

# فسيولوجيا الأحياء الدقيقة Microbial Physiology

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مكتب ٢ ب ٤٥

مقدمة  
Introduction

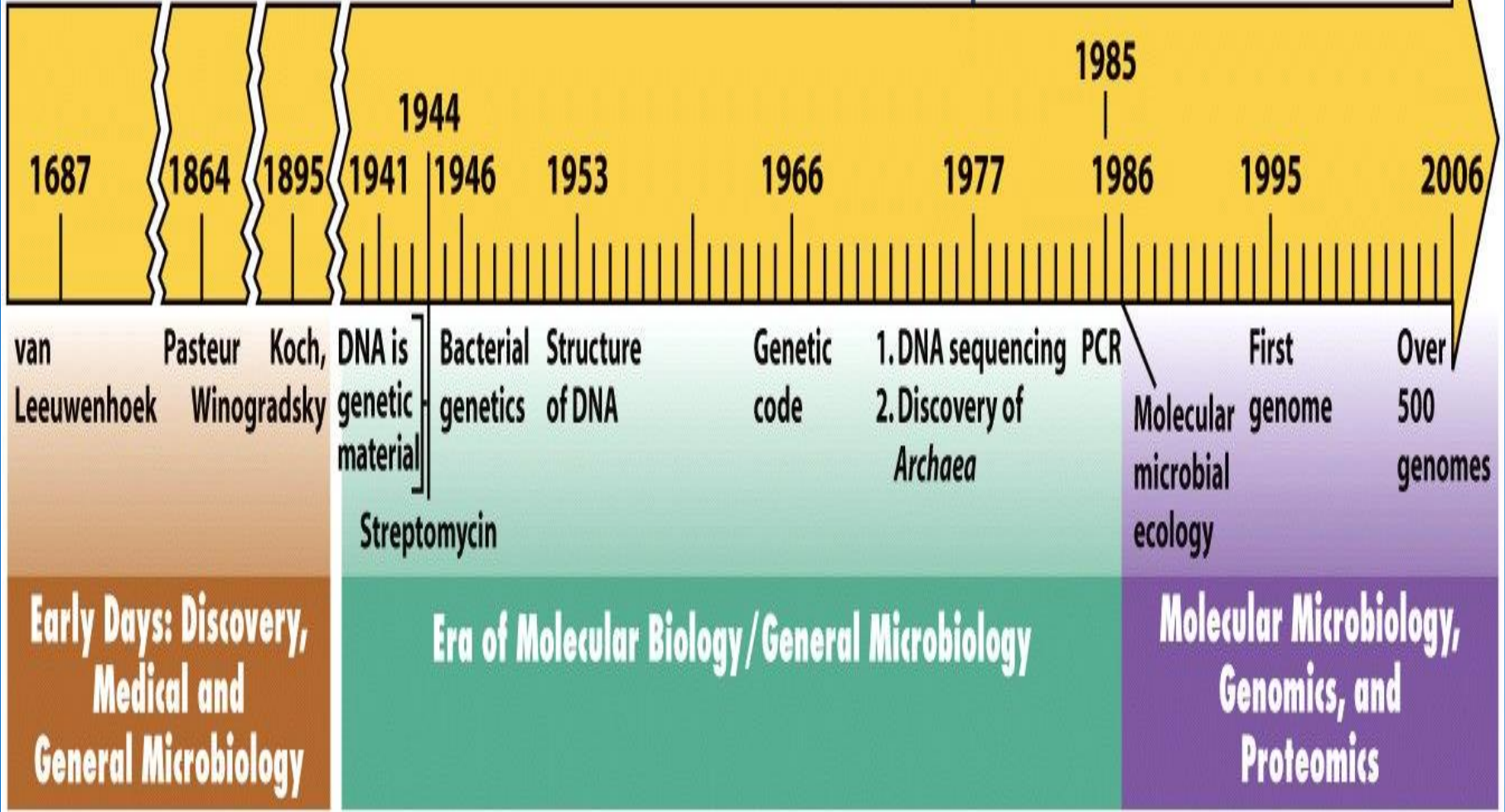
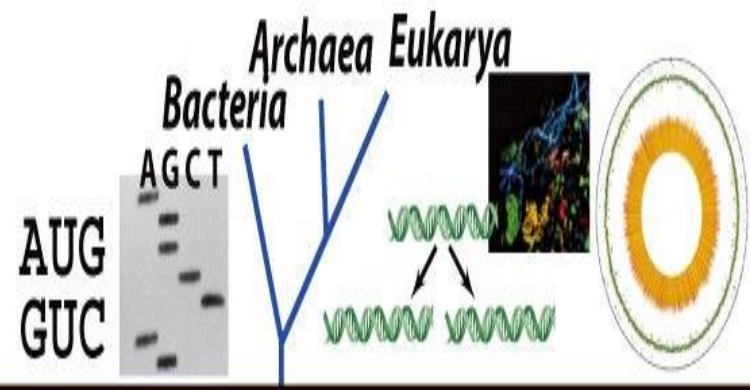
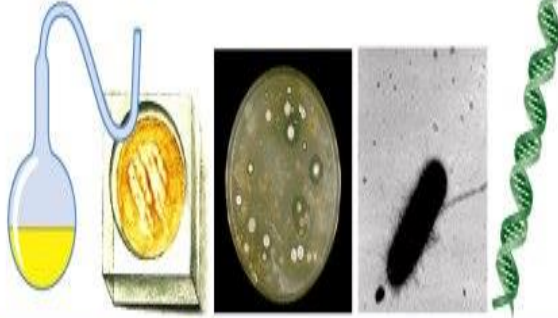
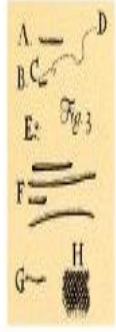
# What is “Microbial Physiology”?

