



Microbe of the Year goes international!



Vereinigung für
Allgemeine und
Angewandte
Mikrobiologie

Suchbegriff eingeben



The "Microbe of the Year", which has been successful in Germany for eight years, now appears in English. All microbes nominated so far by the VAAM (Association for General and Applied Microbiology) are internationally available at <http://microbeoftheyear.org/>. With this, the association wants to draw attention to the many small but extremely important organisms that significantly influence and determine our lives.

For example, this year's Microbe of the Year, *Methanothermobacter*, contributes significantly to wastewater treatment and plays an important role in climate change. The yellow *Myxococcus* (2020) forms fascinating predatory swarms and provides medicines. *Magnetospirillum* (2019) can align its swimming movement with the magnetic field and offers fascinating applications as a "mini-magnet". Lactobacilli (2018) produce yoghurt, cheese and lactic acids on an industrial scale.

Halobacteria (2017) live in highly saline waters; their pigments are the archetype of our visual system. Streptomycetes (2016) are important antibiotic producers and enliven our forest soils. Rhizobia (2015), which live in roots, support vegetable cultivation. And *Nostoc* (2014), the first Microbe of the Year, is even visible to the naked eye. You will find this and much more exciting information about microbes on <http://microbeoftheyear.org/>, which is now available in English thanks to the kind support of FEMS (Federation of European Microbiological Societies).

The next Microbe of the Year will be announced on December 28th, 2021. This much can already be revealed: it delights us all, not only on holidays!



More information at <http://microbeoftheyear.org/>, <http://mikrobe-des-jahres.de/>, <https://vaam.de/> and [<info@mikrobe-des-jahres.de>](mailto:info@mikrobe-des-jahres.de).

photo: The English website Microbe of the Year (CC BY 4.0)

About the Microbe of the Year

The Microbe of the Year highlights the significant role of microorganisms in ecology, health, nutrition and the economy. Microbiologists from the Association for General and Applied Microbiology (VAAM) select it every year to draw attention to the diversity of the microbiological world.

The VAAM represents over 3200 microbiologically oriented scientists from research and industry. The spectrum of research ranges from bacteria, archaea and fungi in all ecosystems and in food to pathogens, genome analyses and industrial use of microorganisms, their enzymes and metabolic products.

Further information:

Dr. Anja Störiko | Tel. +49 6192 23605 | [<info@mikrobe-des-jahres.de>](mailto:info@mikrobe-des-jahres.de) | <http://microbeoftheyear.org/>

Dr. Katrin Muth | VAAM office | Mörfelder Landstraße 125 | D- 60598 Frankfurt am Main | Tel: +49 69 66056720 | <https://www.vaam.de/>