

BERGEY'S MANUAL
OF
DETERMINATIVE
BACTERIOLOGY

BY

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*Ninety-four Contributors Whose Names Appear
on the Immediately Following Pages*

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PREFACE TO SEVENTH EDITION

The general format of the seventh edition of BERGEY'S MANUAL OF DETERMINATIVE BACTERIOLOGY differs but little from that of the sixth edition. However, examination will reveal many changes in the content as the result of a thoroughgoing revision. Among these the following seem to be worthy of special comment.

The most obvious change is that of the separation into two volumes of the material comparable to that which appeared in the sixth edition. The present volume is entitled the seventh edition of BERGEY'S MANUAL OF DETERMINATIVE BACTERIOLOGY. This MANUAL contains an outlined classification of the bacteria and the descriptions of the taxa from Class to Species and Subspecies, together with the appropriate keys. Nearly all species regarded as having been inadequately described or that could not be definitely placed have been excluded, together with many of the less important synonyms of the accepted species. These, together with the index to all the literature of both accepted and poorly described organisms have been transferred to a volume to be known as the INDEX BERGEYANA. The latter volume will include all descriptions and citations to species formerly found as appendices or indefinitely placed as *species incertae sedis*. The host and habitat index will also be found in the INDEX BERGEYANA. The net result is that the MANUAL itself contains descriptions of many more species with more adequate descriptions than have former editions; the transfer of much material to the INDEX BERGEYANA has meant a reduction in the number of pages and a book of more convenient size and greater usefulness. The INDEX BERGEYANA should prove to be an invaluable tool for the research microbiologist, containing, as it will, references to the whole field of systematic bacteriology and an index to the names of described species, both valid and invalid.

Much material of historical value and interest in the sixth and earlier editions of the MANUAL has been excluded, not because it is lacking in real value to the student, but because repetition of its publication is now unnecessary.

This edition of the MANUAL represents the coordinated results of the work of one hundred contributors, about thirty-five more than assisted in preparing the sixth edition. The contributors to the MANUAL are to be regarded in all nomenclatural matters as strictly the authors of their sections. All new names of taxa and the names of all new combinations are to be ascribed to these authors, and not to the editors of the MANUAL. Contributors from countries other than the United States are more numerous than in the earlier editions. In other words, the MANUAL is rapidly assuming the character of an international publication. To all of these contributors the sincere thanks of the Board of Editors, and particularly of the Editor-in-Chief, are due. The seventh edition is a tribute to the patience, care and scientific acumen of these individuals. Special note should be taken of the assistance rendered in the office of the Editor-in-Chief by Mr. Erwin Lessel, Miss Maude Hogan, Mrs. Eleanore Heist Clise and Mrs. Margaret Edson Breed.

The keys to the several categories of taxa (orders, families, tribes, genera and species) have been revised with a view to making them more reliable and useful. There is included also an artificial key to the species prepared by Professor V. B. D. Skerman, which key should prove helpful.

The Section on Nomenclature, including a synopsis of the Botanical Code of Nomenclature, has been eliminated. At the time of preparation of the sixth edition, the International Code of Bacteriological Nomenclature had not been finally approved, and emphasis was properly laid upon the rules used in Botany. This is no longer pertinent. The Bacteriological Code appeared in 1948 too late for use in making appropriate revisions in the 6th Edition of the MANUAL. The revised International Code of Nomenclature of the Bacteria and Viruses is about to be published. This contains annotations that should prove of value to the student, and should be regarded as a helpful aid in the understanding of the nomenclature used in the 7th Edition of the MANUAL.

The naming and classification of the viruses, as published in the sixth edition of the MANUAL, was regarded by some eminent virologists as perhaps inadvisable because it was premature. They felt strongly that the problems of morphology, physiology, pathogenesis and inter-relationships of the viruses were not as yet sufficiently resolved to make satisfactory taxonomy and classification practicable. After consultation with the International Subcommittee on Viruses it was decided that the Virus Section should not be included in the seventh edition. This deletion has been made with the full expectation that sufficient international agreement will be reached to make possible adequate treatment in the eighth edition. The Editorial Committee recognizes that a satisfactory system of nomenclature and taxonomy for the viruses is imperative.

The Editors wish to repeat and emphasize a statement made in the Preface of the first edition of the MANUAL:

"The assistance of all bacteriologists is earnestly solicited in the correction of possible errors in the text."

Among the tasks of the several editions of the MANUAL has been the codification of an increasingly satisfactory classification of the bacteria and the correction of the nomenclature of the past. The present volume undoubtedly has many errors that were not caught notwithstanding a most earnest effort. There are also many unresolved questions. Inasmuch as this volume appears at almost the same time as the Revised International Bacteriological Code, there are doubtless still some inconsistencies.

E. G. D. MURRAY
N. R. SMITH
R. S. BREED, *Chairman*.
Editorial Committee

NOTE

The Board of Trustees of BERGEY'S MANUAL wish to record their profound sorrow at the death on February 10, 1956, of Dr. Robert S. Breed, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Editor-in-Chief of the MANUAL. Most regrettable is the fact that he did not live to see in printed form the results of his untiring and devoted labor. At the time of his death, most of the manuscript for the seventh edition had been placed in the hands of the publisher; the remainder was in such shape that it could be promptly submitted. The Board of Trustees of the Bergey Trust, including the Board of Editors, wish to pay tribute to the devotion, energy and skill of Dr. Breed over a period of many years, as shown in the organization of better bacterial nomenclature and classification. The science of microbiology is his debtor.

