

Contents

- 1 Introduction 9
VLASTIMIL VANČURA
- 2 Nutrition and energy sources of microbial populations in ecosystems 15
BLANKA ÚLEHLOVÁ, FRANTIŠEK KUNC, VLASTIMIL VANČURA
 - 2.1 Soil organic matter and humic substances (F. Kunc) 19
 - 2.1.1 Definitions and qualitative aspects 19
 - 2.1.2 Humus content in various soils 23
 - 2.1.3 Utilization of humic substances by microorganisms 25
 - 2.1.4 References 27
 - 2.2 Residues of organisms (B. Úlehlová) 29
 - 2.2.1 Plant materials 29
 - 2.2.2 Animals and animal debris in the ecosystems 43
 - 2.2.3 Microorganisms and microbial litter 47
 - 2.2.4 References 53
 - 2.3 Plant metabolites in soil (V. Vančura) 57
 - 2.3.1 Terminology 57
 - 2.3.2 Seed exudates 59
 - 2.3.2.1 Mechanism of releasing substances from germinating seeds 59
 - 2.3.2.2 Chemical composition of seed exudates 61
 - 2.3.2.3 Effect of temperature on the release of substances by germinating seeds 75
 - 2.3.3 Root exudates 79
 - 2.3.3.1 Source of organic substances available to rhizosphere microorganisms 80
 - 2.3.3.2 Mechanism of root exudation 81
 - 2.3.3.3 Site of exudation 83
 - 2.3.3.4 Chemical composition of root exudates 84
 - 2.3.3.5 Exudation dynamics and ontogenesis 102
 - 2.3.3.6 Quantitative aspects of exudation 105
 - 2.3.3.7 Differences in composition of root exudates among families, species and cultivars 113

- 2.3.3.8 External and internal factors affecting root exudation 116
- 2.3.3.9 Influence of root exudates on mineralization and immobilization of plant nutrients in the rhizosphere 129
- 2.3.3.10 Influence of rhizosphere products on transformation of the inorganic soil component 131
- 2.3.4 References 132
- 2.4 Compounds appearing in the biosphere through human activity (F. Kunc) 145
 - 2.4.1 Organic fertilizers 146
 - 2.4.2 Mineral fertilizers 149
 - 2.4.3 Xenobiotic substances 152
 - 2.4.4 References 154
- 3 Structure of microbial soil associations and some mechanisms of their autoregulation
DENIS I. NIKITIN and FRANTIŠEK KUNC 157
 - 3.1 Structure of microbial soil associations 159
 - 3.1.1 General considerations 159
 - 3.1.2 Quantitative and qualitative aspects 160
 - 3.1.3 Structure of microbial associations and the specificity of the soil environment 165
 - 3.2 Trophic groups of microorganisms 174
 - 3.3 Homeostasis in microbial associations and some of its mechanisms 180
 - 3.4 References 188
- 4 Microorganisms, their mutual relations and functions in the rhizosphere
VLASTIMIL VANČURA 191
 - 4.1 Rhizosphere effect 193
 - 4.1.1 Sources of microorganisms colonizing the rhizosphere 194
 - 4.1.2 Localization of microorganisms on roots 195
 - 4.1.3 Quantitative aspects of the rhizosphere effect 197
 - 4.1.4 Qualitative aspects of the rhizosphere effect 198
 - 4.1.5 Metabolic activity of microorganisms in the rhizosphere 201
 - 4.2 Colonization of plant roots by microorganisms 208
 - 4.2.1 Physical conditions and the movement of microorganisms in soil 208
 - 4.2.2 Chemotaxis 210
 - 4.2.3 The influence of exudates on the formation of rhizoplane and rhizosphere communities 212
 - 4.3 Metabolites of soil microorganisms 219
 - 4.3.1 Plant growth substances 219
 - 4.3.2 Phytotoxins 227
 - 4.3.3 Vitamins and amino acids 232
 - 4.3.4 Polysaccharides 233
 - 4.4 Mutual relations of microorganisms in the rhizosphere 235
 - 4.4.1 Advantageous associations 236
 - 4.4.2 Antagonistic relations 240

