

Leeuwenhoek's "Animacules"

Early History of Microbiology:

- 1668 – Francesco Redi disproves spontaneous generation
- 1676 – Antony van Leeuwenhoek first observes microbes
- 1861 – Louis Pasteur disproves spontaneous generation
- 1876 – John Tyndall and Ferdinand Cohn discover endospores
- 1877 – Robert Koch shows that anthrax is caused by *Bacillus anthracis* transmitted by heat resistant spores
- 1882 – Koch: Tuberculosis is caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- 1884 – Koch's postulates

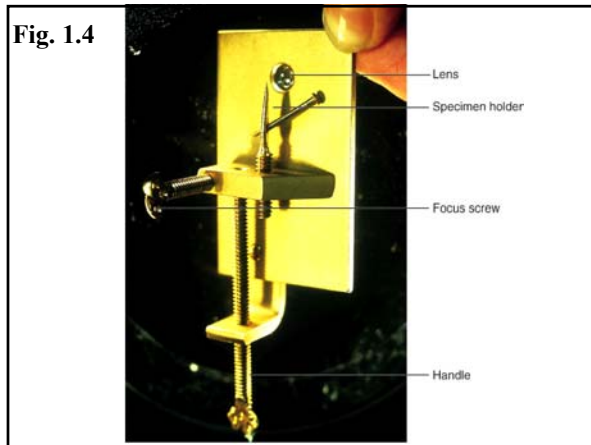


Fig. 1.4

Theory of Spontaneous Generation

- Organisms arise from non-living material
- Redi showed emergence of flies in rotting meat required previous contact with flies
- Pasteur refuted the theory of spontaneous generation using careful experiments
- Tyndall and Cohn confirmed Pasteur's finding by showing that endospores accounted for sterilization-resistant "spontaneous" bacterial growth

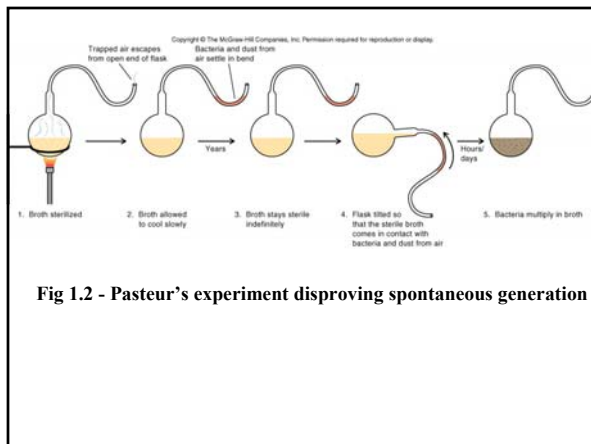


Fig 1.2 - Pasteur's experiment disproving spontaneous generation

Endospores:

- Endospores account for sterilization-resistant life forms present in soil-derived infusions (from hay, for example)
- Predicted by Tyndall (1876) from studies on different infusions
- Discovered by Cohn (1876) in soil bacteria
- Koch (1877) showed endospores transmit anthrax

Vital Activities and Roles of Microorganisms

- Support all living cells (Bacteria, Archaea, Eucarya)
- Involved in nitrogen fixation
- Replenish oxygen on Earth
- Degrade organic waste material
- Serve as models for eukaryotes in study of genetics, metabolism, and biochemical principles

Applications of Microbiology

- The fermentation process is used for making bread, wine, beer and cheeses.
- Bioremediation - degradation of toxic material
- Biosynthesis - production of antibiotics, amino acids, ethanol, insecticides, etc.

Genetic Engineering

The process by which the genes from one organism are introduced into related or unrelated organisms

Examples:

- Human growth hormone gene
- Interferon
- Insulin
- Blood clotting and dissolving enzymes
- Vaccine production
- Genetically engineered plants
- Gene therapy with viruses

Medical Microbiology

- Infectious diseases have existed for many years, and affect humans, animals, plants, and microbes
- Emerging infectious diseases
- Re-emerging infectious diseases

Historically important diseases

Small pox - 10 million deaths over last 4000 years
last case in 1977
current bioterrorist threat

Bubonic Plague – 25 million deaths (1346-1350)
currently less than 100 per year
rats, carriers of *Yersinia pestis*, transmitted by fleas
controlled by sanitation, antibiotics

Foot and Mouth Disease (2001)
Highly contagious
4 million stock animals destroyed to control disease

