
Note to Contributors

Bacteriological Reviews is published under the auspices of the Society of American Bacteriologists to provide authoritative, critical surveys on the current status of subjects and problems in the diverse fields of microbiology. This includes the occasional short monograph.

Suggestions for timely reviews are solicited; prospective authors are invited to discuss with the Editor the suitability of their proposed manuscripts. The submittal of a synopsis or topical outline for an advisory opinion is recommended. Except for *References* the editorial style of *Bacteriological Reviews* is essentially the same as that of the *Journal of Bacteriology*; contributors should consult the Instructions to Authors published in each issue of the *Journal* for details. If the preliminary discussions result in a prospective review, the Editor will furnish a manual that summarizes style requirements and specific directions for preparation of manuscripts for *Bacteriological Reviews*. Each contributor should have this before preparing the final copy for submission. The following suggestions may serve as a general guide.

Plan and Content of Review. A rational, balanced development of the topic, rather than a chronological treatment, is to be preferred. Old history, if any, may be covered usually by simple reference to earlier reviews. A mere compilation or annotated bibliography does not adequately serve the objectives of this journal. The extensive presentation of new experimental material belongs properly in the domain of the monograph or of the appropriate "experimental" journal. Judicious selection of references is an important function of the reviewer. Each citation should be checked with the original publication to avoid embarrassing errors.

Length. The length of a paper is no measure of its quality, and it is only the latter that determines acceptability for publication. However, practical considerations make it desirable to set a provisional limit of 15 to 25 printed pages for a review, text, tables, figures and references included. (About 650-700 words per page; 28 references per page.) A short monograph must come within the size of a single issue, about 70 pages.

The acceptability of a review cannot, of course, be finally decided until the finished product has been examined. Acceptance of a short monograph, is also contingent upon the advice of the Editor of the *Journal of Bacteriology*.

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