

Ação Bacteriolítica dos Fosfatos (Fosfatólise Bacteriana)

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Anteriormente Pacheco e Abreu (3) observaram um efeito lítico de uma água mineral radioativa sobre certas bactérias e Pacheco & Echaniz (4) compararam a atividade bacteriolítica do $\text{Na}_2 \text{HPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ sobre *Salmonella typhosa* e *Escherichia coli*.

No presente trabalho procurou-se observar as possíveis diferenças na atividade de vários fosfatos.

MATERIAL E MÉTODO

Os sais usados foram $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{Na}_2 \text{HPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{Na}_3 \text{HPO}_4 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ e $\text{K}_2 \text{HPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, em soluções M/10, M/50, D/100, M/500, M/1000 ou 1/100 e 1/1000.

Os germens usados foram a *S. typhosa* amostra H901, *E. coli* e *Micrococcus pyogenes* var. *aureus*, de nossa coleção de culturas. Germens crescidos em agar inclinado, durante 24 horas, eram suspensos e lavados 2 vezes em águas fisiológica, depois preparadas suspensões de modo a obter concentrações adequadas.

As soluções de fosfato eram distribuídas em tubos Kimble de 13x100/mm, apropriados ao colorímetro fotoelétrico de Klett-Summerson. A concentração aproximada de 100 ou mais do colorímetro, usando o filtro verde lisadas todos os dias e os resultados referidos à leitura inicial com aumento (540m μ), utilizando a solução fosfatada como *blank*. As leituras eram realizadas todos os dias e os resultados referidos à leitura inicial com aumento ou decréscimo da opacidade. Mantinham-se os tubos com as suspensões na temperatura ambiente e no final verificava-se a viabilidade dos germens. De outras vezes os germens eram previamente mortos e conservados em tubos fechados a lampada.

RESULTADOS

Mostraram as experiências com $\text{Na}_2 \text{HPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 1/100 e 1/1000, com *M. pyogenes* e *E. coli* que este sal exercia nítida ação bacteriolítica sobre o *M. pyogenes* nas concentrações usadas, quer nos tubos fechados quer nos abertos, na temperatura ambiente ou a 39°, vivos ou mortos (pelo eter), Figs. 1 e 2. Sobre a *E. coli* a atividade foi menos intensa. Figs. 3 e 4.

Com $\text{NaH}_2 \text{PO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ em várias concentrações o efeito variou com os diferentes germens utilizados: a *S. typhosa* foi lisada em todas concentrações usadas, embora menos que na água destilada (Fig. 5); a *E. coli* foi lisada

mais intensamente na solução 1/100 e 1/1000 e menos nas outras concentrações (Fig. 6). *M. pyogenes* se mostrou lisado no mesmo grau que na água destilada (Fig. 7). Em outras experiências preliminares, no entanto, as concentrações mais fracas se mostraram mais bacteriolíticas.

O pH das soluções medido com eletrodo de vidro foi: M/10, 4.5; M/50, 4.75; M/100, 4.92; M/500, 5.07; M/1000, 5.32.

Com $\text{Na}_3\text{HPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, os resultados foram um tanto diferentes dos alcançados com o $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$: a *S. typhosa* foi menos lisada que na água destilada, tal qual foi obtido com o $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Fig. 8); a *E. coli*, entretanto foi fortemente lisada em tôdas as concentrações, sendo mais ativas as mais concentradas; *M. pyogenes* foi totalmente lisado em solução M/100 e M/1000 (Fig. 10). O pH destas soluções foi: M/10, 11.4; M/50, 11.5; M/100, 11.35; M/500, 9.6; M/1000, 7.43.

Anteriormente vimos que os microrganismos mortos eram intensamente lisados em presença de solução de $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Por isso empregamos 3 tipos de fosfatos em solução M/10 e M/100 (Fig. 11-12-13). Os microrganismos eram mortos pelo eter que era evaporado durante uma noite na estufa e em seguida suspensos nas soluções de fosfatos. Os germens vivos eram suspensos em água destilada para comparação (Fig. 14).

DISCUSSÃO

Lise de bactérias pode resultar de anticorpos, envelhecimento, morte, bem como de agentes químicos. De qualquer modo a lise resulta sempre da ruptura da parede celular.

A primeira observação da lise bacteriana pelos fosfatos foi de EVANGELINOS & WOHLFEIL (1) com a *E. coli*. Mediram êles a lise pelo acréscimo do teor de proteínas dos filtrados das suspensões bacterianas em soluções de fosfato de sódio M/15, M/30 e M/60, tendo se revelado ativas tôdas elas. O *Proteus* foi menos lisado nas concentrações mais fracas. A lise foi vista mais forte em temperatura entre 37-45°.

WELSCH, SALMON & HEUSGHEN (9) observaram que a lise espontânea do estafilococo pela "estafilolisina" era incrementada com a adição de fosfato de potássio 0,1 por cento. Removendo o fosfato pelo carbonato de bário a lise permanecia.

WELSCH & SALMON (8) viram ainda que o fosfato dispotássico ativava líquidos inativos ou pouco ativos, pela excessiva diluição, sendo o fosfato monopotássico menos ativo. Bactérias mortas foram lisadas como as vivas, revelando que o fenômeno deve ser diferente do referido por WELSCH.

WELSCH & SALMON (8) verificaram que suspensões de estafilococos lavadas 3 vezes quase não eram lisadas mas que a junção de 0.1 por cento de fosfato dissódico determina rápida lise o que interpretaram como um efeito ativo do fosfato sobre o princípio lítico (ou fermento) que se revelou necessário à bacteriolise. Por outro lado o lavamento bacteriano reduz enormemente a ação lítica do seu «fermento», que pode ser reativado pelo fosfato, como quer WELSCH (7).

Os trabalhos de WELSCH e seus colaboradores admitem a existência de uma bacteriolisina a qual pode ser inespecífica segundo SMOLIER (5) ou específica como quer WELSCH (7).

Nossos resultados mostraram uma atividade bacteriolítica de vários fosfatos, algumas vezes bastante intensa. As observações de WELSCH & SALMON (8) de lise espontânea foram feitos com líquidos contendo fosfatos, salvo quando este foi eliminado por tratamento químico mas pôde ter havido uma penetração intracelular prévia do fosfato antes da sua eliminação do líquido que o continha.

Nossas observações acêrca da ação lítica dos fosfatos em diluições fracas, parece-nos de importância, pois observa-se algumas vezes o desaparecimento de germens nas culturas em caldo que contenha fosfatos. Observaram MELLO & COL., (2) por exemplo, rápido desaparecimento de brucelas em meios contendo fosfatos como tampão.

Certos cocos Gram positivos são particularmente sensíveis à fosfatolise e é frequente a observação de seu desaparecimento nas hemoculturas em meios líquidos.

RESUMO

- 1) As bactérias são lisadas pelos fosfatos, cuja atividade lítica varia com o sal de fosfato, os trivalentes sendo mais ativos.
- 2) A fosfatólise independente da viabilidade da bactéria.
- 3) A fosfatólise pôde interferir nas suspensões com tampões de fosfatos e na preservação de hemoculturas.

M. pyogenes, var. aureus

DEAD - 37°C

(See remarks of fig. 3)

