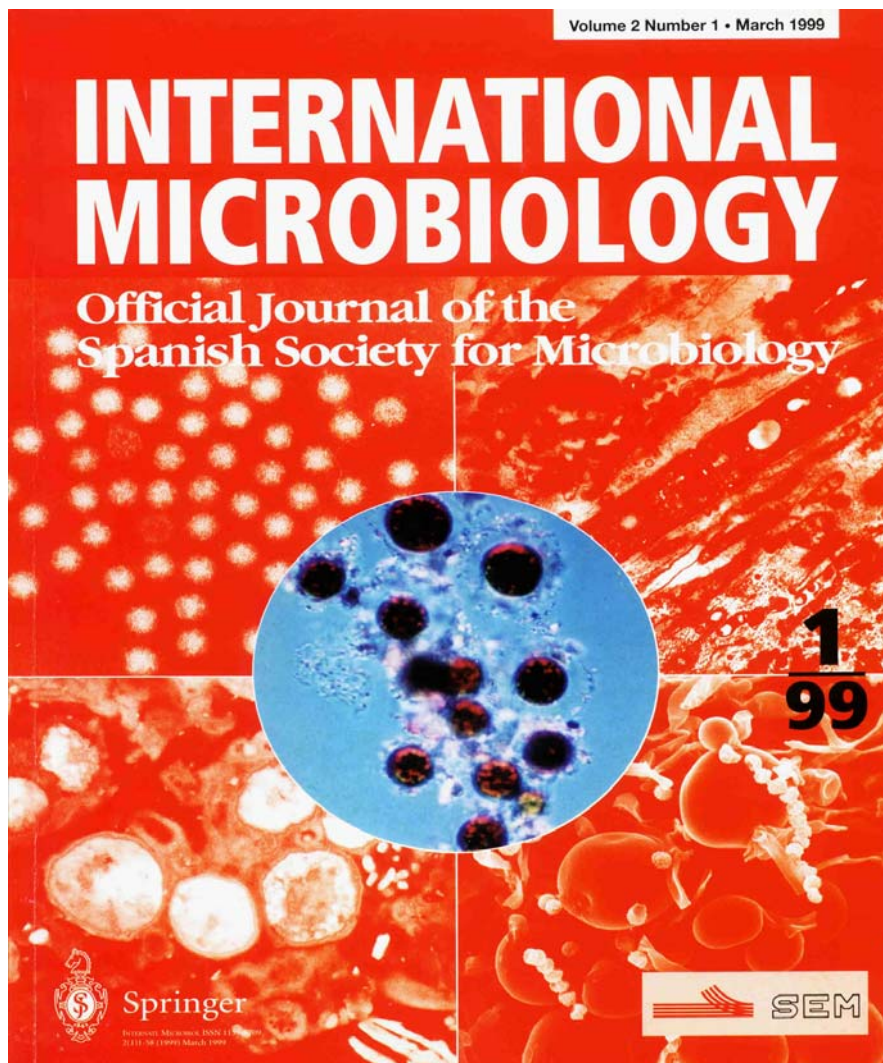


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## COVER

CENTER. Red snow algae *Chlamydomonas* sp. from Sierra Nevada (Granada, Spain), surrounded by a mucilage of cellular debris. Diameter of cells generally between 25–40  $\mu\text{m}$ . See article by Duval, B. et al., this issue, pp. 39–42. (Magnification, ca. 400 $\times$ )

Upper left. Human astrovirus serotype 1 isolated in stool from a child with acute gastroenteritis. Serotyping was performed with Oxford astrovirus reference antisera. Immune electron micrograph by Albert Bosch, University of Barcelona, Spain. (Magnification, ca. 200,000 $\times$ )

Upper right. In situ ultrastructure of the prokaryotic complex community of a microbial mat from the Ebro Delta, northeastern Spain, studied in the frame of the European program “Laboratoire Européen Associé (LEA) CNRS-CSIC, Sciences de la mer”. Transmission electron micrograph by Marie-Odile Soyer-Gobillard, Oceanologic Observatory of Banyuls, France. (Magnification, ca. 2,500 $\times$ )

Lower left. Endolithic microbial community formed by algal and fungal cells within sandstone rock of the Ross Desert (Antarctica). Scanning electron microscopy in backscattered electron mode (SEM–BSE) micrograph by Jacek Wierzechos, University of Lleida, and Carmen Ascaso, Environmental Sciences Center, CSIC, Madrid, Spain. (Magnification, ca. 2,800 $\times$ )

Lower right. Hülle cells and conidia of *Emericella varicolor* var. *varicolor* isolated by J. Antonio Leal from leaves of *Prunus laurocerasus*. Micrograph obtained in a Philips XL 20 scanning electron microscope, Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas, CSIC, Madrid, Spain. (Magnification, ca. 1,750 $\times$ )