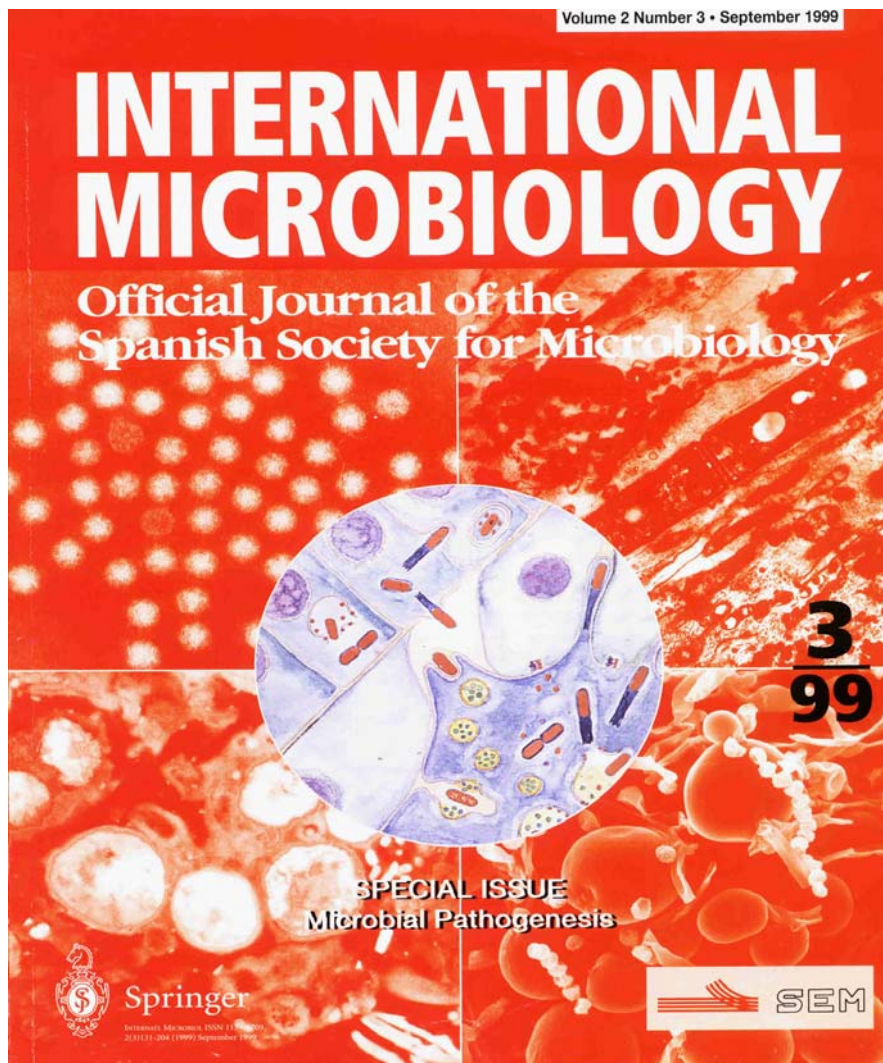


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### COVER

CENTER. The wonders of microbial pathogenesis as a source of inspiration in art. Fragment of the watercolor “*Listeria monocytogenes*: ein Modell für fakultativ intrazelluläre Bakterien”, painted in 1991 by Jürgen Kreft (Professor of Microbiology at the University of Würzburg, Germany; e-mail: kreft@biozentrum.uniwuertzburg.de). The painting represents the intracellular life cycle of the opportunistic foodborne pathogen *L. monocytogenes*. Bacteria (in red) are seen in enterocytes in the process of phagosomal escape, intracytoplasmic multiplication, and actin-based motility and direct spread to neighbouring cells (either enterocytes, leading to enteritis, or macrophages in the lamina propria, thus initiating invasive disease).

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×)

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×)

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×)

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×)