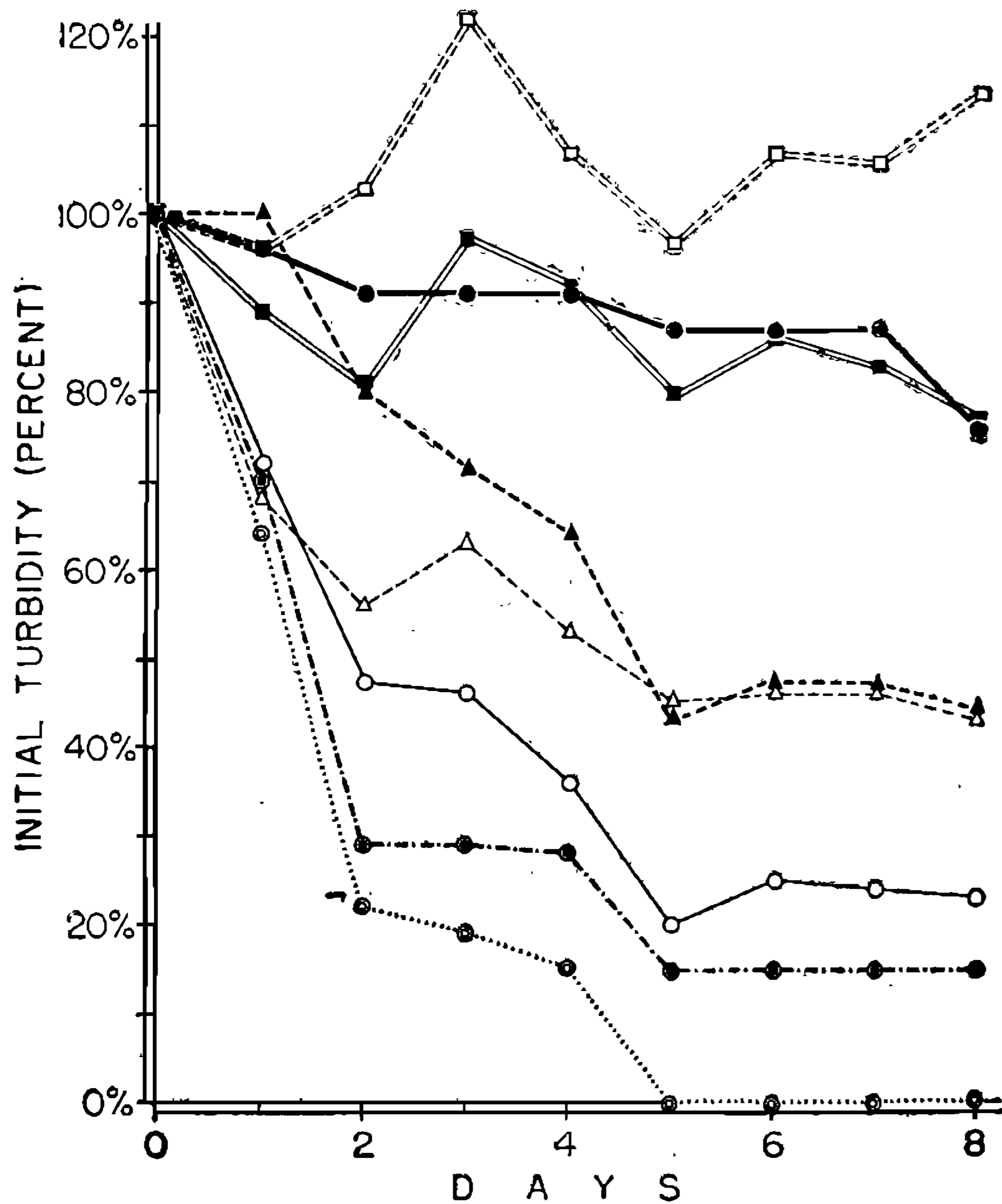


FIG 1

M. pyogenes, var. aureus

ALIVE - ROOM TEMPERATURE

(See remarks of fig. 3)

