



Systematics, Evolution and Distribution of Archaea and Their Mobilomes

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The discovery of Archaea by Carl Woese and his colleagues has been one of the most important breakthroughs in biology in the last century. Whereas the first identified archaea were limited to a small number of phenotypes, mainly extremophiles, works in molecular ecology first based on 16r RNA screening and later metagenomics led to a spectacular expansion of archaeal diversity. We know now that Archaea are present here, there and everywhere and exhibit a plethora of phenotypes. In the meantime, interesting new archaea continue to be isolated and characterized. The description and characterization of archaeal viruses and plasmids are also on the rise. This Special Issue will cover the description of archaea and their mobilome diversity based on a variety of approaches and possibly tackle fundamental evolutionary questions that remain open such as the topology of the archaeal tree, the position of the root and the position of DPANN and other fast-evolving species. The nomenclature of Archaea is also in turmoil, and papers discussing this issue will be welcome.

Keywords: archaea; metagenomic; evolution and distribution





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