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Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Preface -- Contents -- Executive Summary -- 1 The Roadmaps -- 2 The Structure of the NASA Astrobiology Program -- 3 Toward More Interaction Between the NASA Astrobiology Institute and the Planetary and Astronomical Sciences -- 4 The Roles of Other Federal Agencies with Respect to Astrobiology -- 5 International Partners -- 6 SETI and Astrobiology -- 7 Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	The past decade has seen a remarkable revolution in genomic research, the discoveries of extreme environments in which organisms can live and even flourish on Earth, the identification of past and possibly present liquid-water environments in our solar system, and the detection of planets around other stars. Together these accomplishments bring us much closer to understanding the origin of life, its evolution and diversification on Earth, and its occurrence and distribution in the cosmos. A new multidisciplinary program called Astrobiology was initiated in 1997 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to foster such research and to make available additional resources for individual and consortium-based efforts. Other agencies have also begun new programs to address the origin, evolution, and cosmic distribution of life. Five years into the Astrobiology program, it is appropriate to assess the scientific and programmatic impacts of these initiatives. Edward J. Weiler, NASA's associate administrator for the Office of Space Science, tasked the Committee on the Origins and Evolution of Life (COEL) with assessing the state of NASA's Astrobiology program.