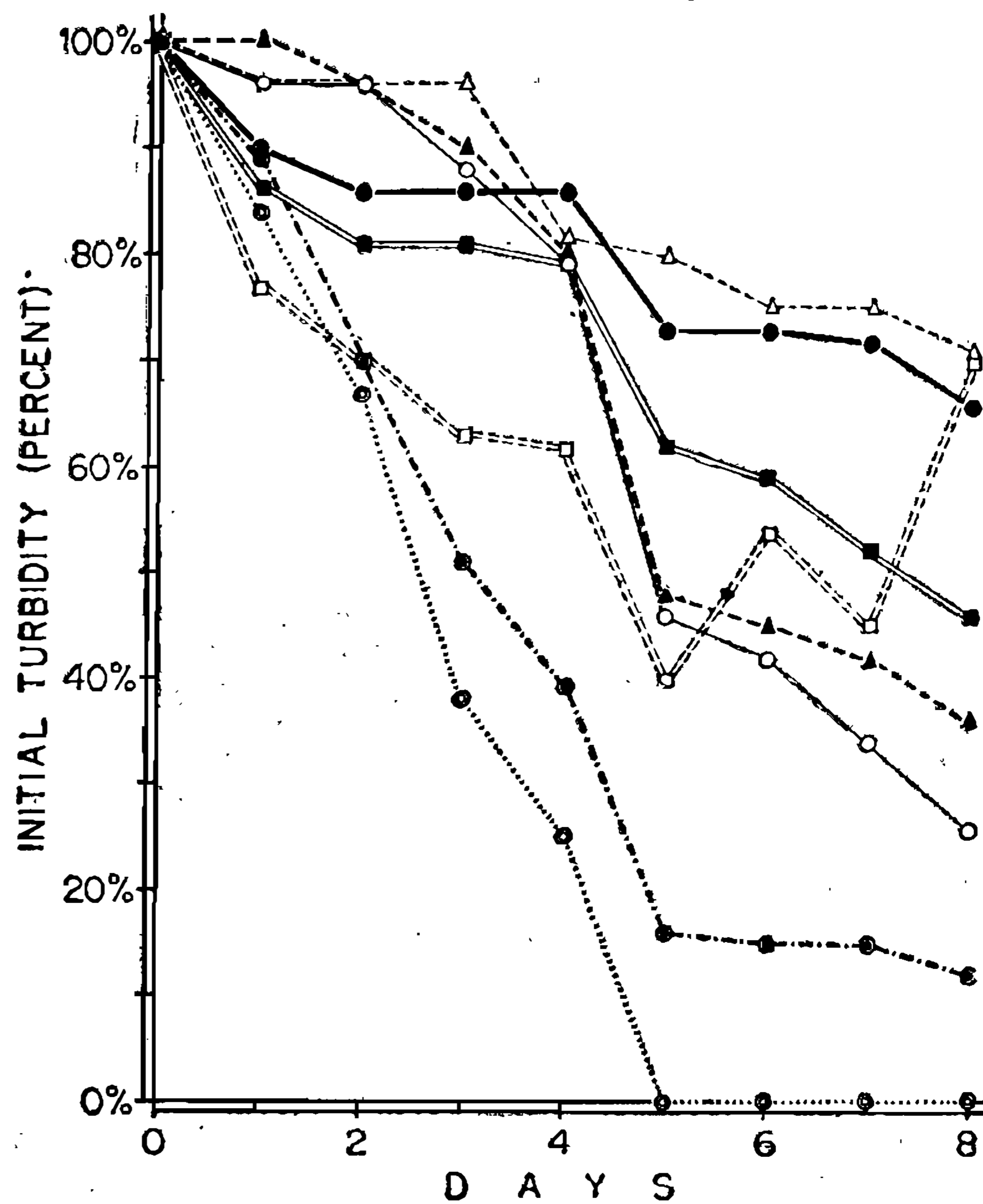


FIG 2

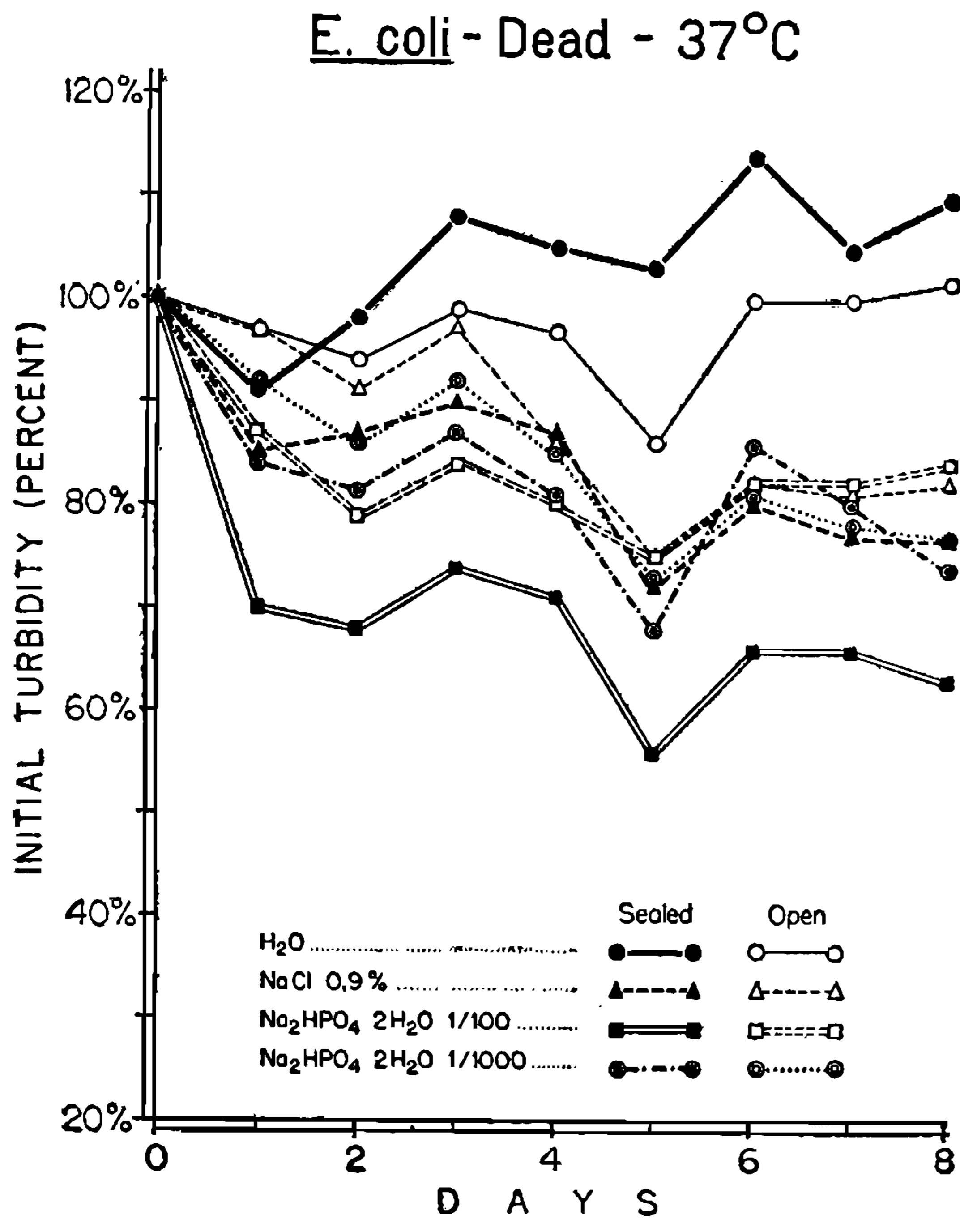


FIG. 3

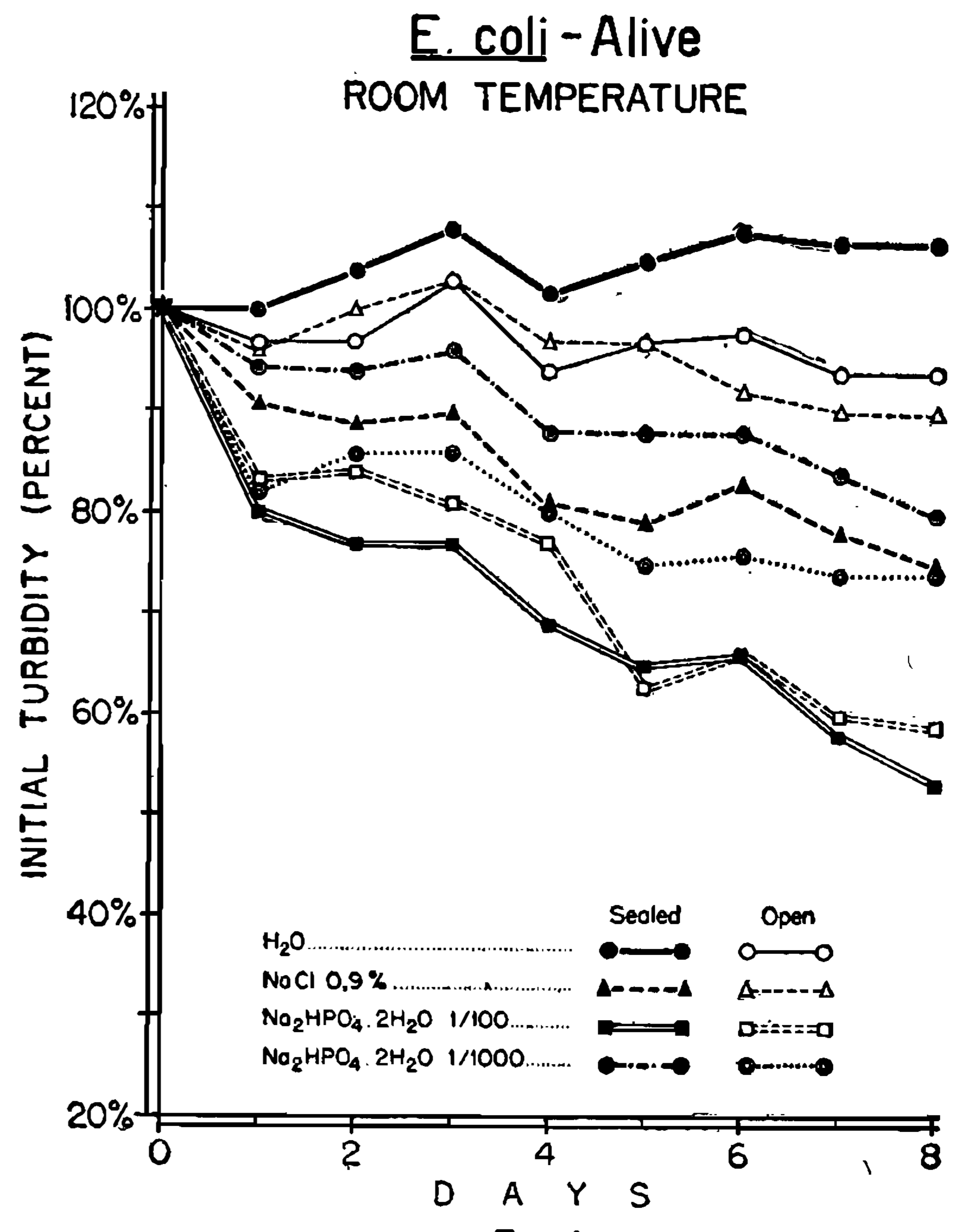


