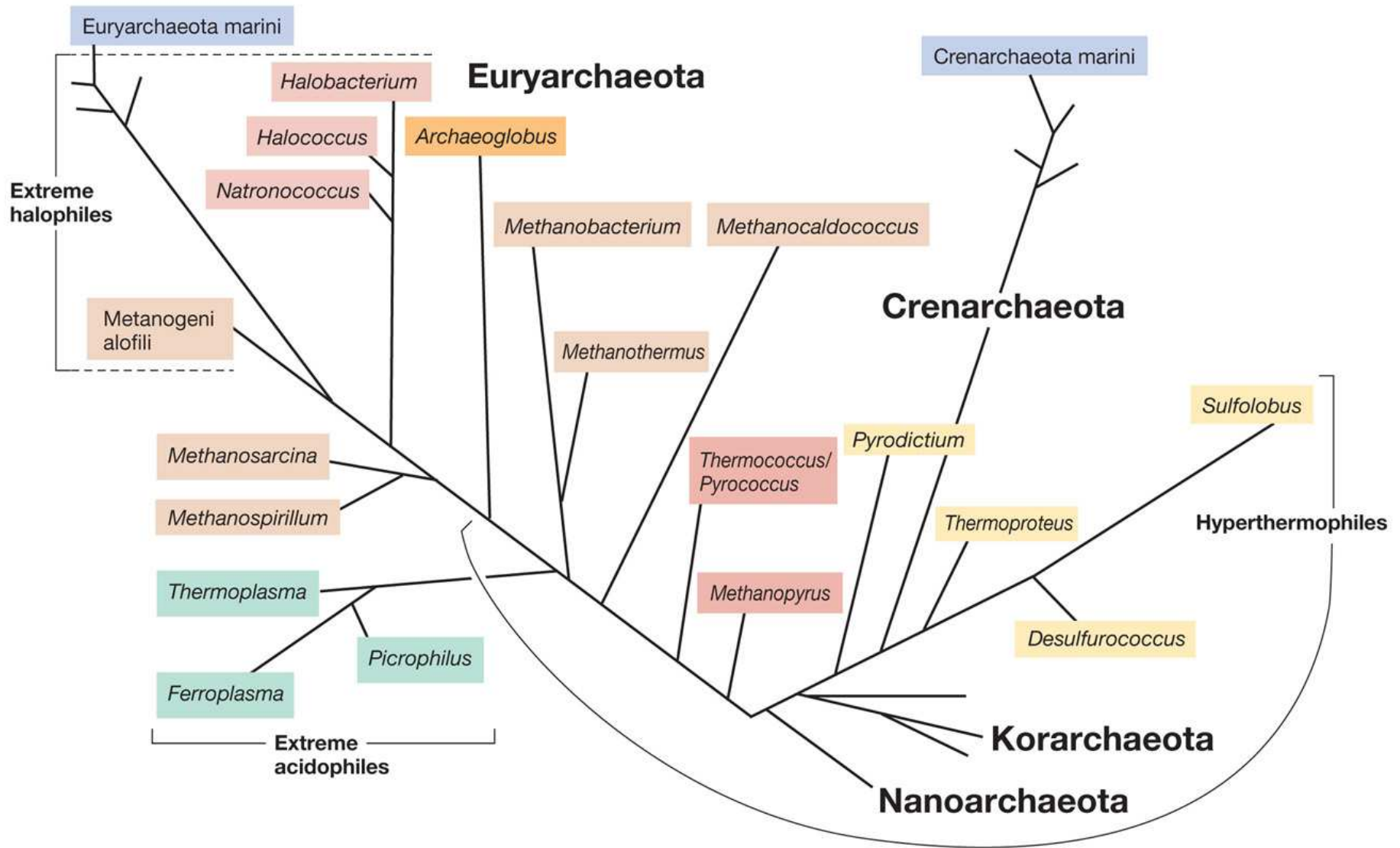


# MICROBIOLOGIA GENERALE

## The Archaea





1,600,000

100,000

200,000

300,000

500,000

600,000

700,000

1,000,000

900,000

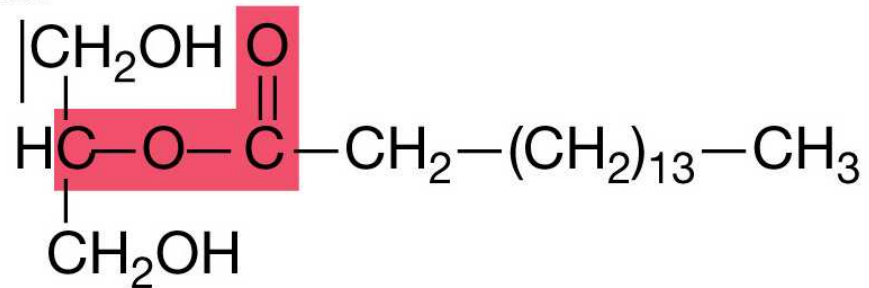
800,000

# The Archaea's traits

1. The cell wall of Archaea: pseudopeptidoglycan, polysaccharide, glycoprotein
2. The cytoplasmic membrane of Archaea: ether linkage, glycerol diethers and tetraethers
3. Transcription and translation in Archaea
4. Energy metabolism and metabolic pathways in Archaea