Infections in US currently at 750 million cases per year

200,000 deaths/year in the US

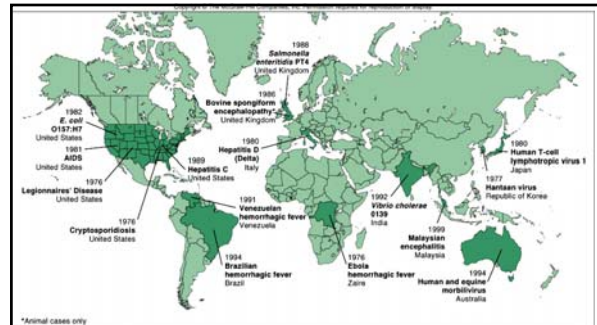


Figure 1.3 “New” infectious Diseases in Humans since 1976

Emerging diseases

Legionnaires' disease
 Toxic shock syndrome
 Lyme disease
 AIDS
 Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome
 Hemolytic-uremic syndrome
 Cryptosporidiosis
 West Nile virus disease
 SARS
 Avian flu

Resurging old diseases

Antibiotic resistance
 Spread by travelers
 Unvaccinated children
 Older people
 AIDS

Three Domains based on ribosomal RNA sequencing:

Bacteria = prokaryotes
 Archaea = prokaryotes
 Eucarya = eukaryotes

	Bacteria	Archaea	Eucarya
Typical Size	0.3–2 μm	0.3–2 μm	5–50 μm
Nuclear Membrane	No	No	Yes
Cell Wall	Peptidoglycan present	No peptidoglycan	No peptidoglycan
Cytoplasmic Structures			
Mitochondria	No	No	Yes
Chloroplasts	No	No	In plant and algal cells
Cytoskeleton	No	No	Yes
Where Found	In all environments	Frequently in extreme environments	In environments that are not extreme

Table 1.2 – Comparison of Bacteria, Archaea and Eucarya

Bacteria:

Shaped as rods, spheres or spirals
 Rigid cell walls containing peptidoglycan
 Division by binary fission
 Motility via flagella

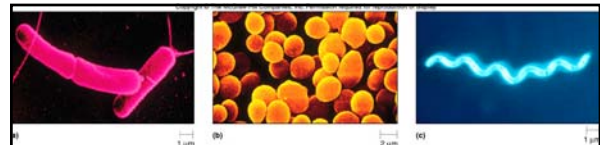


Figure 1.5 Bacteria viewed through a scanning electron microscope



Archaea:

Life in extreme environments

Thermoplasma – live in burning coal pile tailings

Sulfolobus – live in acidic hot springs

Methanogens – anaerobes, generate methane

Halogens – live in saturated salt solutions

Eucarya:

Algae

Fungi

Protozoa

Multicellular parasites

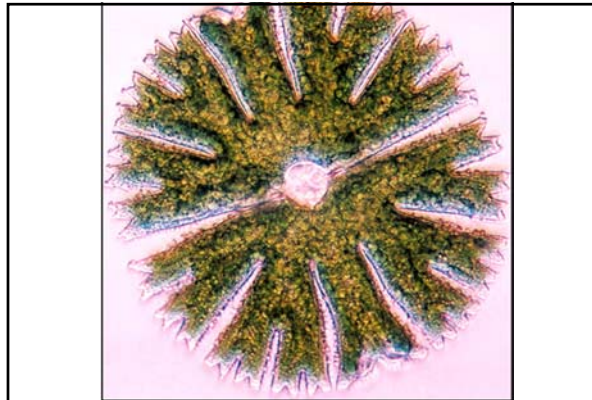


Figure 1.6 – *Micrasterias*, a green alga

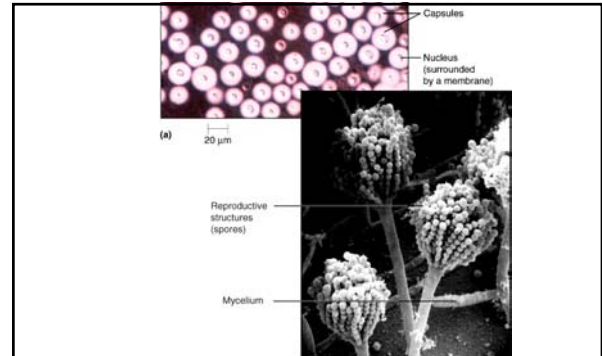


Figure 1.7 – Two forms of fungi: ^(b)
Cryptococcus (unicellular yeast) stained with India ink
Aspergillus, multicellular mold viewed with scanning EM

