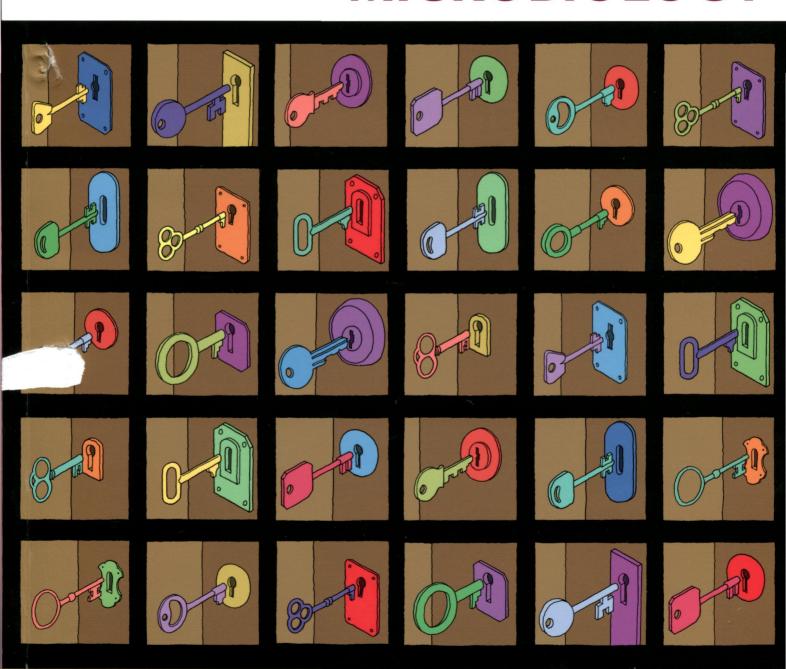


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MICROBIOLOGY

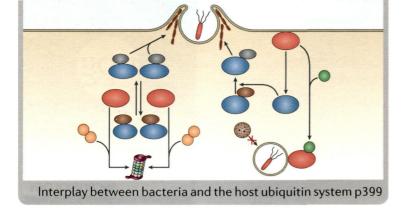


Multiple keys, multiple locks

A reassessment of archaeal membrane lipid biosynthesis

IT'S COLD OUT THERE

The microbial ecology of permafrost



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Exploitation of the host ubiquitin system by human bacterial pathogens

Hiroshi Ashida, Minsoo Kim and Chihiro Sasakawa Bacterial pathogens have evolved diverse strategies to interfere with and modulate the ubiquitin systems of the host for their own benefit. In this Review, Sasakawa and colleagues discuss the mechanisms that are involved, with a focus on secreted effector proteins that are delivered into the host cell by human bacterial pathogens.

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The microbial ecology of permafrost

FEATURED ARTICLE Janet K. Jansson and Neslihan Taş

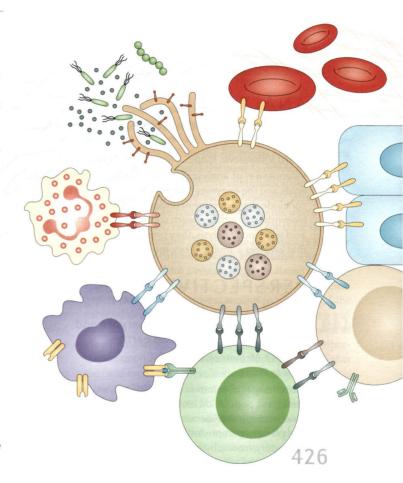
One-quarter of the land surface on Earth is underlain by permafrost. Jansson and Taş review the microbial ecology of this fascinating and unique niche, pulling together observations from the study of permafrost isolates and the application of high-throughput sequencing.

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Platelets: at the nexus of antimicrobial defence

Michael R. Yeaman

Platelets are multifunctional granulocytes that function at the intersection of antimicrobial and haemostatic host defences. Michael R. Yeaman presents an integrated overview of the antimicrobial functions of platelets, which are mediated both directly and indirectly to integrate innate and adaptive immune responses to pathogens.



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438 A re-evaluation of the archaeal membrane lipid biosynthetic pathway

> Laura Villanueva, Jaap S. Sinninghe Damsté and Stefan Schouten Villanueva et al. analyse the relationship between archaeal membrane lipids and the enzymes that are involved in their biosynthesis and conclude that our current understanding of the archaeal membrane lipid biosynthesis pathway needs some reconsideration. On the basis of amino acid sequence analysis, they present an alternative biosynthetic pathway that involves a 'multiple key, multiple lock' mechanism.

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► COVER: 'Multiple keys, multiple locks' by Philip Patenall, inspired by the Analysis article on p438.

PERSPECTIVE

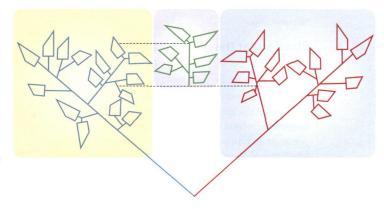
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The hybrid nature of the Eukaryota and a consilient view of life on Earth

James O. McInerney, Mary J. O'Connell and Davide Pisani

McInerney et al. summarize the phylogenetic, cell biological, population biology, biochemical and paleontological evidence that cellular life consists of two primary, paraphyletic, prokaryotic groups and one secondary, monophyletic group that has symbiogenic origins — the eukaryotes.



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