- 4.5 Modifications of the rhizosphere microflora 244
 - 4.5.1 The effect of soil environment and its modifications on the rhizosphere microflora 244
 - 4.5.1.1 Mineral fertilization 245
 - 4.5.1.2 Organic fertilization 247
 - 4.5.1.3 Xenobiotic substances 248
 - 4.5.2 Foliar application of various substances 249
 - 4.5.3 Modification of rhizosphere microflora by the inoculation of seeds or roots of plants 255
- 4.6 References 266
- 5 Mechanisms of adaptation and selection of microorganisms in the soil 281
FRANTIŠEK KUNC and † JIŘÍ MACURA
 - 5.1 Adaptation and selection of microorganisms in the soil environment: genetic and physiological aspects 283
 - 5.2 Changes in the genetic outfit of soil microorganisms 286
 - 5.3 Mechanisms controlling the formation and activity of enzymes in the soil 289
 - 5.4 References 297
- 6 Mutual relations among microbial processes in soil 299
FRANTIŠEK KUNC
 - 6.1 Metabolism of microorganisms and the soil environment 301
 - 6.2 Simultaneous transformations of added organic substrates and native soil organic matter 304
 - 6.2.1 Expression of interactions 304
 - 6.2.2 Some mechanisms involved 309
 - 6.2.2.1 The effects of added organic substrate on the biotic soil component 312
 - 6.2.2.2 Added organic substrate as a cause of changes in the soil environment 320
 - 6.3 The influence of other factors on mutual influences of microbial processes in soil 323
 - 6.4 Considerations on the possibilities of controlling soil microbial processes 329
 - 6.5 References 330
- 7 Cycling of mineral elements 335
BLANKA ÚLEHLOVÁ and MARTA TESAŘOVÁ
 - 7.1 Introduction (B. Úlehlová) 337
 - 7.1.1 References 338
 - 7.2 Microorganisms and the carbon cycle in ecosystems (M. Tesařová) 339
 - 7.2.1 Introduction 339
 - 7.2.2 Microbial carbon in ecosystems 340
 - 7.2.2.1 Amount and distribution of microbial carbon in ecosystems 340
 - 7.2.2.2 Activity of microorganisms in various structural units of ecosystems 350
 - 7.2.2.3 Distribution of various physiological groups of microorganisms in the ecosystem in relation to the type of organic substrate available 352
 - 7.2.2.4 Active components of the microbial community 353
 - 7.2.2.5 Turnover of the microbial biomass 358

7.2.3	Role of microorganisms in the degradative and synthetic processes of the carbon cycle	364
7.2.3.1	Microorganisms as a component of the decomposer community	364
7.2.3.2	Effectiveness of carbon compounds utilization by microorganisms	366
7.2.3.3	Rates of decomposition of carbon-containing materials in ecosystems	368
7.2.3.4	Microorganisms and humus synthesis	386
7.2.3.5	Carbon assimilation by soil microorganisms	388
7.2.4	Annual balance of carbon transformations in ecosystems	389
7.2.5	References	394
7.3	The nitrogen cycle (B. Úlehlová)	406
7.3.1	Introduction	406
7.3.2	Wet and dry deposition	408
7.3.3	Fixation of atmospheric nitrogen	411
7.3.4	Nitrogen in plants and plant stands	419
7.3.5	Soil nitrogen and its transformations	433
7.3.6	Outputs of nitrogen from the ecosystems	446
7.3.7	A comparison of nitrogen cycling in grass stands under three fertilization levels at Kamenický	456
7.3.8	Mathematical modelling of nitrogen cycling	462
7.3.9	References	462
7.4	Cycling of other mineral elements (B. Úlehlová)	470
7.4.1	The phosphorus cycle	470
7.4.2	Sulphur cycling	472
7.4.3	References	478
7.5	Energy flow in grasslands (B. Úlehlová)	479
7.5.1	Introduction	479
7.5.2	Total solar radiation and reflected radiation	480
7.5.3	Distribution of the radiant energy entering the ecosystem	481
7.5.4	Energy bound in the process of photosynthesis	482
7.5.5	Distribution and flow of energy bound in plant biomass	483
7.5.6	Energy accumulated in humus	483
7.5.7	Energy released in the detritivorous food chain	485
7.5.8	References	487
	Index of organisms	489
	Subject index	494