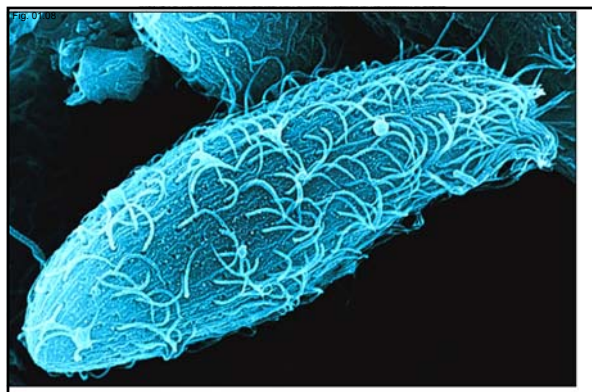


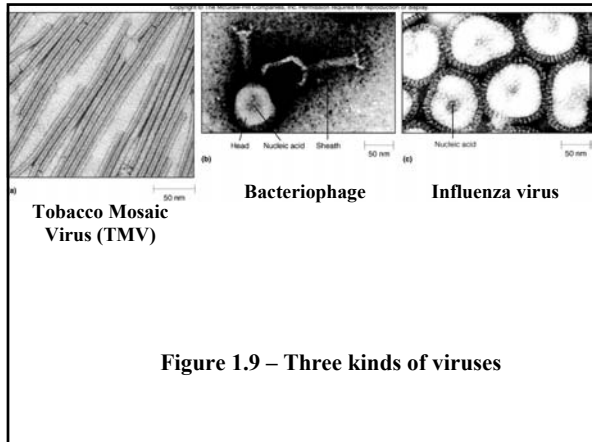
Figure 1.8 – *Paramecium*, a ciliated protozoan | 20 μm

Viruses:

Nucleic acid + protein coat = virus

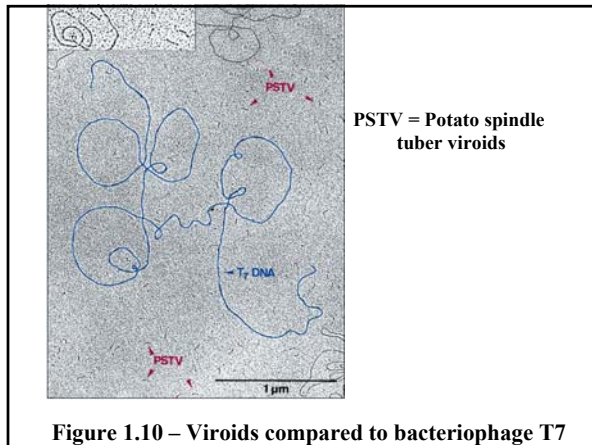
Multiply only in cells

“Obligate” intracellular parasites



Viroids:

Short pieces of nucleic acid (RNA)
 Intracellular parasites (plant diseases)



Prions:

Apparently no nucleic acid; only protein
 Cause neurodegenerative diseases
 such as mad cow disease

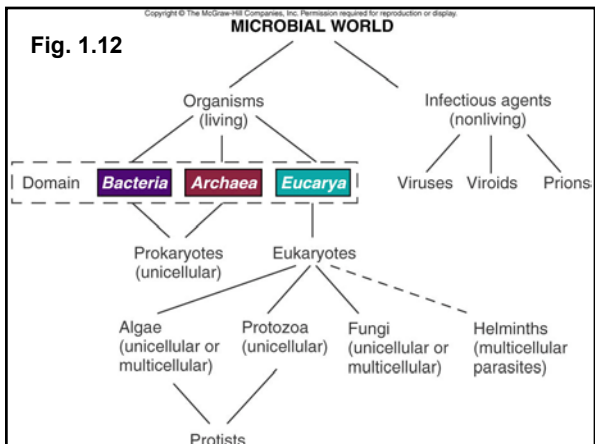
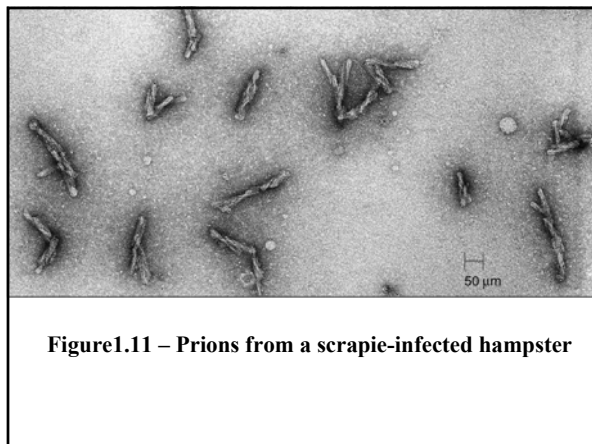


Fig. 1.13 – Sizes of Organisms and Viruses

