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1177. Maczulak, Anne. **Encyclopedia of Microbiology**. New York, Facts on File, 2011. 858p. illus. index. (Facts on File Science Library). $95.00. ISBN 13: 978-0-8160-7364-1; 978-1-4381-3406-2 (e-book).

Facts on File's *Encyclopedia of Microbiology* is a single volume source of 850 pages that provides a general introduction to fungi, algae, viruses, bacteria, and protozoa. Written for the educated layperson or lower-level undergraduate student, the *Encyclopedia* consists of over 200 entries connected through two main themes: the interrelationship of microorganisms and their diversity. Most of the entries are at least two to three pages in length, although some are significantly longer. The emphasis is on microbes and less on people. Some entries will mention scientists that have played an important role in a topic, but only Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch receive their own entries, with the latter discussed under Koch's Postulates. Also included throughout the *Encyclopedia* are 13 essays ranging from 1-2 pages in length addressing topical areas that the author notes "prompt active discussions amongst scientists." Over one-half are written by the *Encyclopedia*'s author with the rest by respected scientists in industry and academia. Not particularly image rich, the *Encyclopedia* includes approximately 130 black-and-white photographs, with additional tables, graphs, and line illustrations. An eight-page color insert shows close-ups of various microbes in the lab or their natural environment. Seven appendixes are included: chronology of events, glossary, further resources, proposed hierarchy of biota, classification of bacteria and archaea, viruses of animals and plants, and major human diseases caused by microorganisms. Unfortunately, most of these are too brief or oversimplified to be very useful. The 25-page index is reasonably complete, with the page numbers for main entries listed in bold. Overall, the author has done a good job explaining microbiology topics for the layperson. As microbiology is a science, though, there is some language and concepts that will be difficult for the nonspecialist to fully understand. This work is recommended for public, community college, and undergraduate libraries.—**Kevin McDonough**