FIG. 4

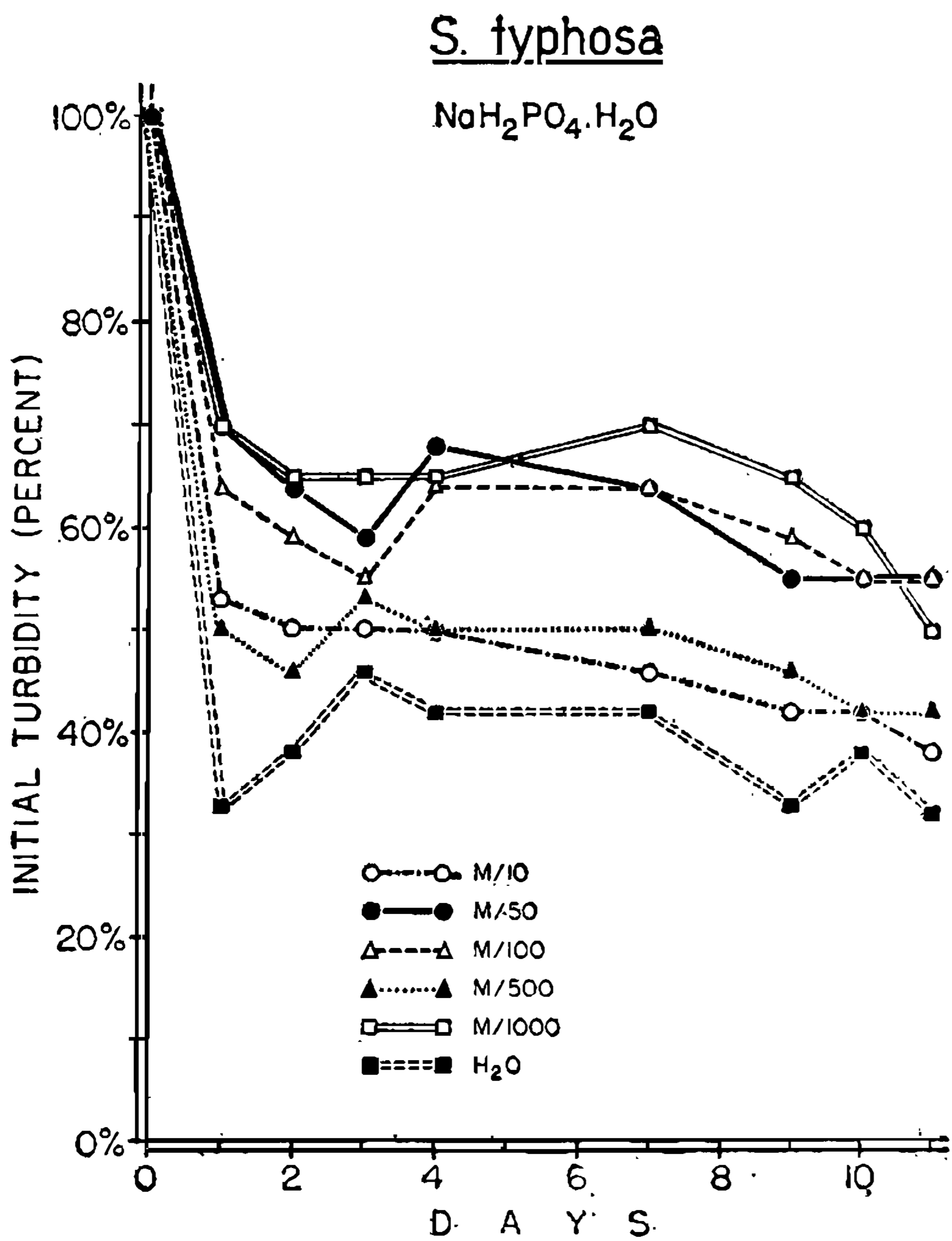


FIG. 5

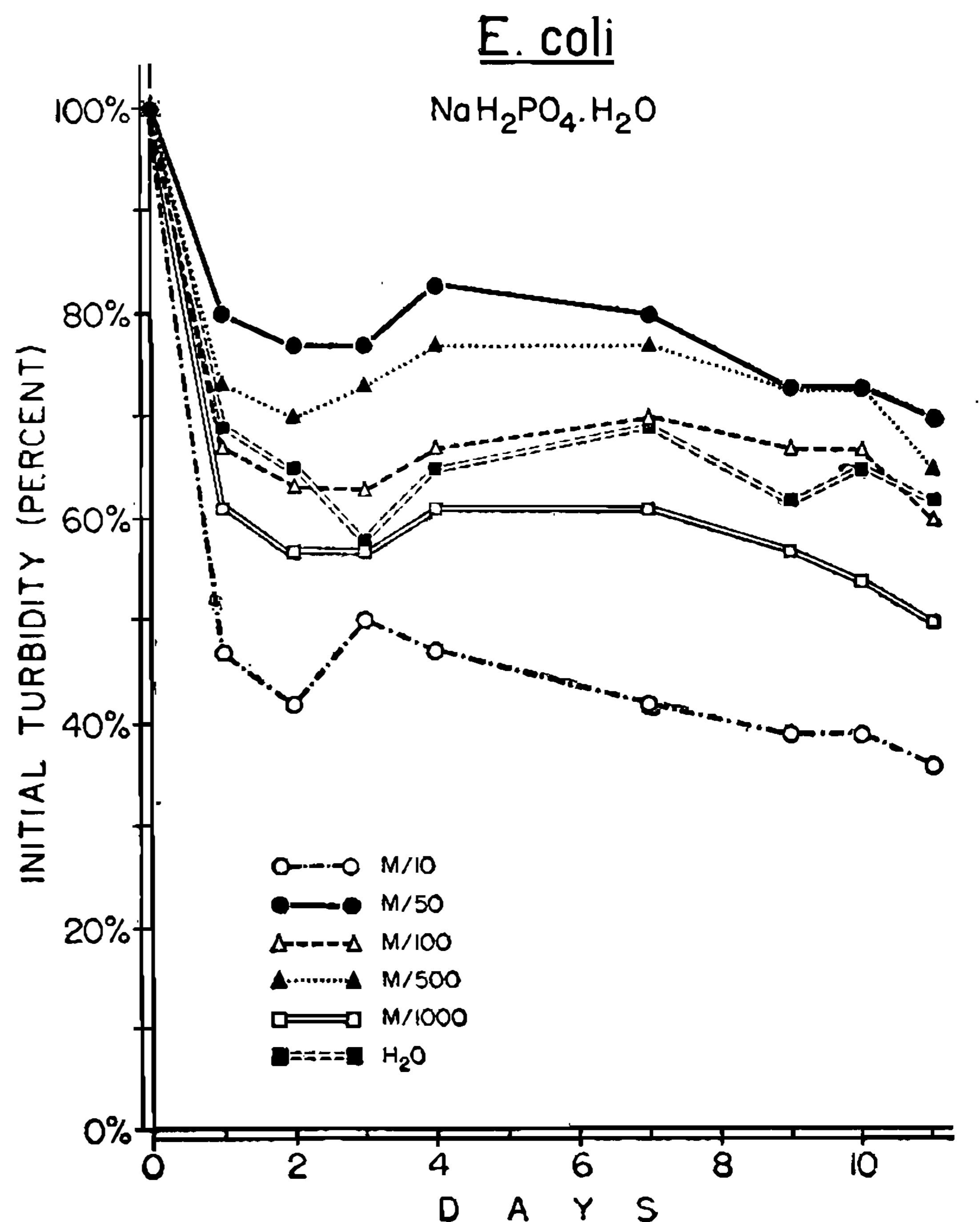


FIG. 6

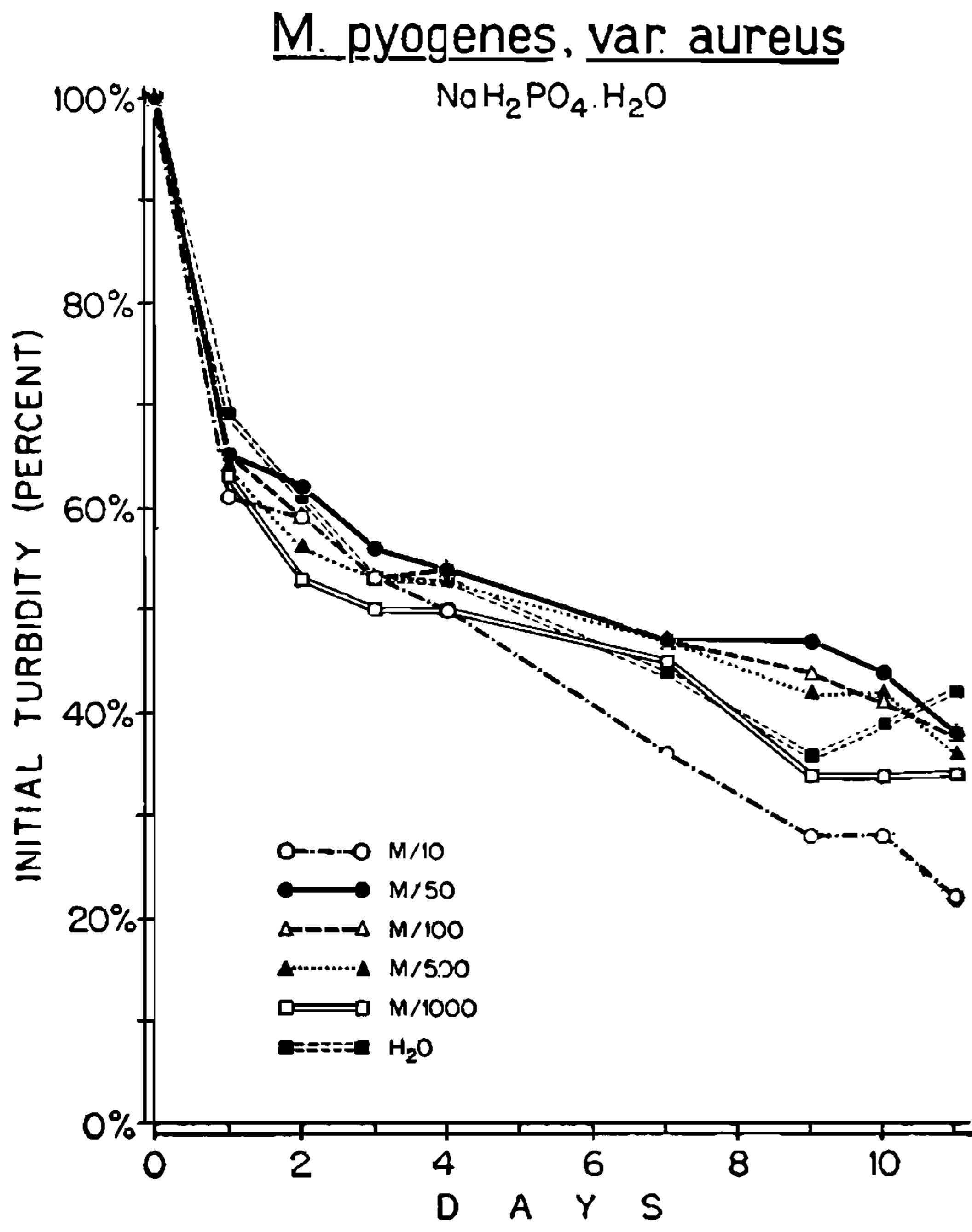


FIG. 7

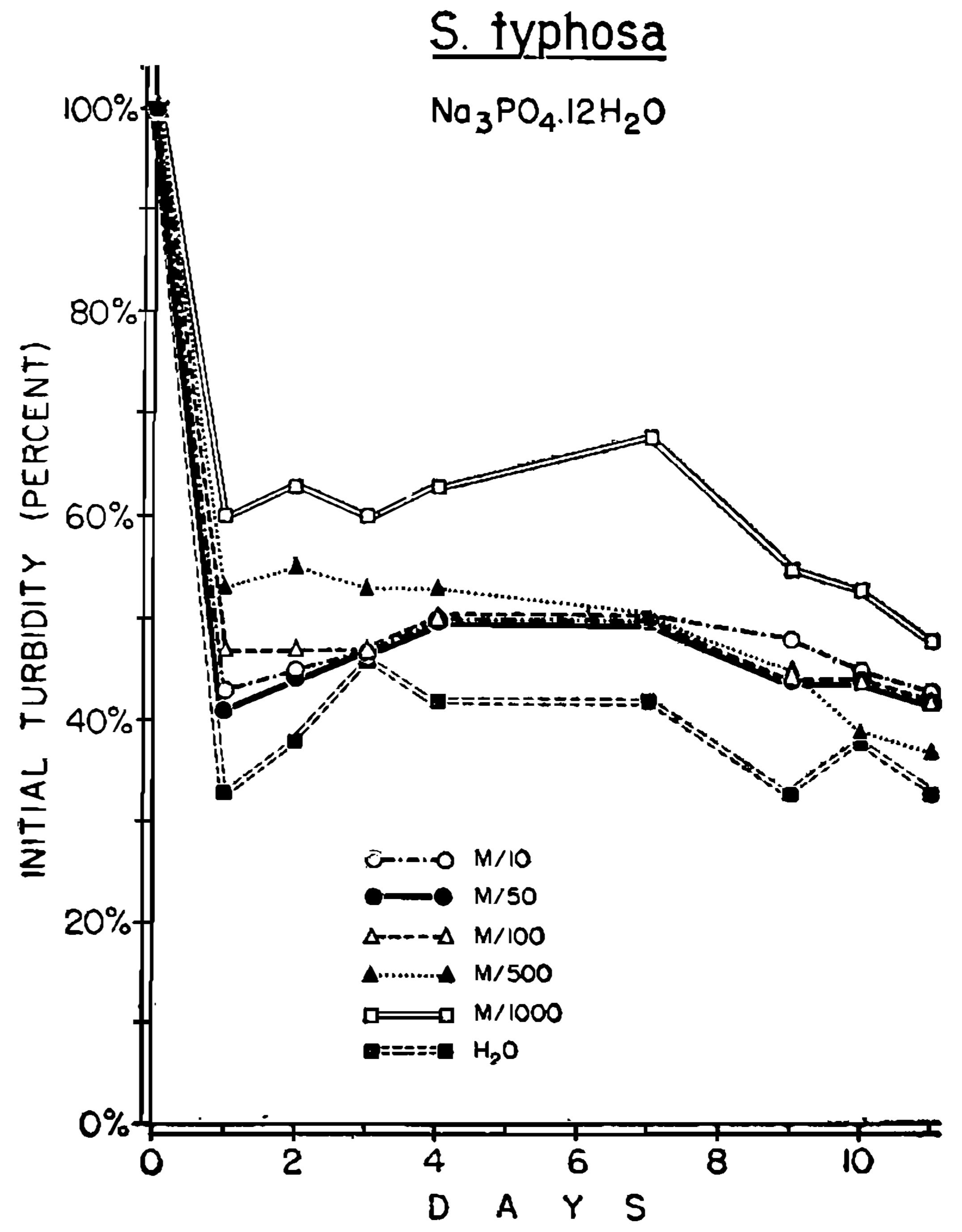


FIG. 8

