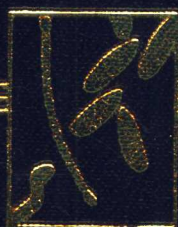


Encyclopedia of MICROBIOLOGY



Second Edition

Volume 1 A-C

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Editor-in-Chief

Joshua Lederberg

The Rockefeller University
New York, NY



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Contents by Subject Area

APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY: AGRICULTURE

Agrobacterium and Plant Cell Transformation
Biological Control of Weeds
Fermented Foods
Insecticides, Microbial
Methane Production/Agricultural Waste
Management
Nitrogen Cycle
Nodule Formation in Legumes
Pectinases
Pesticide Biodegradation
Plant Disease Resistance: Natural Mechanisms and
Engineered Resistance
Plant Pathogens
Protozoan Predation
Rumen Fermentation
Timber and Forest Products

APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY: ENVIRONMENTAL

Airborne Microorganisms and Indoor Air Quality
Alkaline Environments
Arsenic
Biocides
Biodegradation
Biodeterioration
Biofilms and Biofouling
Biomonitors of Environmental Contamination
Biopesticides, Microbial
Bioremediation

Freshwater Microbiology
Heavy Metal Pollutants: Environmental and
Biotechnological Aspects
Heavy Metals, Bacterial Resistances
High-Pressure Habitats
Industrial Effluents: Sources, Properties, and
Treatments
Infectious Waste Management
Low-Nutrient Environments
Low-Temperature Environments
Metal Extraction and Ore Discovery
Oil Pollution
Ore Leaching by Microbes
Selenium
Soil Microbiology
Space Flight, Effects on Microorganisms
Sulfide-Containing Environments
Wastewater Treatment, Industrial
Wastewater Treatment, Municipal
Water-Deficient Environments
Water, Drinking

APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY: FOOD

Beer/Brewing
Dairy Products
Enzymes in Biotechnology
Food Spoilage and Preservation
Foods, Quality Control
Lactic Acid Bacteria
Lactic Acid, Microbially Produced
Meat and Meat Products

Refrigerated Foods
Wine

APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY: INDUSTRIAL

Acetic Acid Production
Amino Acid Production
Aminoglycosides, Bioactive Bacterial Metabolites
Amylases, Microbial
Antibiotic Biosynthesis
Biocatalysis for Synthesis of Chiral Pharmaceutical Intermediates
Biopolymers, Production and Uses of
Bioreactor Monitoring and Control
Bioreactors
Biosensors
Biosurfactants
Biotransformations
Cellulases
Continuous Culture
Cosmetic Microbiology
Enzymes, Extracellular
Freeze-Drying of Microorganisms
Genomic Engineering of Bacterial Metabolism
Industrial Fermentation Processes
Lignocellulose, Lignin, Ligninases
Lipases, Industrial Uses
Lipids, Microbially Produced
Pigments, Microbially Produced
Plasmids, Catabolic
Polyketide Antibiotics
Pulp and Paper
Secondary Metabolites
Strain Improvement
Vitamins and Related Biofactors, Microbial Production
Xylanases

CAREERS AND EDUCATION

Careers in Microbiology
Education in Microbiology

ECOLOGY

Biological Nitrogen Fixation
Diversity, Microbial

Ecology, Microbial
Mercury Cycle
Methane Biochemistry
Microbes and the Atmosphere
Mycorrhizae
Nitrogen Fixation
Phosphorus Cycle
Rhizosphere
Soil Dynamics and Organic Matter, Decomposition
Symbiotic Microorganisms in Insects

ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES

Biological Warfare
Genetically Modified Organisms: Guidelines and Regulations for Research
International Law and Infectious Disease
Patenting of Living Organisms and Natural Products

GENERAL

Conservation of Cultural Heritage
Diagnostic Microbiology
Exobiology
History of Microbiology
Industrial Biotechnology, Overview
Method, Philosophy of
Spontaneous Generation
Stock Culture Collections and Their Databases

