.

Growth in the presence of the product - direct

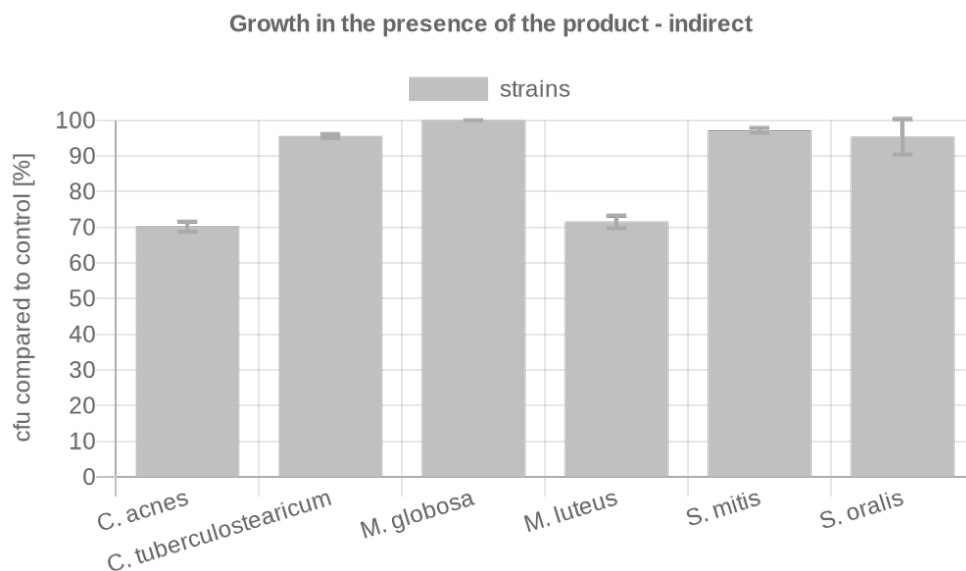


Key-Microbe	cfu/ml		Rating
C. acnes	Control	1316	3
	Product	292	
C. tuberculostearicum	Control	6896.7	1
	Product	6741.3	
M. globosa	Control	100	1
	Product	100	
M. luteus	Control	320	1
	Product	336	
S. mitis	Control	736	3
	Product	156	
S. oralis	Control	67.3	1
	Product	65	
Overall rating:			1.7

Results – DRY SKIN –

The influence of the product on the growth behavior of the microbes of the specific body region – indirectly.

The influence of the product on the growth of each individual key organism of the specific body region is investigated and the ratio of the cfu in the presence of the product is calculated in % relative to the control sample (PBS). Product contact with microorganisms is indirect.



Key-Microbe	cfu/ml		Rating
C. acnes	Control	1616	2
	Product	1134.7	
C. tuberculostearicum	Control	6092	1
	Product	5824	
M. globosa	Control	100	1
	Product	100	
M. luteus	Control	248	2
	Product	177.3	
S. mitis	Control	5037.3	1
	Product	4896	
S. oralis	Control	52.7	1
	Product	50.3	
Overall rating:			1.3

Results

The results are evaluated with grades from 1 (one) to 3 (three).

The product has passed if it obtains an overall grade between 1.0 and 2.0.

1.0 – 2.0 = Microbiome-friendly | 2.1 – 3.0 = Microbiome-influencing

Test	Grade
Balance of the skin microbiome	1.0
Diversity of the corresponding skin microbiome (sebaceous, x2)	1.9
Diversity of the corresponding skin microbiome (dry, x2)	2.0
Skin-product contact direct (sebaceous, x2)	2.3
Skin-product contact direct (dry, x2)	1.7
Skin-product contact indirect (sebaceous)	1.3
Skin-product contact indirect (dry)	1.3
Overall grade	1.7

With an overall grade of 1.7 the seal „Microbiome-friendly“ is awarded according to MyMicrobiome Standard 18.11 Face / Body.

Place, Date: Hauptwil, 23 October 2025

Responsible person: Dr. Kristin Neumann

Signature:

