Special Issue

Systematics, Evolution and Distribution of Archaea and Their Mobilomes

Message from the Guest Editors

The discovery of Archaea by Carl Woese and his colleagues has been one of the most important breakthroughs in biology in the last century. Whereas the first identified archaea were limited to a small number of phenotypes, mainly extremophiles, works in molecular ecology first based on 16r RNA screening and later metagenomics led to a spectucalar expansion of archaeal diversity. We know now that Archaea are present here, there and everywhere and exhibit a plethora of phenotypes. In the meantime, interesting new archaea continue to be isolated and characterized. The description and characterization of archaeal viruses and plasmids are also on the rise. This Special Issue will cover the description of archaea and their mobilome diversity based on a variety of approaches and possibly tackle fundamental evolutionary questions that remain open such as the topology of the archaeal tree, the position of the root and the position of DPANN and other fast-evolving species. The nomenclature of Archaea is also in turmoil, and papers discussing this issue will be welcome. Keywords: archaea; metagenomic; evolution and distribution

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"Microorganism" merges the idea of the very small with the idea of the evolving reproducing organism is a unifying principle for the discipline of microbiology. Our journal recognizes the broadly diverse yet connected nature of microorganisms and provides an advanced publishing forum for original articles from scientists involved in high-quality basic and applied research on any prokaryotic or eukaryotic microorganism, and for research on the ecology, genomics and evolution of microbial communities as well as that exploring cultured microorganisms in the laboratory.

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