GENETICS

Bacillus subtilis, Genetics
Caulobacter, Genetics
Chromosome, Bacterial
Chromosome Replication and Segregation
Conjugation, Bacterial
DNA Restriction and Modification
DNA Sequencing and Genomics
Escherichia coli and *Salmonella*, Genetics
Evolution, Theory and Experiments
Haemophilus influenzae, Genetics

Horizontal Transfer of Genes between
Microorganisms
Mapping Bacterial Genomes
Mutagenesis
Myxococcus, Genetics
Natural Selection, Bacterial
Plasmids, Bacterial
Recombinant DNA, Basic Procedures
Streptomyces, Genetics
Transduction: Host DNA Transfer by
Bacteriophages
Transformation, Genetic
Transposable Elements

HISTORICAL

AIDS, Historical
Cholera, Historical
Origin of Life
Plague
Polio
Smallpox
Syphilis, Historical
Typhoid, Historical
Typhus Fevers and Other Rickettsial Diseases

INFECTIOUS AND NONINFECTIOUS DISEASE AND PATHOGENESIS: HUMAN PATHOGENS

Arboviruses
Chlamydia
Cholera
Clostridia
Emerging Infections
Enteropathogenic Bacteria
Food-borne Illnesses
Fungal Infections, Cutaneous
Fungal Infections, Systemic
Gram-Negative Anaerobic Pathogens
Gram-Negative Cocci, Pathogenic
Helicobacter pylori
Hepatitis Viruses
Influenza Viruses
Intestinal Protozoan Infections in Humans

Legionella
Leishmania
Lyme Disease
Malaria
Mycobacteria
Myxobacteria
Oncogenic Viruses
Paramyxoviruses
Plasmodium
Prions
Pseudomonas
Rabies
Rickettsiae
Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Staphylococcus
Streptococcus pneumoniae
Toxoplasmosis
Trypanosomes
Viruses, Emerging
Zoonoses

INFECTIOUS AND NONINFECTIOUS DISEASE AND PATHOGENESIS: IMMUNOLOGY

Antibodies and B Cells
Antigenic Variation
Cellular Immunity
T Lymphocytes

INFECTIOUS AND NONINFECTIOUS DISEASE AND PATHOGENESIS: PLANT PATHOGENS, BACTERIA

Agrobacterium
Erwinia: Genetics of Pathogenicity Factors
Phloem-Limited Bacteria
Phytoplasma
Ralstonia solanacearum
Xanthomonas

INFECTIOUS AND NONINFECTIOUS DISEASE AND PATHOGENESIS: PLANT PATHOGENS, FUNGI

Downy Mildews
Eyespot

Gaeumannomyces graminis
Phytophthora infestans
 Powdery Mildews
 Rhizoctonia
 Rust Fungi
 Smuts, Bunts, and Ergot
 Verticillium

INFECTIOUS AND NONINFECTIOUS DISEASE AND PATHOGENESIS: PLANT PATHOGENS, VIRUSES

Beet Necrotic Yellow Vein Virus
 Luteoviridae
 Plant Virology, Overview
 Potyviruses
 Tospoviruses

INFECTIOUS AND NONINFECTIOUS DISEASE AND PATHOGENESIS: TREATMENT

Aerosol Infections
 Antifungal Agents
 Antiviral Agents
 Bacteriocins
 Economic Consequences of Infectious Diseases
 Exotoxins
 Gastrointestinal Microbiology
 Global Burden of Infectious Diseases
 Interferons
 Lipopolysaccharides
 Mycotoxins
 Oral Microbiology
 Skin Microbiology
 Surveillance of Infectious Diseases
 Vaccines, Bacterial
 Vaccines, Viral
 Virus Infection

PHYSIOLOGY, METABOLISM, AND GENE EXPRESSION

ABC Transport
 Adhesion, Bacterial
 Aerobic Respiration
 Amino Acid Function and Synthesis