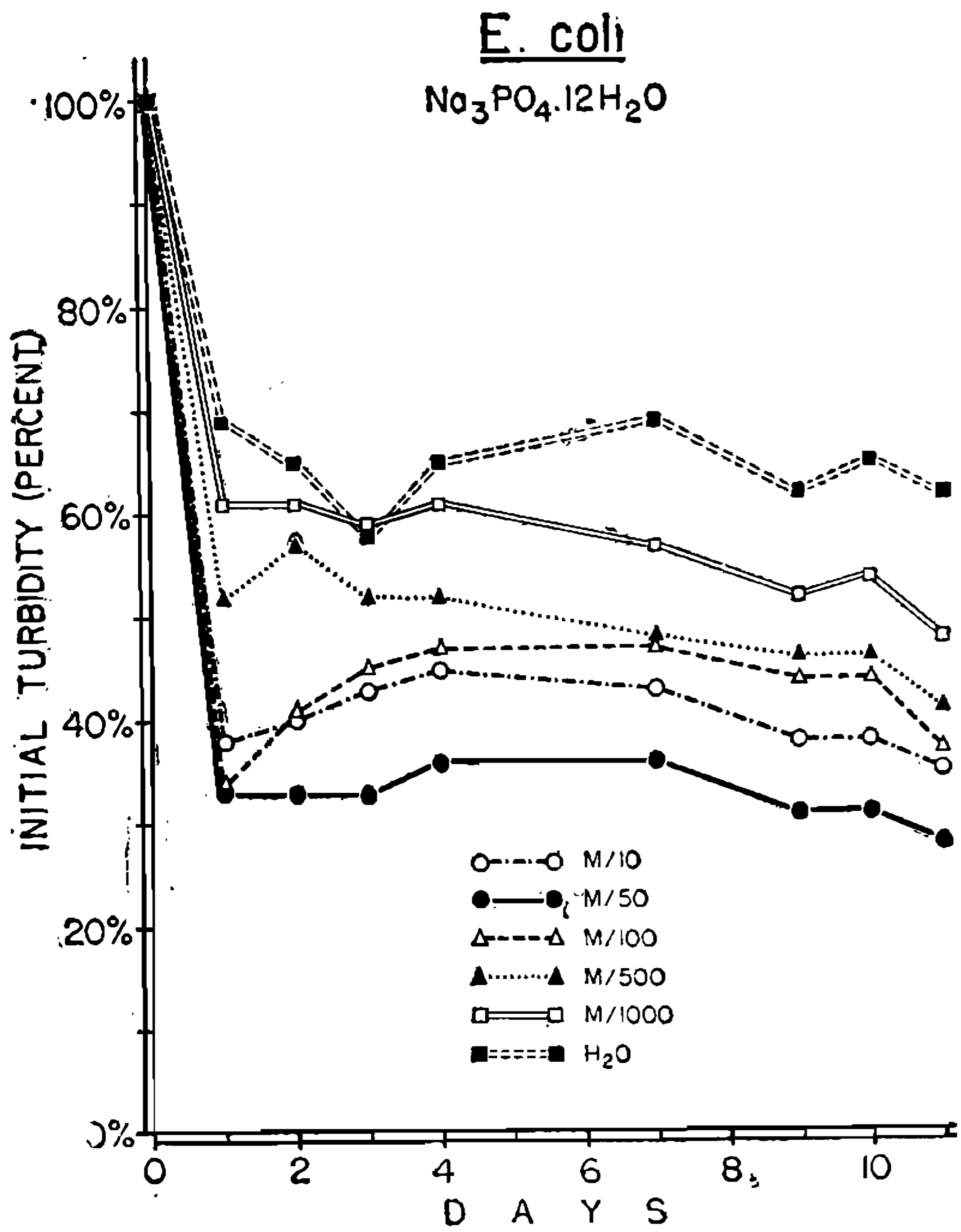


FIG. 9

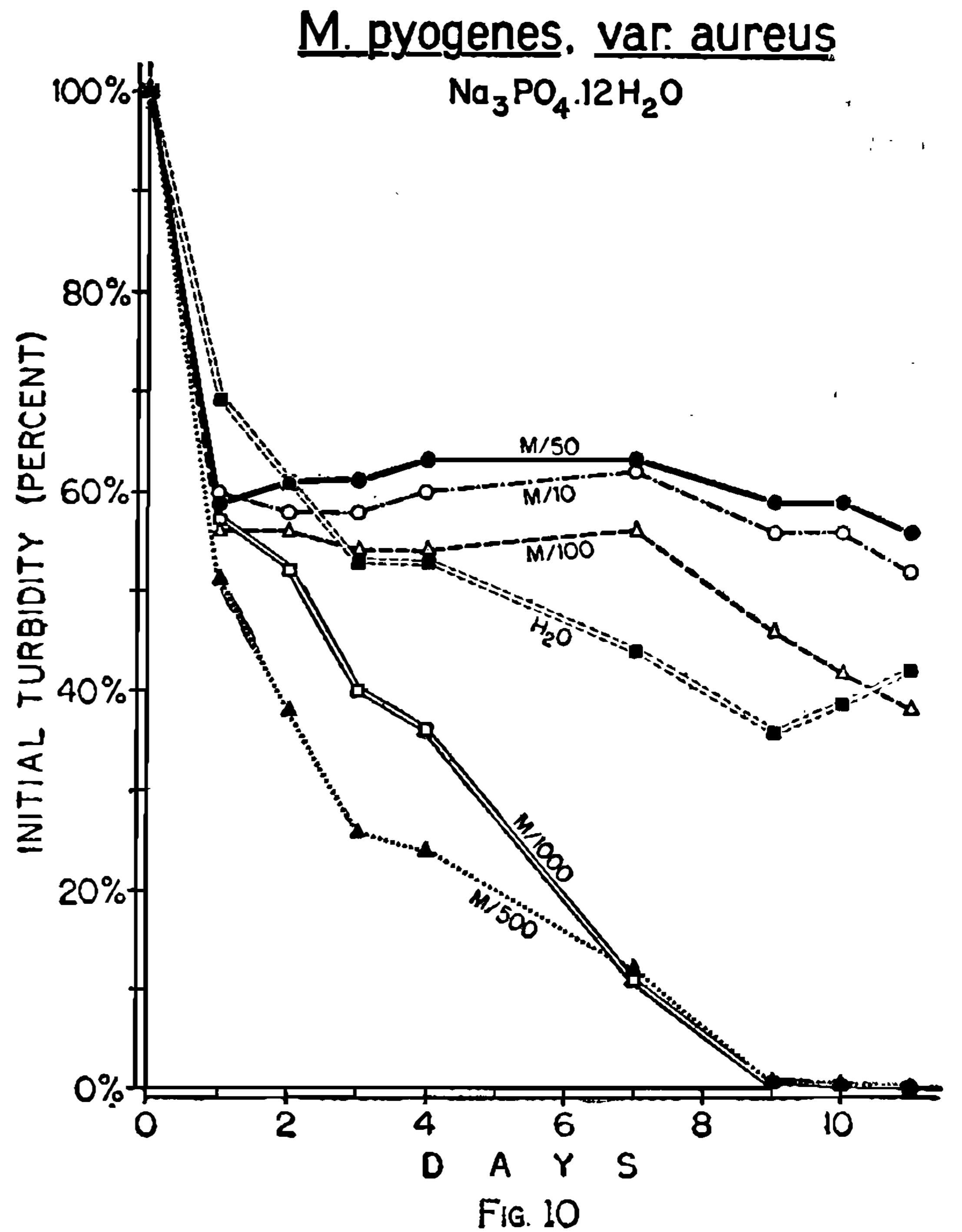
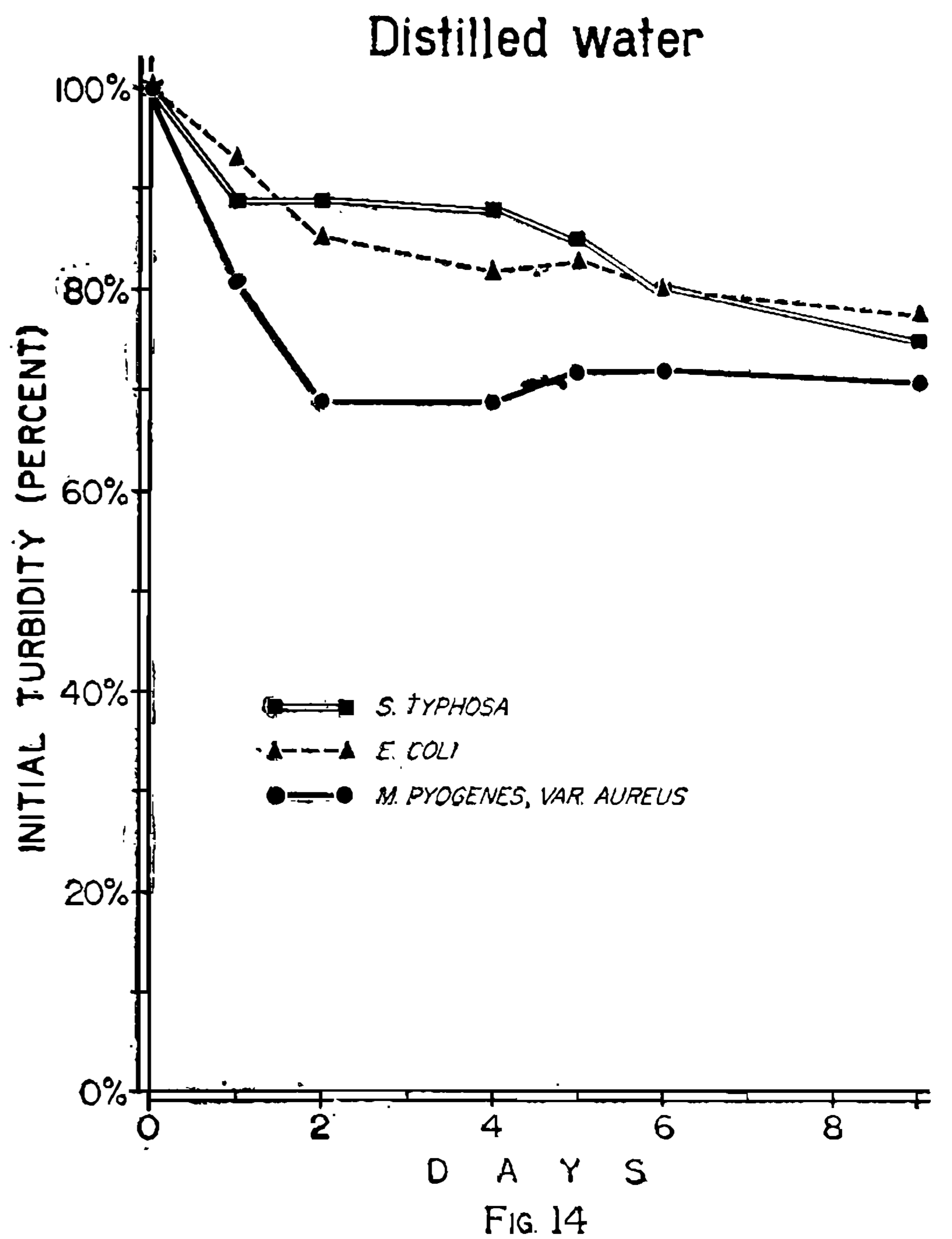
