Research Assignment: Strain #773b

General Observations:

- appears to communicate via emitting telepathic frequencies, possibly able to travel vast distances

- termed communication channels spinnerets

- transmitters or a web of neurological strands

- infected hosts appear to seek knowledge and understanding of the world

- infected hosts appear to act in hostility, likely to eliminate potential threats in its environment

- self-contained tests against the substance showed resistance to burning effects and instrumental prodding or slashing

- self-contained tests also showed substance's immunity to acid; growth best stimulated in cold environments

Stage 1. Growth

- Parasite develops as a microscopic, infective agent capable of replication within living cells of an organism.

- The resulting "biological agent" appears to be sentient colony of cells, a highly fluid entity birthed from black protoplasm

- Digests organic material consumed by the host relentlessly, maintains starving state; begins feeding off the host's fatty acids

- Development cycle estimated to take up to 72 hours when saturated in cool temperatures

Stage 2. Possession and Imitation

- Overtakes host's neurological synapses beginning at the spine

- Specimen's amniotic sac produces numbing effect by diffusing through circulatory and integumentary systems of host

- Host's epithelial, connective and muscle tissues become limp and volatile, altering shape with the rapidity of water

- Host's skeletal system re-solidifies; formless, adaptable, and regenerative

- Host becomes animate at this point, appears to be learning basic movements

- Specimen begins mimicking behavior of nearby lifeforms

Stage 3. Seeding, Divergence and Reproduction

- Extends retractable pseudopods, bulges of cytoplasm coordinated by collaborative action of microfilaments pushing through the plasma membrane that surrounds the organism, creates whip-like tendrils

- Appears to be composed of consumptive enzymes, functionally boiling acidic substance which tears through flesh

- Speculated to be amorphous and amphibious, not confirmed