- Physiology: is the understanding of the processes of life as mediated by its structures, operating together to accomplish the common tasks of life.
- Microbial Physiology: is an understanding of cell structure, growth factors, metabolism and genetic composition of microorganisms.
  - introduces the inter-relatedness of Microbiology, Biochemistry, and Genetics while understanding the functioning of the bacterial cell.
  - looks at the simpler single-cell organisms as a model for trying to understand much more complex organisms.

# Microbial Physiology

## ■ We can understand:

- how the cell functions in the environment.
- how it can alter to suit changes in the environment.
- how it can produce a new cell from very simple substrates available in the environment.



# The Importance of Microorganisms

## ▪ **Ubiquitous:**

- Found (present) in almost all environmental niche.

## ▪ **Extreme Environments:**

- Found in environments with extreme temperature, salinity, pressure, etc.
  - Under the ice at the north and south poles at  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
  - Sea water and Hot Springs.
  - Solid Rocks and Volcanically heated pools ( $100^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
  - Deep seas where barometric pressures can easily squash a human.

## ▪ **Important in environmental Processes:**

- Microbiota (normal flora) in the guts of ruminants animals.
- Essential to element cycling on Earth, carbon and nitrogen.

# The Importance of Microorganisms

## ▪ Important in Industrial Processes:

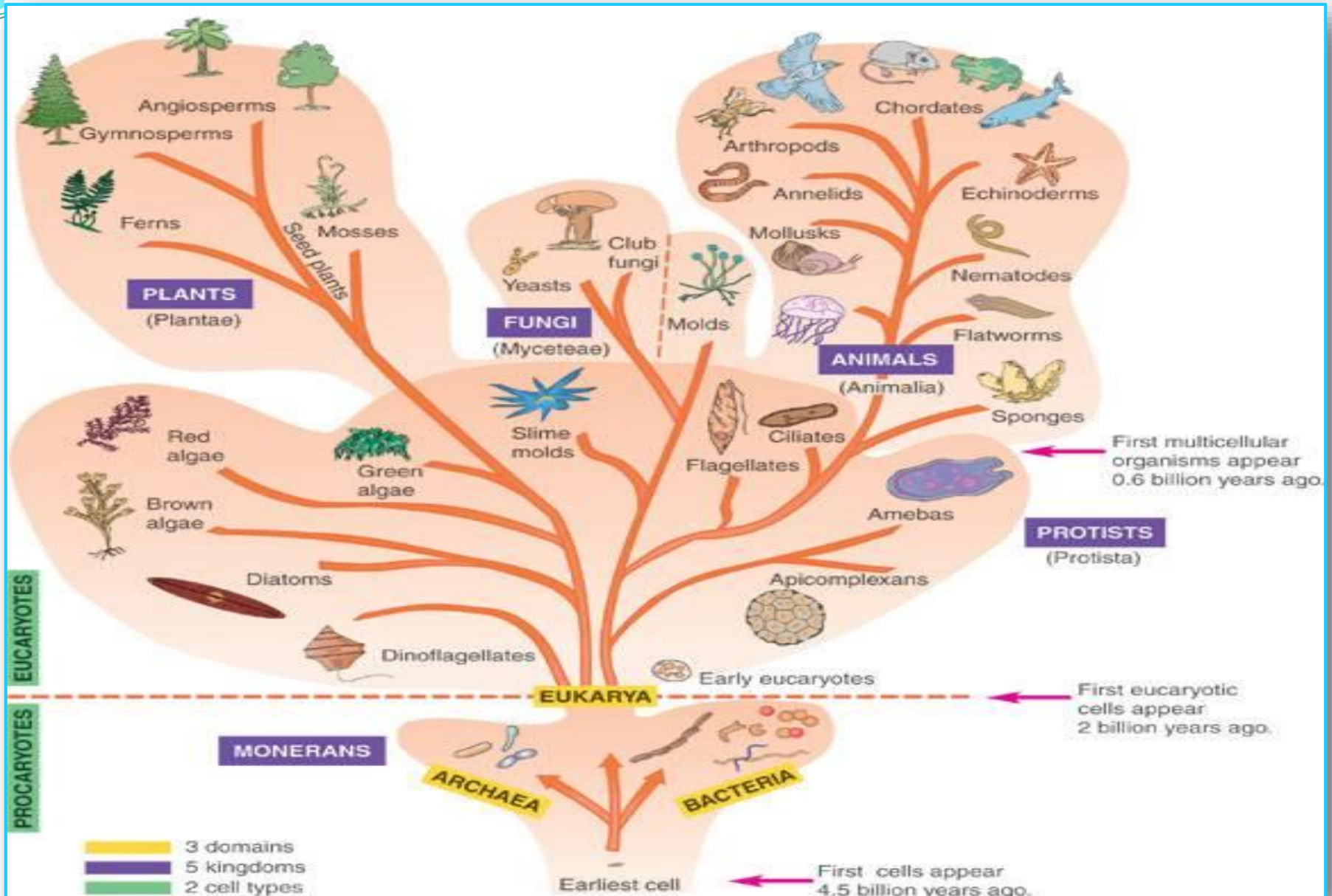
- Antibiotics.
- Reduce the hazards of wastewaters.
- Degrade hardy and dangerous compounds (bio-remediation).
- Ferment substrates to produce important metabolites.