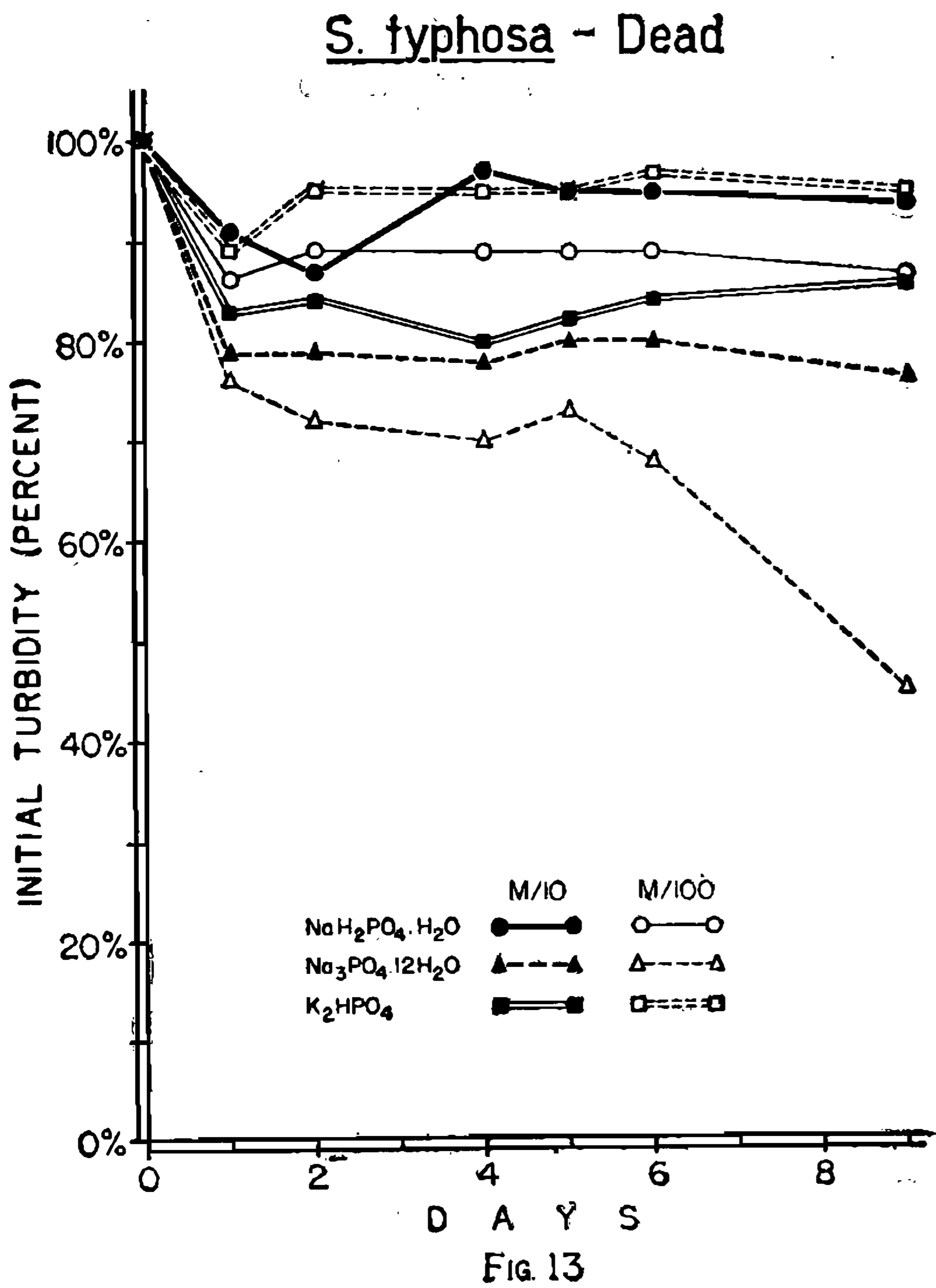
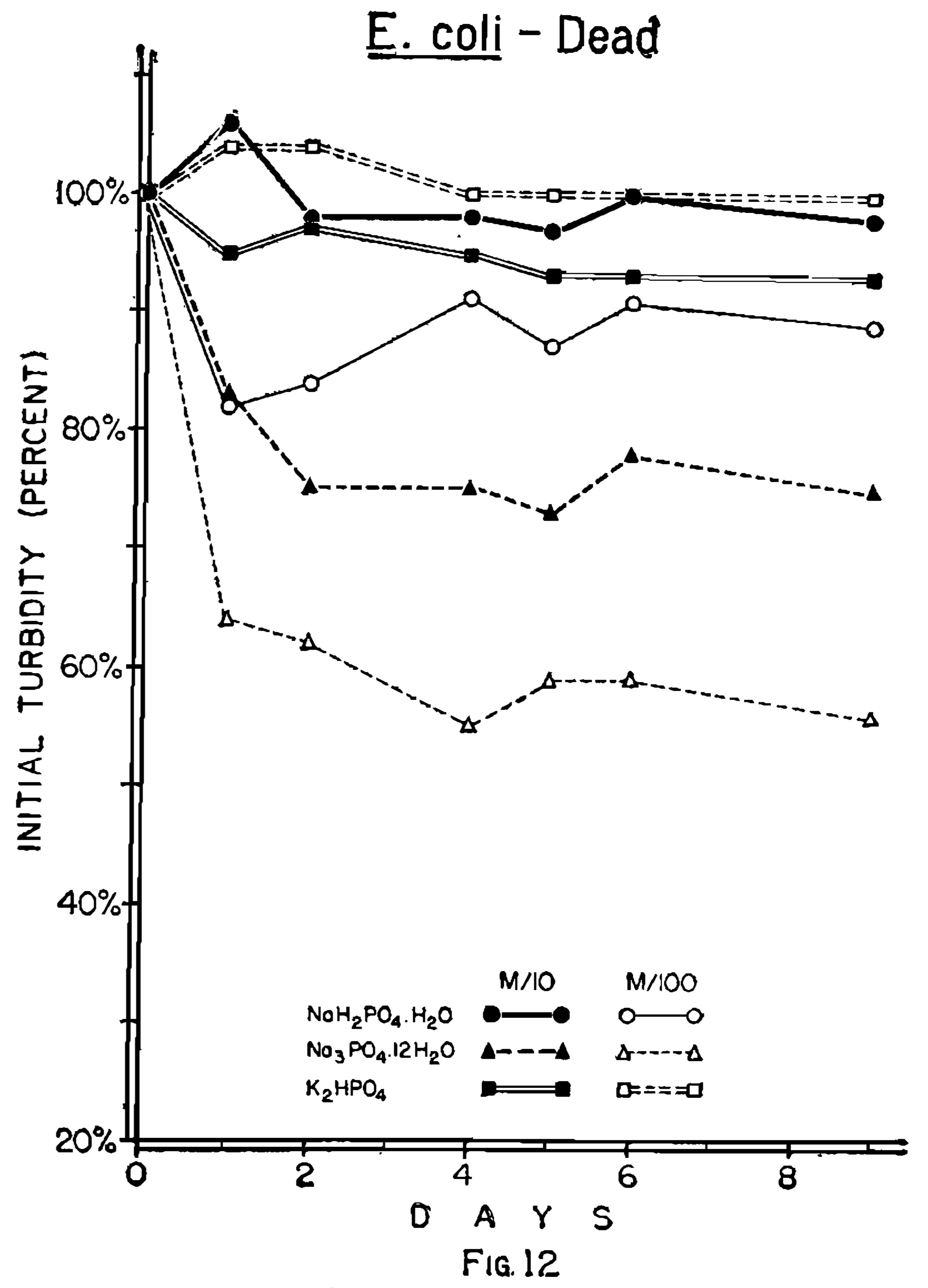
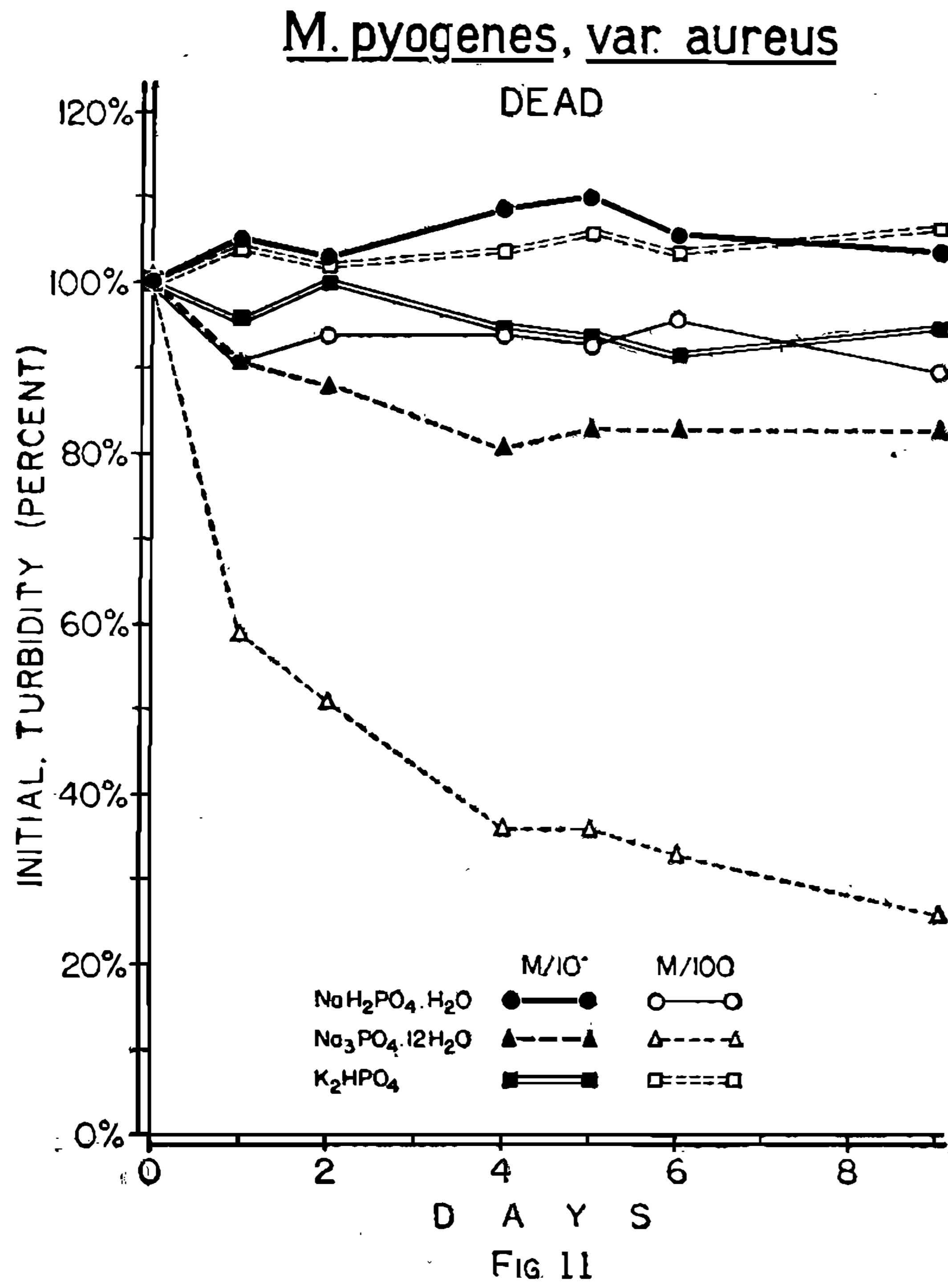