Anaerobic Respiration
 Antisense RNAs
 Attenuation, Transcriptional
 Autotrophic CO₂ Metabolism
 Bioluminescence, Microbial
 Carbohydrate Synthesis and Metabolism
 Carbon and Nitrogen Assimilation, Regulation of
 Cell Division, Prokaryotes
 Chemotaxis
 Coenzyme and Prosthetic Group Biosynthesis
 DNA Repair
 DNA Replication
 Energy Transduction Processes
 Fermentation
 Glycogen Biosynthesis
 Glyoxylate Bypass in *Escherichia coli*
 Growth Kinetics, Bacterial
 Heat Stress
 Iron Metabolism
 Lipid Biosynthesis
 Methanogenesis
 Methylation of Nucleic Acids and Proteins
 Methylophony
 Nucleotide Metabolism
 Nutrition of Microorganisms
 Osmotic Stress
 Oxidative Stress
 PEP: Carbohydrate Phosphotransferase Systems
 Photosensory Behavior
 pH Stress
 Protein Biosynthesis
 Protein Secretion
 Quorum Sensing in Gram-Negative Bacteria
recA
 Ribosome Synthesis and Regulation
 RNA Splicing, Bacterial
 SOS Response
 Sporulation
 Starvation, Bacterial
 Stringent Response
 Sulfur Cycle
 Tetrapyrrole Biosynthesis in Bacteria
 Transcriptional Regulation in Prokaryotes
 Transcription, Viral
 Translational Control and Fidelity
 Two-Component Systems

STRUCTURE AND MORPHOGENESIS

Cell Membrane: Structure and Function
 Cell Walls, Bacterial
 Crystalline Bacterial Cell Surface Layers
 Developmental Processes in Bacteria
 Fimbriae, Pili
 Flagella
 Outer Membrane, Gram-Negative Bacteria

Extremophiles
 Fungi, Filamentous
 Heterotrophic Microorganisms
 Retroviruses
 Rhinoviruses
 Spirochetes
 Viruses, Overview
 Yeasts

SYSTEMATICS AND PHYLOGENY

Acetogenesis and Acetogenic Bacteria
 Actinomycetes
 Archaea
 Azotobacter
 Bacteriophages
 Cyanobacteria
 Dinoflagellates
 Enteroviruses
Escherichia coli, General Biology

TECHNIQUES

Detection of Bacteria in Blood: Centrifugation and
 Filtration
 Germfree Animal Techniques
 Identification of Bacteria, Computerized
 Microscopy, Confocal
 Microscopy, Electron
 Microscopy, Optical
 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
 Temperature Control
 Transgenic Animal Technology

Preface

The scientific literature at large is believed to double about every 12 years. Though less than a decade has elapsed since the initiation of the first edition of this encyclopedia, it is a fair bet that the microbiology literature has more than doubled in the interval, though one might also say it has fissioned in the interval, with parasitology, virology, infectious disease, and immunology assuming more and more independent stature as disciplines.

According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the encyclopedias of classic and medieval times could be expected to contain "a compendium of all available knowledge." There is still an expectation of the "essence of all that is known." With the exponential growth and accumulation of scientific knowledge, this has become an elusive goal, hardly one that could be embraced in a mere two or three thousand pages of text. The encyclopedia's function has moved to becoming the first word, the initial introduction to knowledge of a comprehensive range of subjects, with pointers on where to find more as may be needed. One can hardly think of the last word, as this is an ever-moving target at the cutting edge of novel discovery, changing literally day by day.

For the renovation of an encyclopedia, these issues have then entailed a number of pragmatic compromises, designed to maximize its utility to an audience of initial look-uppers over a range of coherently linked interests. The core remains the biology of that group of organisms we think of as microbes. Though this constitutes a rather disparate set, crossing several taxonomic kingdoms, the more important principle is the unifying role of DNA and the genetic code and the shared ensemble of primary pathways of gene

expression. Also shared is access to a "world wide web" of genetic information through the traffic of plasmids and other genetic elements right across the taxa. It is pathognomonic that the American Society for Microbiology has altered the name of *Microbiological Reviews* to *Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews*. At academic institutions, microbiology will be practiced in any or all of a dozen different departments, and these may be located at schools of arts and sciences, medicine, agriculture, engineering, marine sciences, and others.

Much of human physiology, pathology, or genetics is now practiced with cell culture, which involves a methodology indistinguishable from microbiology: it is hard to define a boundary that would demarcate microbiology from cell biology. Nor do we spend much energy on these niceties except when we have the burden of deciding the scope of an enterprise such as this one.

