

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910220045103321
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Titolo	From Genes to Species: Novel Insights from Metagenomics
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Frontiers Media SA, 2016
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (229 p.)
Collana	Frontiers Research Topics
Soggetti	Microbiology (non-medical)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	<p>The majority of microbes in many environments are considered "as yet uncultured" and were traditionally considered inaccessible for study through the microbiological gold standard of pure culture. The emergence of metagenomic approaches has allowed researchers to access and study these microbes in a culture-independent manner through DNA sequencing and functional expression of metagenomic DNA in a heterologous host. Metagenomics has revealed an extraordinary degree of diversity and novelty, not only among microbial communities themselves, but also within the genomes of these microbes. This Research Topic aims to showcase the utility of metagenomics to gain insights on the microbial and genomic diversity in different environments by revealing the breadth of novelty that was in the past, largely untapped.</p>