FIG. 10



TRANSLATION

Bacteriolytic Action of Phosphates

(Bacterial Phosphatolysis)

In previous papers PACHECO and ABREU (1949) reported the lytic action of phosphates on certain bacteria, and PACHECO and ECHÁÑIZ (1953) described the lytic and bactericidal activity of $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ on *Salmonella typhosa* and *Escherichia coli*.

In the present paper some experiments conducted in order to observe a possible difference in the bacteriolytic action of phosphates are described.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The salts used were $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{Na}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, in M/10, M/50, M/100, M/500 and M/1000 or 1:100 and 1:1000 solutions.

The microorganisms used were *S. typhosa* H901, *E. coli* and *Micrococcus pyogenes*, var. *aureus*, all from our culture collection. They were grown during 24 hours on agar slants and washed twice in distilled water. Only some drops of a concentrated suspension were needed to obtain in the phosphate solutions an adequate concentration.

The salt solutions were dispensed in 13 x 100 mm Kimble test tubes matched for use in a Klett-Summerson photoelectric colorimeter. To the solutions the concentrated suspension of the microorganisms to be tested was added. The final suspension thus obtained gave a direct reading of 100 or a little more in the Klett-Summerson colorimeter equipped with a green filter (540 m μ) and using the pure solution of phosphate as the blank. The readings in the colorimeter were made almost daily and the results recorded in percent of the initial readings (increasing or decreasing of the opacity).

The tubes were maintained at room temperature and the microorganisms were found to be alive unless otherwise stated. Otherwise the microorganisms were killed, or the tubes were sealed in certain experiments.

RESULTS

Experiments using $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in 1:100 and 1:1000 dilutions and *M. pyogenes* and *E. coli* as test organisms showed that this salt was very active as a lytic agent against *M. pyogenes* in the various conditions tested: sealed and open tubes, 37°C and room temperature, alive and dead microorganisms (killed with ether) (Figs. 1 and 2). Against *E. coli*, in the same conditions its activity was less intense (Figs. 3 and 4).

Tests with $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ in various solutions showed different results according to the microorganism employed: *S. typhosa* was lysed in all concentrations tested but in a lower intensity than with distilled water (Fig. 5); *E. coli* was more intensely lysed in presence of M/10 and M/1000 concentrations but less in other concentrations used (Fig. 6); *M. pyogenes* was lysed almost in the same grade as in presence of distilled water (Fig. 7).

In other preliminary experiments, however, the lower concentration (M/1000) was more active than the stronger concentrations.

The pH of the solutions (measured with glass electrode) were the following: M/10, 4.5; M/50, 4.75; M/100, 4.92; M/500, 5.07; M/1000, 5.32.

With $\text{Na}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ the results were somewhat different than those obtained with $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$: *S. typhosa* was lysed a little less than with distilled water, as occurred with $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Fig. 8); *E. coli*, however, was intensively lysed in all concentrations, the highest concentrations being more active (Fig. 9); *M. pyogenes* var. *aureus* was completely lysed in presence of M/500 and M/1000 concentrations (Fig. 10). The pH of those solutions were the following: M/10, 11.4; M/50, 11.5; M/100, 11.35; M/500, 9.6; M/1000, 7.43.

In preliminary experiments it was observed that dead microorganisms were readily lysed in presence of $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Then three phosphates were tested, in M/10 and M/100 concentrations (Fig. 11, 12, 13); the three species of microorganisms were suspended in the phosphates after they have been killed with ether (evaporated overnight in an incubator). In the experiment, alive microorganisms were tested in the presence of distilled water (Fig. 14). The results showed that $\text{Na}_3\text{PO}_4 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in M/100 concentration was the most active lytic solution.

DISCUSSION

Bacterial lysis may be produced by the action of antibodies, ageing and death of microorganisms as well as chemical or physical agents. The mechanism of lysis, however, is always represented by rupture of the cell wall.

The first observation of bacterial lysis by phosphates was made by Evangelinos and Wohlfeil (1939) with *E. coli*. They measured the lysis by the increase of the proteic content of filtrates of suspensions of the microorganisms in M/15, M/30 and M/60 sodium phosphate. All these concentrations were active. *Proteus bacilli* were more lysed in the presence of lowest concentrations. The lysis was more intense in temperature ranging from 37°C to 45°C.

Welsch, Salmon and Heusghem (1949) observed that spontaneous lysis of staphylococci determined by a "staphylolysine" was increased by the addition of 0.1 per cent potassium phosphate. When all the phosphates were removed from the broth with calcium or barium carbonate the lysis also occurred.

Welsch and Salmon (1949) observed also that K_2HPO_4 activated fluids completely inactive or less active due to excessive dilution. In the case of KH_2PO_4 the activity was lower in the same circumstances. Dead bacteria were lysed like the alive, showing that the phenomenon is different from that observed by Welsch (1949).

Welsch and Salmon observed yet that staphylococci suspensions washed three times were almost not lysed, but the addition of 0.1 per cent K_2HPO_4 determined a rapid lysis which they accounted for an activation of the lytic principle ("ferment") by the phosphate, which became needed

for the bacteriolysis by its "bacteriolytic" ferment. In other side the washing of the bacterial suspension reduced enormously the lytic action of its ferment, "reactivated" by phosphate addition, as refered by Welsch.

The work of Welsch and his coworkers admits the existence of a bacteriolysine which may be inespecific acording to Smolier (1949) or specific as admitted by Welsch (1949).

Our results show that phosphates have a lytic activity which is sometimes very intense. Welsch and Salmon observed the influence of phosphates upon spontaneous bacterial lysis but the fluid in which the microorganisms were suspended always contained phosphates, except in the work reported with Salmon and Heusghem, when they intended to have eliminated the phosphates from the medium, but it is possible a previous intracelular ingress of fosfates before its elimination.

Our observations of bacterial lysis in presence of small amounts of certain phosphates seem to be of importance because it is a common observation that bacterial lysis occurs in ageing of broth cultures and it is known that liquid media have always a certain amount of phosphates. Mello and coworkers (1951) observed, also, the rapid decrease of the number of *Brucella* when microorganisms were suspended in phosphate buffer. Certain Gram positive cocci are very sensitive to the lysis and it is common to observe their disappearance in blood cultures in liquid media.

SUMMARY

Bacteria are lysed by phosphates in low concentrations. Differences were observed in the lytic activity according to the salt, the trivalent salt being the more active. The lytic action is not always dependent of the living or dead state of the microorganisms. It seems that this "bacterial phosphatolysis" is of importance for the preservation of microorganisms in culture media or in a simple solution containing phosphates.

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