LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Petri-dish larva migrans

An otherwise healthy young woman began complaining of diarrhea a few days following a cesarean section. Broad-spectrum antibiotics were administered perioperatively due to a suspected uterine infection. Medical history did not reveal any possible past exposure to enteric pathogens. Stool samples were sent for culture and were negative for pathogenic *Escherichia coli*, *Shigella*, *Salmonella* and *Yersinia* species, as well as *Clostridium difficile* toxins A and B. Growth on campylobacter agar following incubation for 48 hours in microaerophilic conditions and temperature of 42 °C consisted of colonies of non-pathogenic fecal flora (Figure 1, arrows). At the center of the agar plate, spiral lines of bacterial growth were evident (Figure 1, chevron), opposing to the normal horizontal plate streaking lines generated by a bacteriological loop (Figure 1, curved arrow). This rare occurrence is secondary to the spontaneous movement on agar of a viable intestinal helminth. Microscopy in this case revealed rhabditiform larvae of *Strongyloides stercoralis*.

Conflict of interest: No conflict of interest to declare.

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Figure 1  Spiral lines of fecal flora growth on campylobacter agar representing the migration of a viable intestinal helminth.