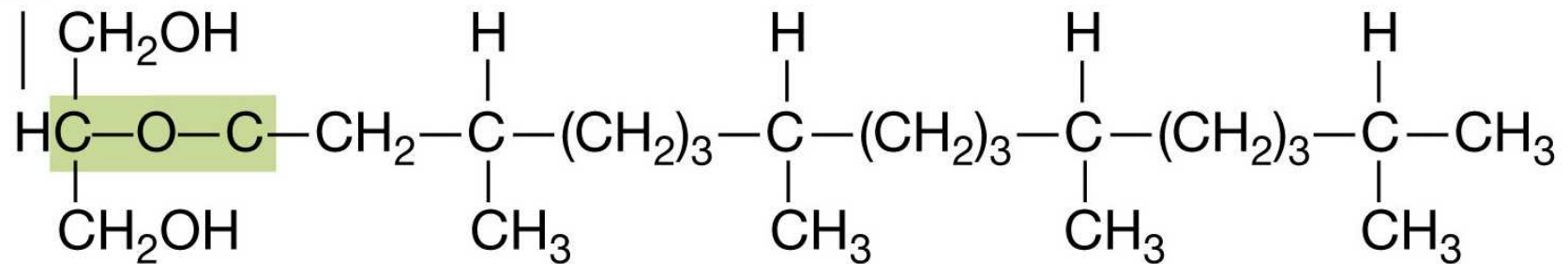
# Lipids in Bacteria, Eukarya, and Archaea