Probably more important has been the explosion of the Internet and the online availability of many sources of information. Whereas we spoke last decade of CDs, now the focus is the Web, and the anticipation is that we are not many years from the general availability of the entire scientific literature via this medium. The utility of the encyclopedia is no longer so much "how do I begin to get information on Topic X" as how to filter a surfeit of claimed information with some degree of dependability. The intervention of editors and of a peer-review process (in selection of authors even more important than in overseeing their papers) is the only foreseeable solution. We have then sought in each article to provide a digest of information with perspective and

provided by responsible authors who can be proud of, and will then strive to maintain, reputations for knowledge and fairmindedness.

The further reach of more detailed information is endless. When available, many specific topics are elaborated in greater depth in the ASM (American Society of Microbiology) reviews and in *Annual Review of Microbiology*. These are indexed online. Medline, Biosis, and the Science Citation Index are further online bibliographic resources, which can be focused for the recovery of review articles.

The reputation of the authors and of the particular journals can further aid readers' assessments. Citation searches can be of further assistance in locating critical discussions, the dialectic which is far more important than "authority" in establishing authenticity in science.

Then there are the open-ended resources of the Web itself. It is not a fair test for recovery on a specialized topic, but my favorite browser, google.com, returned 15,000 hits for "microbiology"; netscape.com gave 46,000; excite.com a few score structured headings. These might be most useful in identifying other Web sites with specialized resources. Google's 641 hits for "luminescent bacteria" offer a more proximate indicator of the difficulty of coping with the massive returns of unfiltered ver-

biage that this wonderful new medium affords: how to extract the nuggets from the slag.

A great many academic libraries and departments of microbiology have posted extensive considered listings of secondary sources. One of my favorites is maintained at San Diego State University:

<http://libweb.sdsu.edu/scidiv/microbiologyblr.html>

I am sure I have not begun to tap all that would be available.

The best strategy is a parallel attack: to use the encyclopedia and the major review journals as a secure starting point and then to try to filter Web-worked material for the most up-to-date or disparate detail. In many cases, direct enquiry to the experts, until they saturate, may be the best (or last) recourse. E-mail is best, and society or academic institutional directories can be found online. Some listservers will entertain questions from outsiders, if the questions are particularly difficult or challenging.

All publishers, Academic Press included, are updating their policies and practices by the week as to how they will integrate their traditional book offerings with new media. Updated information on electronic editions of this and cognate encyclopedias can be found by consulting www.academicpress.com/.

Joshua Lederberg

From the Preface to the First Edition

(Excerpted from the 1992 Edition)

For the purposes of this encyclopedia, microbiology has been understood to embrace the study of "microorganisms," including the basic science and the roles of these organisms in practical arts (agriculture and technology) and in disease (public health and medicine). Microorganisms do not constitute a well-defined taxonomic group; they include the two kingdoms of Archaeobacteria and Eubacteria, as well as protozoa and those fungi and algae that are predominantly unicellular in their habit. Viruses are also an important constituent, albeit they are not quite "organisms." Whether to include the mitochondria and chloroplasts of higher eukaryotes is a matter of choice, since these organelles are believed to be descended from free-living bacteria. Cell biology is practiced extensively with tissue cells in culture, where the cells are manipulated very much as though they were autonomous microbes; however, we shall exclude this branch of research. Microbiology also is enmeshed thoroughly with biotechnology, biochemistry, and genetics, since microbes are the canonical substrates for many investigations of genes, enzymes, and metabolic pathways, as well as the technical vehicles for discovery and manufacture of new biological products, for example, recombinant human insulin. . . .

The *Encyclopedia of Microbiology* is intended to survey the entire field coherently, complementing material that would be included in an advanced undergraduate and graduate major course of university study. Particular topics should be accessible to talented high school and college students, as well as to

graduates involved in teaching, research, and technical practice of microbiology.

Even these hefty volumes cannot embrace all current knowledge in the field. Each article does provide key references to the literature available at the time of writing. Acquisition of more detailed and up-to-date knowledge depends on (1) exploiting the review and monographic literature and (2) bibliographic retrieval of the preceding and current research literature. . . .

