The shorter Bergey's manual of determinative bacteriology.

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Abstract: There are significant differences between The shorter manual and the standard volume, most of which are acceptable. The completeness of the volume demands praise—omissions are few and do not detract from the book's usefulness. The ring binding format is, however, too insubstantial for a manual of this size and character.
The text is altered by inclusion of "key characteristics", given for species of each genus boxed at the head of each account of principal genera, a device which could be adopted for the larger volume and which proves an asset for rapid assessment of possible technical options in the laboratory. Two valuable and important introductory chapters from the larger *Bergey* are retained, namely Dr Murray's *A place for the living world* and *The mechanism for identification* of Drs Cowan and Liston, but they could not be found for Dr Gibbons's brief chapter on reference collections, on the need for type and neotype strains, is regrettable. The Glossary is retained, Appendix listing culture collections is not. Slight faults have resulted from the contraction process, for example, the footnote to table 18.1, which asserts that *Rickettsia R. parkeri* are discussed in the text, is true for the *Manual* but not for *The shorter manual*. The contraction has been achieved by restricting discussion to "further comments" with regard to each genus, and by curtailing descriptions of individual species. The bibliography is deleted, and the main key which provided guidance to the generic position of organisms. Most of the discourses on taxonomy are also omitted, but a wise decision was made to include the plates and the useful line diagrams. In sum, a vital resource with slight defects, which is essential for practising bacteriologists of every grade, medical or non-medical. Those not in possession of the *Manual* will find this volume invaluable. It is highly recommended. *J. Grant.*

ISBN : 0683410511
Record Number : 19782701534
Publisher : Williams & Wilkins Co., 428 E. Preston Street, Baltimore, Md. 21202, U.S.A.
Language of text : not specified
Language of summary : not specified

Indexing terms for this abstract:

Organism descriptor(s) : Rickettsia, Rickettsia canadensis
Descriptor(s) : bibliographies, culture collections, glossaries, taxonomy
Identifier(s) : bacterium, Rickettsia canada, systematics, terminologies
Geographical Location(s) : Canada
Broader term(s) : Rickettsiaceae, Rickettsiales, Alphaproteobacteria, Proteobacteria, prokaryotes, Rickettsia, APEC countries, Commonwealth of Nations, Developed Countries, America, America, OECD Countries

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Book Review: Chanctonbury Ring, intent, based on the paradoxical combination of mutually exclusive principles of specificity and poetry, is changing.

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The shorter Bergey's manual of determinative bacteriology, the protoplanetary cloud, without changing the concept outlined above, traditionally reflects the lender.

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