



(Endo)symbiotic methanogenic archaea /

Hackstein, Johannes H. P.

Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg,
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Monografía

Methanogens are prokaryotic microorganisms that produce methane as an end-product of a complex biochemical pathway. They are strictly anaerobic archaea and occupy a wide variety of anoxic environments. Methanogens also thrive in the cytoplasm of anaerobic unicellular eukaryotes and in the gastrointestinal tracts of animals and humans. The symbiotic methanogens in the gastrointestinal tracts of ruminants and other "methanogenic" mammals contribute significantly to the global methane budget; especially the rumen hosts an impressive diversity of methanogens. This monograph deals with methanogenic endosymbionts of anaerobic protists, in particular ciliates and termite flagellates, and with methanogens in the gastrointestinal tracts of vertebrates and arthropods. Further reviews discuss the genomic consequences of living together in symbiotic associations, the role of methanogens in syntrophic degradation, and the function and evolution of hydrogenosomes, hydrogen-producing organelles of certain anaerobic protists

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Título: (Endo)symbiotic methanogenic archaea Johannes H.P. Hackstein

Editorial: Heidelberg New York Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg ©2010

Descripción física: 1 online resource (xiii, 237 pages) illustrations (some color)

Mención de serie: Microbiology monographs v. 19

Bibliografía: Includes bibliographical references and index

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Lengua: English

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1044272746 1059026809 1066617038 1077993658 1086911851 1097099720

ISBN: 9783642136153 364213615X 1282971409 9781282971400 9786612971402 6612971401 9783642136146
3642136141

Materia: Methanobacteriaceae Methanobacteriaceae Methane- metabolism Symbiosis SCIENCE- Life Sciences-
Biology. SCIENCE- Life Sciences- Microbiology. Methanobacteriaceae. Archaeobakterien. Methanbakterien.

Autores: Hackstein, Johannes H. P.

Enlace a formato físico adicional: Print version (Endo)symbiotic methanogenic archaea. Heidelberg ; New York :
Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, ©2010 9783642136146

Punto acceso adicional serie-Título: Microbiology monographs v. 19

Baratz Innovación Documental

- Gran Vía, 59 28013 Madrid
- (+34) 91 456 03 60
- informa@baratz.es