To access bibliographic materials in microbiology, the main retrieval resources are MEDLINE, sponsored by the U.S. National Library of Medicine, and the Science Citation Index of the ISI. With governmental subsidy, MEDLINE is widely available at modest cost: terminals are available at every medical school and at many other academic centers. MEDLINE provides searches of the recent literature by author, title, and key word and offers online displays of the relevant bibliographies and abstracts. Medical aspects of microbiology are covered exhaustively; general microbiology is covered in reasonable depth. The Science Citation Index must recover its costs from user fees, but is widely available at major research centers. It offers additional search capabilities, especially by citation linkage. Therefore, starting with the bibliography of a given encyclopedia article, one can quickly find (1) all articles more recently published that have cited those bibliographic reference starting points and (2) all other recent articles that share bibliographic information with the others. With luck, one of these articles may be identified as another comprehensive

review that has digested more recent or broader primary material.

On a weekly basis, services such as Current Contents on Diskette (ISI) and Reference Update offer still more timely access to current literature as well as to abstracts with a variety of useful features. Under the impetus of intense competition, these services are evolving rapidly, to the great benefit of a user community desperate for electronic assistance in coping with the rapidly growing and intertwined networks of discovery. The bibliographic services of Chemical Abstracts and Biological Abstracts would also be potentially invaluable; however, their coverage of microbiology is rather limited.

In addition, major monographs have appeared from time to time—*The Bacteria*, *The Prokaryotes*, and many others. Your local reference library should be consulted for these volumes.

Valuable collections of reviews also include *Critical Reviews for Microbiology*, *Symposia of the Society for General Microbiology*, *Monographs of the American Society for Microbiology*, and *Proceedings of the International Congresses of Microbiology*.

The articles in this encyclopedia are intended to

be accessible to a broader audience, not to take the place of review articles with comprehensive bibliographies. Citations should be sufficient to give the reader access to the latter, as may be required. We do apologize to many individuals whose contributions to the growth of microbiology could not be adequately embraced by the secondary bibliographies included here.

The organization of encyclopedic knowledge is a daunting task in any discipline; it is all the more complex in such a diversified and rapidly moving domain as microbiology. The best way to anticipate the rapid further growth that we can expect in the near future is unclear. Perhaps more specialized series in subfields of microbiology would be more appropriate. The publishers and editors would welcome readers' comments on these points, as well as on any deficiencies that may be perceived in the current effort.

My personal thanks are extended to my coeditors, Martin Alexander, David Hopwood, Barbara Iglewski, and Allen Laskin; and above all, to the many very busy scientists who took time to draft and review each of these articles.

Joshua Lederberg

Guide to the Encyclopedia

The *Encyclopedia of Microbiology, Second Edition* is a scholarly source of information on microorganisms, those life forms that are observable with a microscope rather than by the naked eye. The work consists of four volumes and includes 298 separate articles. Of these 298 articles, 171 are completely new topics commissioned for this edition, and 63 others are newly written articles on topics appearing in the first edition. In other words, approximately 80% of the content of the encyclopedia is entirely new to this edition. (The remaining 20% of the content has been carefully reviewed and revised to ensure currency.)

Each article in the encyclopedia provides a comprehensive overview of the selected topic to inform a broad spectrum of readers, from research professionals to students to the interested general public. In order that you, the reader, will derive the greatest possible benefit from your use of the *Encyclopedia of Microbiology*, we have provided this Guide. It explains how the encyclopedia is organized and how the information within it can be located.

ORGANIZATION

The *Encyclopedia of Microbiology* is organized to provide maximum ease of use. All of the articles are arranged in a single alphabetical sequence by title. Articles whose titles begin with the letters A to C are in Volume 1, articles with titles from D through K are in Volume 2, then L through P in Volume 3, and finally Q to Z in Volume 4. This last volume also includes a complete subject index for the entire

work, an alphabetical list of the contributors to the encyclopedia, and a glossary of key terms used in the articles.