Reconciliation of the nomenclature used in the seventh edition of the MANUAL with the provisions of the revised International Code of Nomenclature of the Bacteria and Viruses had not been entirely completed by Dr. Breed. As far as possible, these discrepancies have been corrected before publication.

The death of Dr. Breed leaves the Editorial Committee without a chairman and editor-in-chief. The Board of Trustees is unanimous in the belief that a successor to Dr. Breed should be found outside its present membership. Dr. Breed was also Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Following his death, reorganization of the Board was undertaken by Dr. Conn, as Treasurer, and Dr. Buchanan was designated as Chairman. The latter has agreed to serve until publication of the seventh edition of BERGEY'S MANUAL and of the first edition of the companion volume, planned by Dr. Breed and christened by him the INDEX BERGEYANA. It is recognized to be a matter of urgency and difficulty to replace Dr. Breed with an editor-in-chief for the eighth edition and to find a means of making this onerous responsibility something more than the labor of love it always was to him.

E. G. D. MURRAY

N. R. SMITH

H. J. CONN

R. E. BUCHANAN, *Chairman*

Board of Trustees

PREFACE OF FIRST EDITION

The elaborate system of classification of the bacteria into families, tribes and genera by a Committee on Characterization and Classification of the Society of American Bacteriologists (1917, 1920) has made it very desirable to be able to place in the hands of students a more detailed key for the identification of species than any that is available at present. The valuable book on "Determinative Bacteriology" by Professor F. D. Chester, published in 1901, is now of very little assistance to the student, and all previous classifications are of still less value, especially as earlier systems of classification were based entirely on morphologic characters.

It is hoped that this manual will serve to stimulate efforts to perfect the classification of bacteria, especially by emphasizing the valuable features as well as the weaker points in the new system which the Committee of the Society of American Bacteriologists has promulgated. The Committee does not regard the classification of species offered here as in any sense final, but merely a progress report leading to more satisfactory classification in the future.

The Committee desires to express its appreciation and thanks to those members of the society who gave valuable aid in the compilation of material and the classification of certain species. . . .

The assistance of all bacteriologists is earnestly solicited in the correction of possible errors in the text; in the collection of descriptions of all bacteria that may have been omitted from the text; in supplying more detailed descriptions of such organisms as are described incompletely; and in furnishing complete descriptions of new organisms that may be discovered, or in directing the attention of the Committee to publications of such newly described bacteria.

DAVID H. BERGEY, *Chairman*
FRANCIS C. HARRISON
ROBERT S. BREED
BERNARD W. HAMMER
FRANK M. HUNTOON
Committee on Manual.

August, 1923.

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* Erratum: Due to a clerical error the orders *Caryophanales* and *Actinomycetes* of the class *Schizomyctales* appear in the wrong sequence in numerous places throughout the MANUAL: correctly, *Caryophanales* is Order V and should appear before Order VI, *Actinomycetales* (see pages 12, 33, and 34 for reasons why *Caryophanales* precedes *Actinomycetales* in the classification scheme).

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† Deceased.

INTRODUCTION

Suggestions for the Use of the Manual In Classifying Unknown Organisms

No organism can be classified before its morphological, cultural, physiological and pathogenic characters have been determined through a detailed study.

The characters used in the keys to orders, families and genera may ordinarily be determined by the use of a dozen or more of the procedures described in the Manual of Microbiological Methods issued by the Committee on Bacteriological Technic of the Society of American Bacteriologists. More complete examinations are required in special cases to identify and to describe individual species necessitating resort to the original literature. When those prevailing are inadequate, new criteria are desirable. This desideratum extends to some higher taxa to achieve more exact and distinctive definitions.

It is urged that beginning students be taught all of the techniques necessary for the identification of species in the hope that the taxonomic work of the future may be placed on a satisfactory basis.

After a complete study of the characters of the organism has been made, either of two courses may be followed. (1) Use the Keys in the body of the text as explained below. These follow what are believed to be the natural relationships that exist between various groups of bacteria. (2) The beginning student may, however, find the artificial key at the back of the MANUAL to be more helpful than the natural keys in determining the identity of an unknown culture.

In all cases it should be kept in mind that many descriptions of species of bacteria are not mentioned in this MANUAL. Failure to find agreement between an unknown culture and any of the descriptions given in this MANUAL does not prove that the unknown culture represents a species that has never been studied and described.

If the student wishes to follow through the natural keys he should turn to page 33 and ascertain first in which order the organism belongs. When the order has been ascertained, turn to the page of the MANUAL on which the key to that order is given. In this key ascertain the family or sub-family to which the organism belongs.

When the family has been determined, again refer to the page of the MANUAL on which the key to that family is given. In this key ascertain the tribe to which the organism belongs.

When the tribe has been determined, again find the page of the MANUAL on which the key to the tribe is given. In this key ascertain the genus to which the organism belongs.

When the genus has been determined, again refer to the page of the MANUAL on which the key to that genus is given. In this key trace out the species under investigation.