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ABSTRACT

A sensor for sensing and monitoring a property associated with transformation of a biochemical analyte by a microorganism, the sensor comprising a glass permeable coating applied to an unclad portion of a fibre optic member. The coating has a transformable precursor impregnated into it, the precursor being specifically metabolisable by one or more targeted organisms. When the sensor is placed in contact with a sample contacting an active targeted microorganisms, the precursor is transformed by the microorganisms to produce a spectroscopically detectable indicator of the property of the analyte. Spectroscopic information may be analysed by a computer program to provide an overall index of microbiological activity for the targeted microorganism. The invention extends to a method of producing a sensor and a method of identifying the presence of a targeted microorganism.

Fig. 1