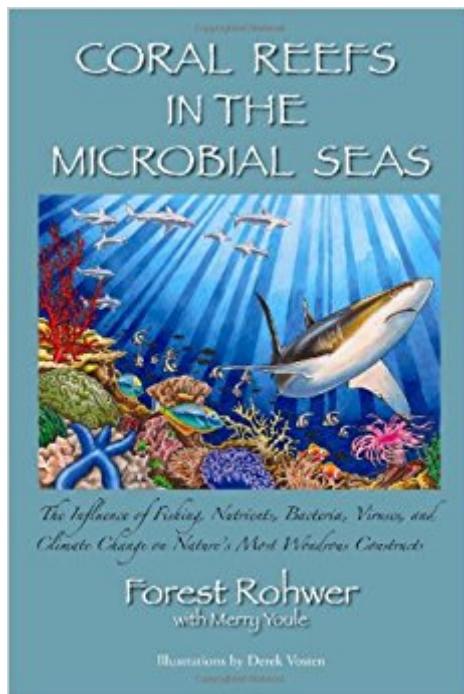


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# Coral Reefs In The Microbial Seas



## **Synopsis**

For millennia, coral reefs have flourished as one of the planet's most magnificent natural wonders. As Earth's most biodiverse ecosystem-surpassing even the rainforests-they are home to a cooperative network ranging from immense fish to sunlight-capturing algae to invisible microbes. Just how critical the microbes in particular are for coral reef health is finally understood thanks to recent discoveries. *Coral Reefs in the Microbial Seas* is the first book to unveil the complete story of how these relationships uphold coral reef health and what impact human activity has on this delicate balance.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book brilliantly captures the lives of both coral reefs and the scientists that study them. It is a 21st century version of the Log from the Sea of Cortez--full of wisdom and humor. --Nancy Knowlton, Staff Scientist Emeritus of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and holder of the Sant Chair in Marine Science at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. The demise of many coral communities in the oceans and the threat to the rest are among the most stirring concerns regarding the state of our planet. But precisely because we respond to these grim facts with distress we should become educated in the issues involved. The book by Rohwer and Youle provides the chance for such an education, and does so in a manner that is accessible to all. Written in a reader-friendly style that belies the authority of the authors, this book introduces the biological, physical, and anthropogenic issues related to corals and their tribulations. Perhaps not

surprising are accounts of the relationship of people and bacteria to the health of corals. Not only do the authors accomplish a difficult task--to enlighten readers of a varied background of these issues--but they engage us personally with stories about the people who conduct this research. We are taken on board ship to witness the problems, big and small, that face expeditions to the coral reefs. This book is a standout in the genre of current science writing. --Moselio Schaechter, Distinguished Professor, emeritus, Tufts University, and author of *Microbe* and *In the Company of Mushrooms*. This book brilliantly captures the lives of both coral reefs and the scientists that study them. It is a 21st century version of the Log from the Sea of Cortez--full of wisdom and humor.

--Nancy Knowlton, Staff Scientist Emeritus of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and holder of the Sant Chair in Marine Science at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

A blessedly clear and concise book that beguiles you with love for sea and science, even as it delivers critical details, tiny and large, of what is happening in our world's waters. --Alan Weisman, author of *The World Without Us*

Reading this book was an engaging, entertaining, educational experience. --Stanley Maloy, Dean, College of Sciences, SDSU

The writing style is excellent, so much so that an intelligent reader with no previous knowledge of coral biology or microbiology can appreciate the beauty, importance and complexity of the coral holobiont (the coral host plus its associated microorganisms) and coral reefs. --Eugene Rosenberg, Professor, Department of Molecular Microbiology and Biotechnology, Tel Aviv University

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Forest Rohwer, Ph.D., is a world-renowned marine microbial ecologist. For over 20 years, he has been diving and researching on coral reefs, unraveling the mystery of their recent decline. He has

received numerous awards for his scientific contributions, including the prestigious Young Investigators Award of the International Society of Microbial Ecology. Forest Rohwer, Ph.D., is a world-renowned marine microbial ecologist. For over 20 years, he has been diving and researching on coral reefs, unraveling the mystery of their recent decline. He has received numerous awards for his scientific contributions, including the prestigious Young Investigators Award of the International Society of Microbial Ecology.