Article titles generally begin with the key noun or noun phrase indicating the topic, with any descriptive terms following. For example, the article title is "Bioluminescence, Microbial" rather than "Microbial Bioluminescence," and "Foods, Quality Control" is the title rather than "Quality Control of Foods."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A complete table of contents for the *Encyclopedia of Microbiology* appears at the front of each volume. This list of article titles represents topics that have been carefully selected by the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Joshua Lederberg, and the nine Associate Editors. The Encyclopedia provides coverage of 20 different subject areas within the overall field of microbiology. Please see p. v for the alphabetical table of contents, and p. xix for a list of topics arranged by subject area.

INDEX

The Subject Index in Volume 4 indicates the volume and page number where information on a given topic can be found. In addition, the Table of Contents by Subject Area also functions as an index, since it lists all the topics within a given area; e.g., the encyclopedia includes eight different articles dealing with historic aspects of microbiology and nine dealing with techniques of microbiology.

ARTICLE FORMAT

In order to make information easy to locate, all of the articles in the *Encyclopedia of Microbiology* are arranged in a standard format, as follows:

- Title of Article
- Author's Name and Affiliation
- Outline
- Glossary
- Defining Statement
- Body of the Article
- Cross-References
- Bibliography

OUTLINE

Each entry in the Encyclopedia begins with a topical outline that indicates the general content of the article. This outline serves two functions. First, it provides a brief preview of the article, so that the reader can get a sense of what is contained there without having to leaf through the pages. Second, it serves to highlight important subtopics that will be discussed within the article. For example, the article "Biopesticides" includes subtopics such as "Selection of Biopesticides," "Production of Biopesticides," "Biopesticide Stabilization," and "Commercialization of Biopesticides."

The outline is intended as an overview and thus it lists only the major headings of the article. In addition, extensive second-level and third-level headings will be found within the article.

GLOSSARY

The Glossary contains terms that are important to an understanding of the article and that may be unfamiliar to the reader. Each term is defined in the context of the article in which it is used. Thus the same term may appear as a glossary entry in two or more articles, with the details of the definition varying slightly from one article to another. The encyclopedia has approximately 2500 glossary entries.

In addition, Volume 4 provides a comprehensive glossary that collects all the core vocabulary of microbiology in one A–Z list. This section can be consulted for definitions of terms not found in the individual glossary for a given article.

DEFINING STATEMENT

The text of each article in the encyclopedia begins with a single introductory paragraph that defines the topic under discussion and summarizes the content of the article. For example, the article "Eyespot" begins with the following statement:

EYESPOT is a damaging stem base disease of cereal crops and other grasses caused by fungi of the genus *Tapesia*. It occurs in temperate regions world-wide including Europe, the USSR, Japan, South Africa, North America, and Australasia. In many of these countries eyespot can be found on the majority of autumn-sown barley and wheat crops and may cause an average of 5–10% loss in yield, although low rates of infection do not generally have a significant effect. . . .

CROSS-REFERENCES

Almost all of the articles in the Encyclopedia have cross-references to other articles. These cross-references appear at the conclusion of the article text. They indicate articles that can be consulted for further information on the same topic or for information on a related topic. For example, the article "Smallpox" has references to "Biological Warfare," "Polio," "Surveillance of Infectious Diseases," and "Vaccines, Viral."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Bibliography is the last element in an article. The reference sources listed there are the author's recommendations of the most appropriate materials for further research on the given topic. The bibliography entries are for the benefit of the reader and do not represent a complete listing of all materials consulted by the author in preparing the article.

COMPANION WORKS

The *Encyclopedia of Microbiology* is one of a series of multivolume reference works in the life sciences published by Academic Press. Other such titles include the *Encyclopedia of Human Biology*, *Encyclopedia of Reproduction*, *Encyclopedia of Toxicology*, *Encyclopedia of Immunology*, *Encyclopedia of Virology*, *Encyclopedia of Cancer*, and *Encyclopedia of Stress*.

