

Preface

The relationship between humans and microbes has attracted our interest since the creation of the first single-lens microscope by Antonie van Leeuwenhoek and the discovery of tiny living beings, which he called “animalcules” (now known as microbes/microorganisms) in 1674. For the past 100 years we have been trying to remove microbes from our lives, as they have been closely associated with diseases. However, we are starting to realize that some microbes are fundamental to our health and to the maintenance of environmental homeostasis. Our thoughts about how to deal with microbes are changing in an unprecedented way. In recent years intriguing works revealing the multiple facets of microbial life have flooded the scientific literature. Thanks to new molecular tools, mainly those based on next-generation sequencing, new evidence of microbial interactions has been revealed in several environments and hosts. Our ability to detect microbes in nature has radically improved and our appreciation of the importance of microbes has completely changed. We are now living in the age of microbiomes. New microbiome reports and discoveries appear daily, describing the vast and diverse microbial communities in innumerable biomes, organisms, surfaces, and in any other imaginable place. So much has happened around the world and much more is still to come.

Brazilian Microbiome: Current Status and Perspectives unites a set of distinguished investigators conducting microbiome research and builds a comprehensive reference book with up-to-date information regarding Brazilian microbiome studies and trends. It covers terrestrial-, plant-, and host-associated microbiomes, unveiling biological and technical aspects of research. This book is devoted to students and professionals interested in learning about and better understanding the biology of microorganisms in nature, with an emphasis on Brazilian microbiomes.

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