Coral Reefs in the Microbial Seas is a fabulous book. It is not only very informative [I see it as providing guidance to Humankind that goes far beyond the health of reefs to the health of our species], but also makes for amusing and easy reading. Anyone who has participated in "Field Trials" can identify with what it is like to collect data, away from our home laboratory, and the descriptions of the scientists and their episodes have a genuineness that I appreciate [although the depth of sympathy for any hardships they encountered while SCUBA diving in spectacular waters may be a bit limited . . . ]. I liked reading each of the chapters, and the logical progression of chapters that leads to the DDAM model is totally convincing. Very well done. I, like other reviewers, am pleased that Prof. Rohwer and Merry Youle have presented an Action Plan that can, possibly, reverse the devastating destruction of such an important part of our Ecosystem, but I generalize their guidance to be towards Sustainable Agriculture, both on our Lands and in our Seas. The Global Community, indeed!

I saw Rohwer speak at a Microbiology educators conference last year, and he was the most interesting and engaging of speakers - I had to get his book when it came out. The book is a fabulous read - it combines some fun story-telling from research expeditions with real research based science about coral reef biology. I'm absolutely considering using it as a supplemental reading in a biology course, because it combines genetics with ecology with microbiology - all bundled in this fascinating mystery of the dying reefs. Students will love it. To use it for an upper level course, I'll include a lot of primary literature articles (most referenced throughout Rohwer's book and in his "further reading" section), but he sets the stage beautifully and really illuminates the issue in a comprehensive way that is remarkably easy to understand and entertaining. Bravo to Rohwer for this beautiful and fun resource that spotlights the investigations into an ecological tragedy while still offering hope that the adaptive reefs can persevere with some changes in human practice.

This book blends rigorous academic ideas into a beautiful and witty story. It is an excellent introduction to coral ecology and the problems facing it (but goes far beyond "the reefs are dying, the reefs are dying" and dives right into the causes, the causes of the causes, and what the solutions are). All told through the pen of a wonderful writer. This is a rare book that could be used as supplementary material for a high school biology course, all the way to grad school. I would also expect my non-scientist parents to both enjoy reading and learn something from it. Everybody will be able to get different things out of it. I highly recommend it.

This book provides usable insight to some very real ecological problems. The authors' style is both entertaining and informative, and for those of you who might want to really learn about the ecology of the coral reefs and how this may impact us all, please grab a copy of this book, read it and share it. There is so much usable and understandable information packed into these pages, I think it is a good read for anyone interested in ecology...the concepts and thought process is good across a wide spectrum of science. Pick this book up. You won't regret it.

Forest Rohwer and Merry Youle have written a spectacular and accessible account of coral reefs and the impact that overfishing, climate change, and human waste are having on them. Each chapter begins with an often hilarious anecdote from Forest's recent expedition to the Northern Line Islands - I especially enjoyed the story of the 'Goddess' and the 'Microbe'. These stories emphasize the personal nature of these studies which also shines through in the writing throughout each chapter, even as the story becomes progressively more complicated, as we begin to appreciate the coral reef ecosystem at multiple levels, from sharks to grazers to the vast diversity of microbial life. I'd recommend this book for anyone interested in microbiology or just science in general. Later on in the book, we become more aware of the impact humans are having on the reefs, often with tragic results. These sections have some similarities to "An Inconvenient Truth", "Fast Food Nation", and "An Omnivore's Dilemma", in that the authors clearly describe a global problem and present some easy solutions that allow each reader to personally make a difference.

No sharks no coral reefs! This is a one-liner that will live for a long time. The arguments presented in this book allow you to see the big picture. Based on solid biology, that is, including both microbes and larger animals and plants, you are presented with a well documented and logical chain of mechanisms explaining the deteriorating conditions for coral reefs. In addition you are presented with a vivid account of science in real life. This is good fun and serves to build trust vis-à-vis the

authors genuine experience. A strong sense of responsibility towards our common ocean and its future shines through the presentation, yet scientific reasoning is the sole guiding principle for the arguments. In view of the global destruction of the fish community it could, for example, be tempting make a comparison between coral reefs and the destruction of the rainforest. Forest Rower and Merry Youle however manage to capture the larger context and importance of the ecosystem structure by being able to make connections through the entire food-web of the coral reef and not by inference to a different system.

I just got the book and its in perfect conditions. It arrived so soon! (and I'm in Chile!). The book itself is a piece of art: besides the detailed information, the drawings and the format for delivering the content are unique. Its like a literature book, but with all you want to know about the microbial side of coral reefs. Thank you very much for the quality of the material and the efficiency of delivery! :D

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