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Contents

<i>Contents by Subject Area</i>	xix	AIDS, Historical	104
<i>Preface</i>	xxv	David Shumway Jones and Allan M. Brandt	
<i>From the Preface to the First Edition</i>	xxvii		
<i>Guide to the Encyclopedia</i>	xxix	Airborne Microorganisms and Indoor Air Quality	116
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xxxi	Linda D. Stetzenbach and Mark P. Buttner	
A			
ABC Transport	1	Alkaline Environments	126
Elie Dassa		William D. Grant and Brian E. Jones	
Acetic Acid Production	13	Amino Acid Function and Synthesis	134
Munir Cheryan		Larry Reitzer	
Acetogenesis and Acetogenic Bacteria	18	Amino Acid Production	152
Amaresh Das and Lars G. Ljungdahl		Hermann Sahm and Lothar Eggeling	
Actinomycetes	28	Aminoglycosides, Bioactive	
Martin Krsek, Nathan Morris, Sharon Egan, Elizabeth M. H. Wellington		Bacterial Metabolites	162
		Wolfgang Piepersberg	
Adhesion, Bacterial	42	Amylases, Microbial	171
Matthew A. Mulvey and Scott James Hultgren		Claire Vieille, Alexei Savchenko, J. Gregory Zeikus	
Aerobic Respiration: Oxidases and Globins	53	Anaerobic Respiration	180
Robert K. Poole		Robert P. Gunsalus	
Aerosol Infections	69	Antibiotic Biosynthesis	189
Edward A. Nardell		Haibin Liu and Kevin A. Reynolds	
Agrobacterium	78	Antibodies and B Cells	208
Paul J. J. Hooykaas		Ian M. Zitron	
Agrobacterium and Plant Cell Transformation	86	Antifungal Agents	232
Peter J. Christie		Ana A. Espinel-Ingroff	
		Antigenic Variation	254
		Luq Vanhamme and Etienne Pays	

Antisense RNAs Andrea D. Branch	268	Biodegradation Wendy B. Bollag, Jerzy Dec, Jean-Marc Bollag	461
Antiviral Agents Richard J. Whitley	286	Biodeterioration: In Wood, Architecture, Art, and Other Media José-Julio Ortega-Calvo	472
Arboviruses Robert E. Shope	311	Biofilms and Biofouling Karen T. Elvers and Hilary M. Lappin-Scott	478
Archaea Costantino Vetriani and Anna-Louise Reysenbach	319	Biological Control of Weeds Knud Mortensen	486
Arsenic Dianne K. Newman	332	Biological Nitrogen Fixation Donald A. Phillips and Esperanza Martinez-Romero	492
Attenuation, Transcriptional Charles Yanofsky	339	Biological Warfare James A. Poupard and Linda A. Miller	506
Autotrophic CO₂ Metabolism Ki-Seok Yoon, Thomas E. Hanson, Janet L. Gibson, F. Robert Tabita	349	Bioluminescence, Microbial J. Woodland Hastings	520
Azotobacter Susan Hill and Gary Sawers	359	Biomonitors of Environmental Contamination by Microorganisms Marylynn V. Yates	530
B			
Bacillus subtilis, Genetics Kevin M. Devine	373	Biopesticides, Microbial Mark A. Jackson	541
Bacteriocins Rolf D. Joerger, S. F. Barefoot, K. M. Harmon, D. A. Grinstead, C. G. Nettles Cutter, Dallas G. Hoover	383	Biopolymers, Production and Uses of William R. Finnerty	556
Bacteriophages Hans-Wolfgang Ackermann	398	Bioreactor Monitoring and Control Roland Ulber, Bernd Hitzmann, Thomas Scheper, Kenneth F. Reardon	567
Beer/Brewing Mark A. Harrison and Brian Nummer	412	Bioreactors Larry E. Erickson	579
Beet Necrotic Yellow Vein Virus Renate Koenig and Dietrich-Eckhardt Lesemann	422	Bioremediation Joseph B. Hughes, C. Nelson Neale, C. H. Ward	587
Biocatalysis for Synthesis of Chiral Pharmaceutical Intermediates Ramesh N. Patel	430	Biosensors Yoko Nomura and Isao Karube	611
Biocides Mohammad Sondossi	445	Biosurfactants Fazilet Vardar-Sukan and Naim Kosaric	618
		Biotransformations Herbert L. Holland	636