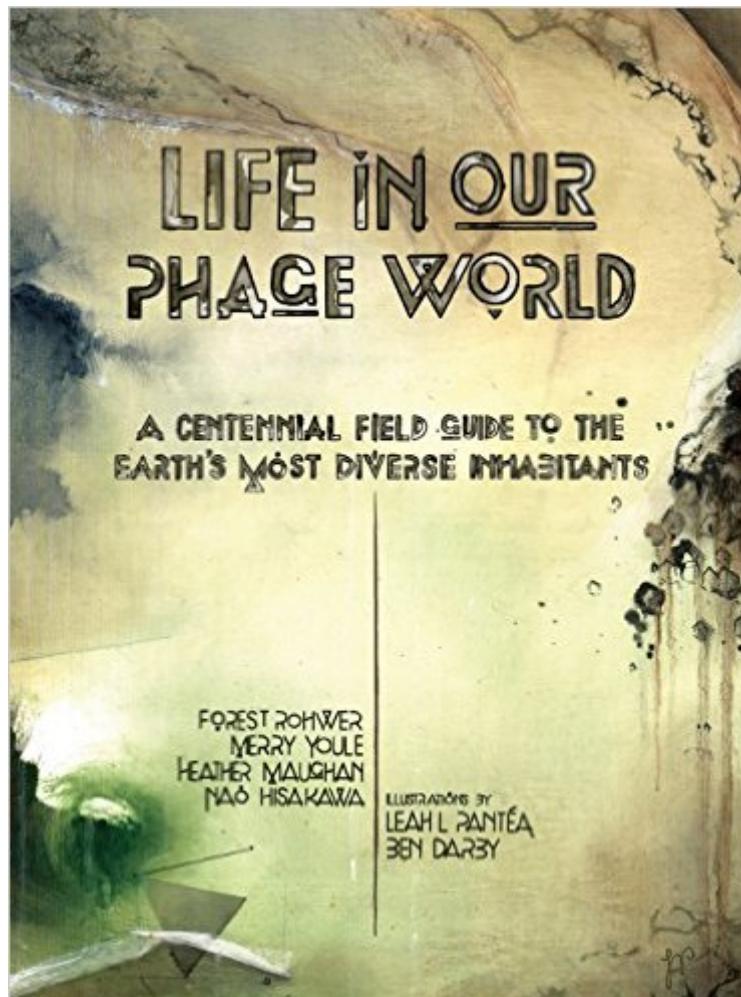


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Life In Our Phage World



Synopsis

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The year 2015 celebrates the centenary of the first documentation of phages by Frederick W. Twort. Since then, however, phages (the viruses that infect bacteria) have often been ignored, discounted and underestimated. Forest Rohwer and his distinguished co-authors now address this glaring omission. A centennial field guide to the most abundant biological entities in the world has been missing until today. In the tradition of other field guides the authors include a global map showing the known geographic range of each featured phage as well as its habitats. Additionally, phage genomes are represented by two versions. First, an artist-created overview of the variety of genome structures of phages when travelling between virion and host (e.g., linear or circular, single-stranded or double-stranded, sticky ends, direct or inverted terminal repeat nucleotide syntax). Second, a detailed genome map allows the reader to follow each gene, finding information about its function, its homology with other phage genes and the localisation of its protein product. With this field guide a second century of phage study has begun.

Bacteriophages A bacteriophage is a virus that infects and replicates within a bacterium only. There are 10(31) phage virions on earth. This is ten times more than all cells that constitute cellular organisms. Every second, 10(24) phage infections occur on this planet, whereas lytic infection by a single phage yields 20 to 400 progeny per infectious cycle. In the human gut we can find 10(16) phage virions. Together there are 4 million families of viral proteins on earth. If all 1031 phage virions were placed side by side they would stretch to 42 million light years! The book heralds a second century on phage research, but under very different circumstances.

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