## Ester



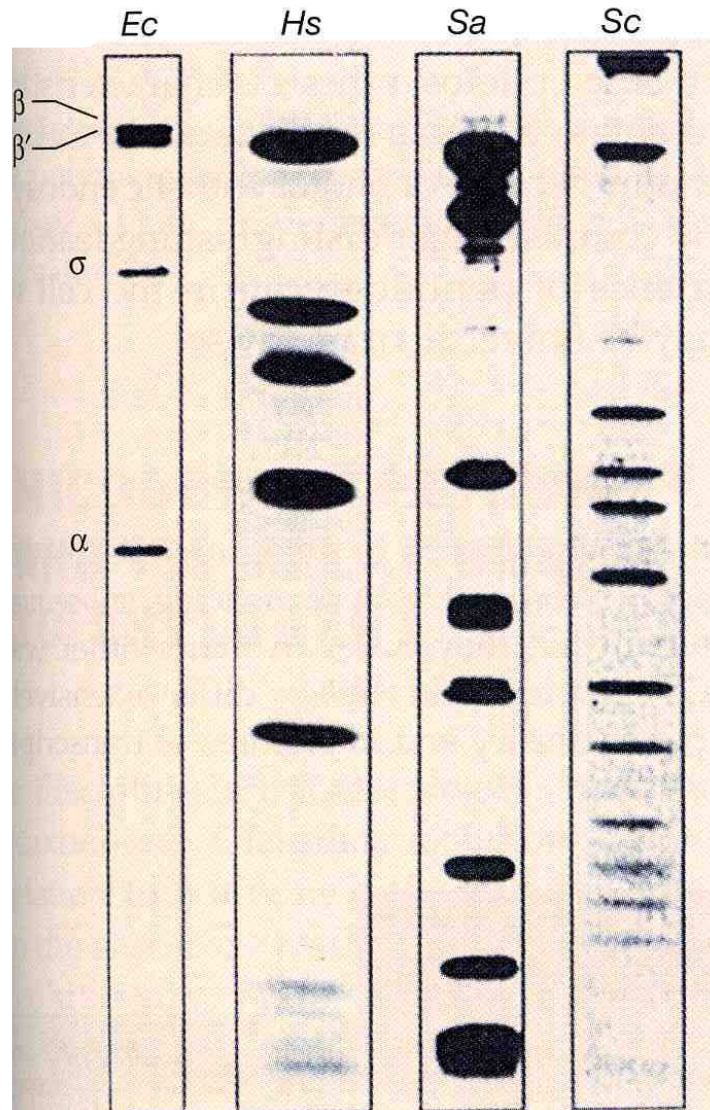
***Bacteria, Eukarya***

## Ether



***Archaea***

# RNA polymerases from Bacteria, Eukarya, and Archaea



**The Euryarchaeota:**  
**extremely halophilic Archaea**

# Ionic composition of some highly saline environments

Ion	Concentration (g/l)			
	Great Salt Lake	Dead Sea	Soda lake	Seawater
Na <sup>+</sup>	105	401	142	10.6
K <sup>+</sup>	6.7	7.7	2.3	0.38
Mg <sup>2+</sup>	11	44	<0.1	1.27
Ca <sup>2+</sup>	0.3	17.2	<0.1	0.40
Cl <sup>-</sup>	181	225	155	18.9
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	27	0.5	23	2.65
HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	0.7	0.2	67	0.14
pH	7.7	6.1	11	8.1





T. D. Brock

Hypersaline habitats for halophilic Archaea : the Great Salt Lake



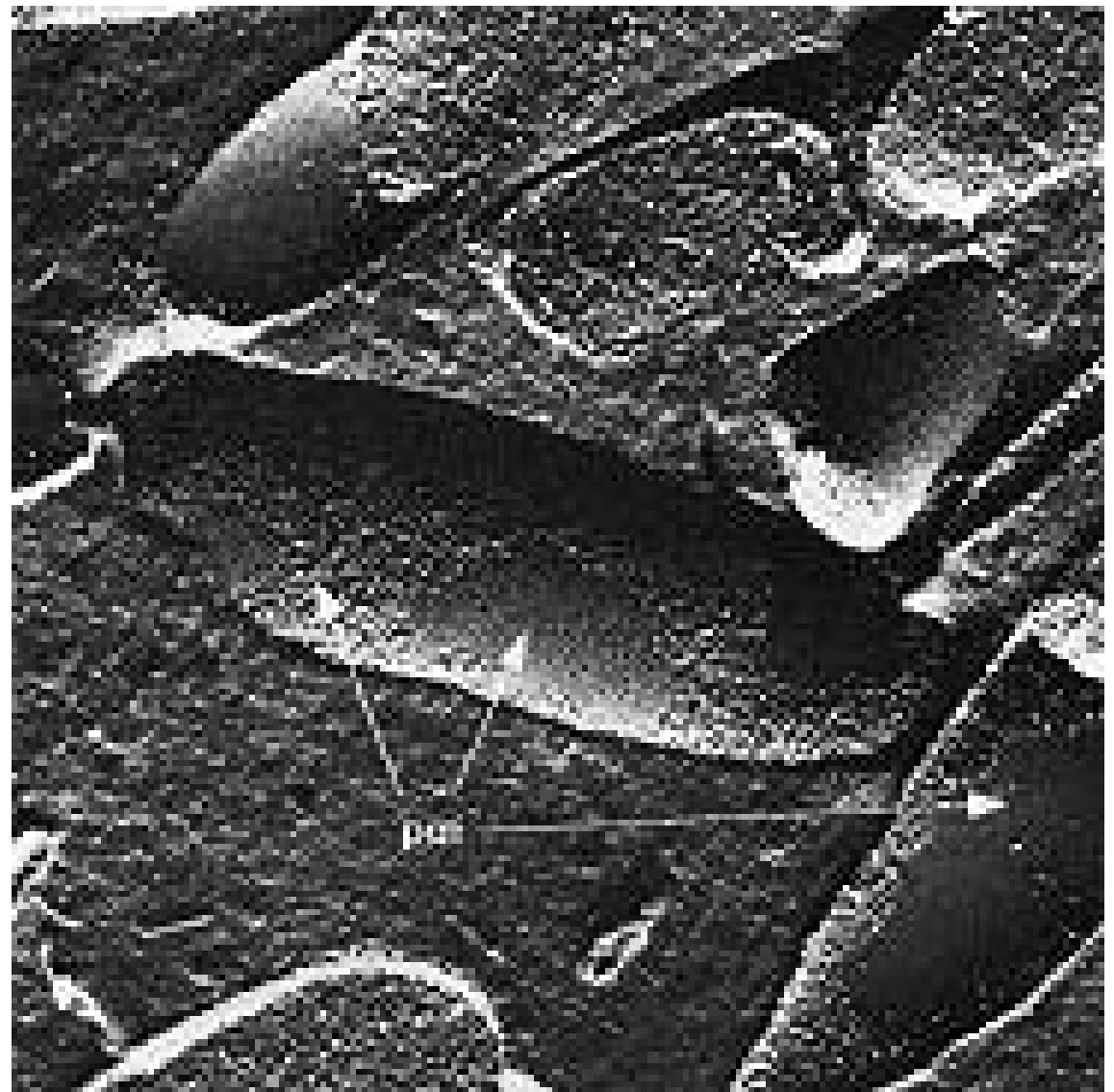
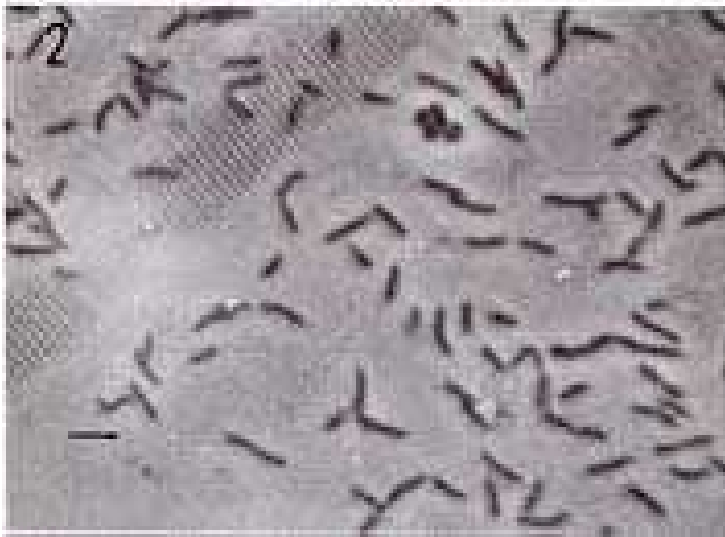
NASA

