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Sex in Microorganisms

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The genetic, physiological, and morphological evidence for “sex” in the principal groups of microorganisms—viruses, bacteria, fungi, unicellular algae, and protozoa—is presented by a group of experts in the field.


R. Patrick of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, describes syngamy in diatoms; R. A. Lewin of the Maritime Regional Laboratory, Halifax, the sexuality of other unicellular algae, especially the flagellates.

In two chapters D. H. Wenrich covers sexual phenomena in some of the protozoa and discusses the origin and evolution of sex, based primarily on the protozoa, but including material about all of the microorganisms. D. L. Nanney of Michigan summarizes mating-type phenomena in Paramecium aurelia and some of the recent mating-type work from Sondernborn's laboratory. C. B. Metz of Florida State compares mating-type substances in Paramecium and other ciliates with those found in Metazoa. Extensive chapter bibliographies are included.

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