

Preface

Although microbiology is an old discipline, research into host-associated microbiomes has become a particularly active field in the last 10 years or so, largely as a result of improved sequencing technologies. Given that every living organism and environmental system has a microbiome (we think!), this area of research transcends traditional organism-based silos. The motivation behind this book was to integrate our current knowledge and understanding of microbiomes across taxa and environments within different biological or functional themes. Given the relative youth and rapid evolution of this field of research, there is still much to be learnt about host microbiomes, and we hope that we have gone some way to summarising these gaps and identifying directions of interest.

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