## ▪ Community Structures in Microorganisms:

- Individual bacteria may start a process or do a particular step.
- A complete community is required for completing the process.



# Description of Microorganisms



# Description of Microorganisms

- **Eukaryotes:**

- All multi-cellular, and some single-celled organisms.
- Membrane-bound nucleus within the cell.

- **Prokaryotes: Bacteria & Archaea.**

- Single-celled organisms.
- No membrane-bound nucleus.
- Generally much smaller genome and simpler structure VS.  
Eukaryotes.



# Description of Microorganisms

- **Microorganisms** are described by their phenotype (physical characteristics). Growth optima for temperature, pH, salinity, solute availability, pressure, type of metabolism, and morphological characteristics.
- *Caloramator indicus* is described as a gram-positive rod to filamentous non-motile cell that does not sporulate. It is chemo-organo-trophic and obligately anaerobic. It is an alkaliphilic thermophile that can ferment a wide variety of carbohydrates.

# Description of Microorganisms

## Some of the more commonly used terms:

- **Temperature:**
  - Psychrophile: -12 to 20°C.
  - Mesophile: 14 to 45°C .
  - Moderate thermophile: 42 to 69°C
  - Extreme thermophile: 66 to 105°C.
  
- **pH:**
  - Acidophile: Low pH (~ 3.0 and below).
  - Neutrophil: pH ~7.
  - Alkaliphile: High pH (9-11).

# Description of Microorganisms

## Some of the more commonly used terms:

- **Salinity:**
  - Halophile.
  
- **Solutes:**
  - Osmophile.
  
- **Water:**
  - Xerophile.
  
- **Pressure:**
  - Barophile.

# Description of Microorganisms

## Some of the more commonly used terms:

- **Metabolism:**
  - Obligate aerobe: require O<sub>2</sub>.
  - Facultative anaerobe: O<sub>2</sub> not required, but better growth when present.
  - Aerotolerant: O<sub>2</sub> not required and growth not improved when present.
  - Microaerophile: Low levels of O<sub>2</sub> required.
  - Obligate anaerobe: O<sub>2</sub> inhibits bacterial growth.
- **Morphological Characteristics:** Shape, Size, Gram Stain, Sporulation.
- **Nutrition:** Chemo- (organo-, litho-), photo-, auto-, hetero-troph.
  - **Energy source:** Light vs. Chemical.
  - **Carbon source:** Organic vs. Inorganic.
  - **Terminal electron acceptor:** Respiration vs. Fermentation.

## Table 27.1 Major Nutritional Modes

| Mode of Nutrition  | Energy Source       | Carbon Source     | Types of Organisms  |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>Autotroph</b>   |                     |                   |   |
| Photo-autotroph    | Light               | CO <sub>2</sub>   | Photosynthetic prokaryotes, including cyanobacteria; plants; certain protists (algae) |
| Chemo-autotroph    | Inorganic chemicals | CO <sub>2</sub>   | Certain prokaryotes (for example, <i>Sulfolobus</i> )                                 |
| <b>Heterotroph</b> |                     |                   |   |
| Photo-heterotroph  | Light               | Organic compounds | Certain prokaryotes   |
| Chemo-heterotroph  | Organic compounds   | Organic compounds | Many prokaryotes and protists; fungi; animals; some parasitic plants                  |

# **The Importance of Microorganisms in Physiology:**

- **Short generation time.**
- **Small Size.**
- **Small genome Size.**
- **Nutritional Diversity.**

# QUESTIONS??

