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Andreas Burkovski (Ed.)

# Corynebacterium diphtheriae and Related Toxigenic Species

Genomics, Pathogenicity and Applications

- Several *Corynebacterium glutamicum* books have been published, but little to nothing about *C. diphtheriae*
- A considerable number of research groups work on pili, surface structures, vaccines, distribution, host-pathogen-interactions, Fe metabolism, biotechnological applications (vectors systems to induce cell death, sialidase)
- Recently published genome sequences give the unique opportunity to compare *C. diphtheriae* genomes

*Corynebacterium diphtheriae* is the classical etiological agent of diphtheria and the type strain of the genus *Corynebacterium*. While diphtheria of the respiratory tract became rare with the introduction of vaccination programs in industrialized countries, even today several thousand cases per year are reported to the World Health Organization. This shows that diphtheria is not completely eradicated and that reservoirs exist. The book summarizes the latest advances made in understanding *C. diphtheriae* and the closely related species *Corynebacterium ulcerans* and *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*. Topics addressed are genomics of toxigenic corynebacteria, host-pathogen-interaction, detection, surveillance and treatment as well as application aspects.

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