Hypersaline habitats for halophilic Archaea : the salter

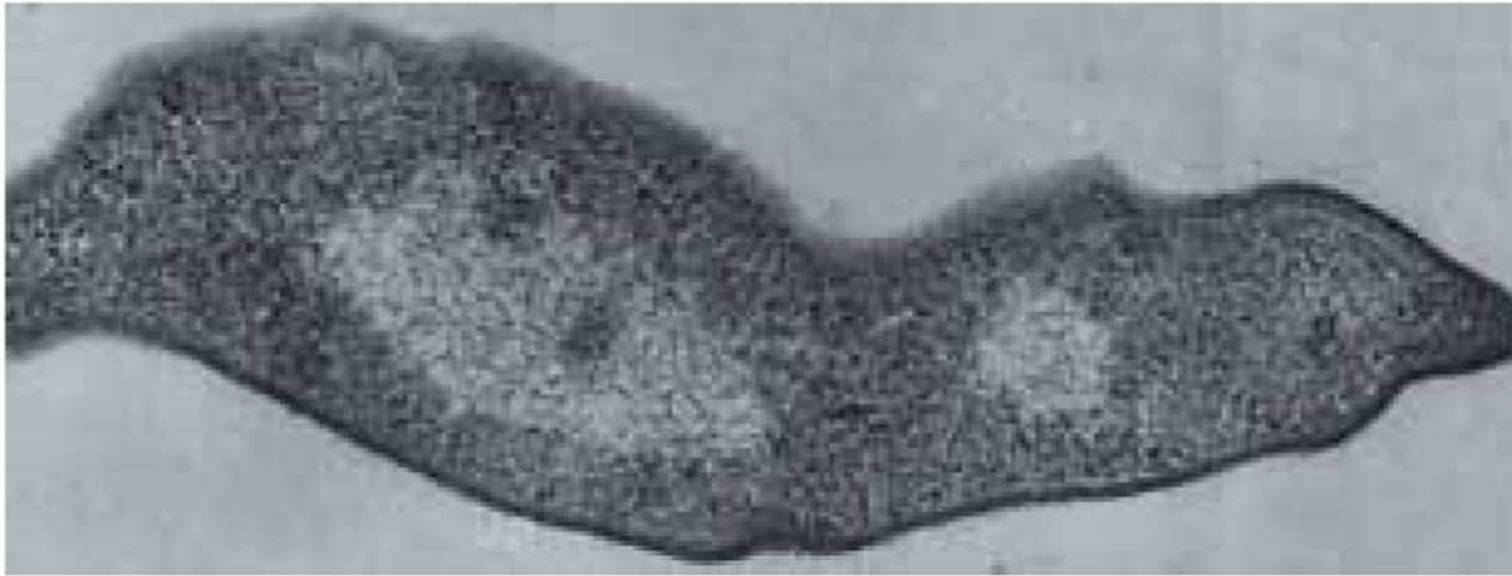


Michael T. Madigan

Hypersaline habitats for halophilic Archaea : Lake Hamara, Egypt



- *Halobacterium salinarium* is an extreme halophile that grows at 4 to 5 M NaCl.
- The freeze etched preparation shows the surface structure of the cell membrane and reveals smooth patches of "purple membrane" (bacteriorhodopsin).



Mary Reedy

(a)



Mary Reedy

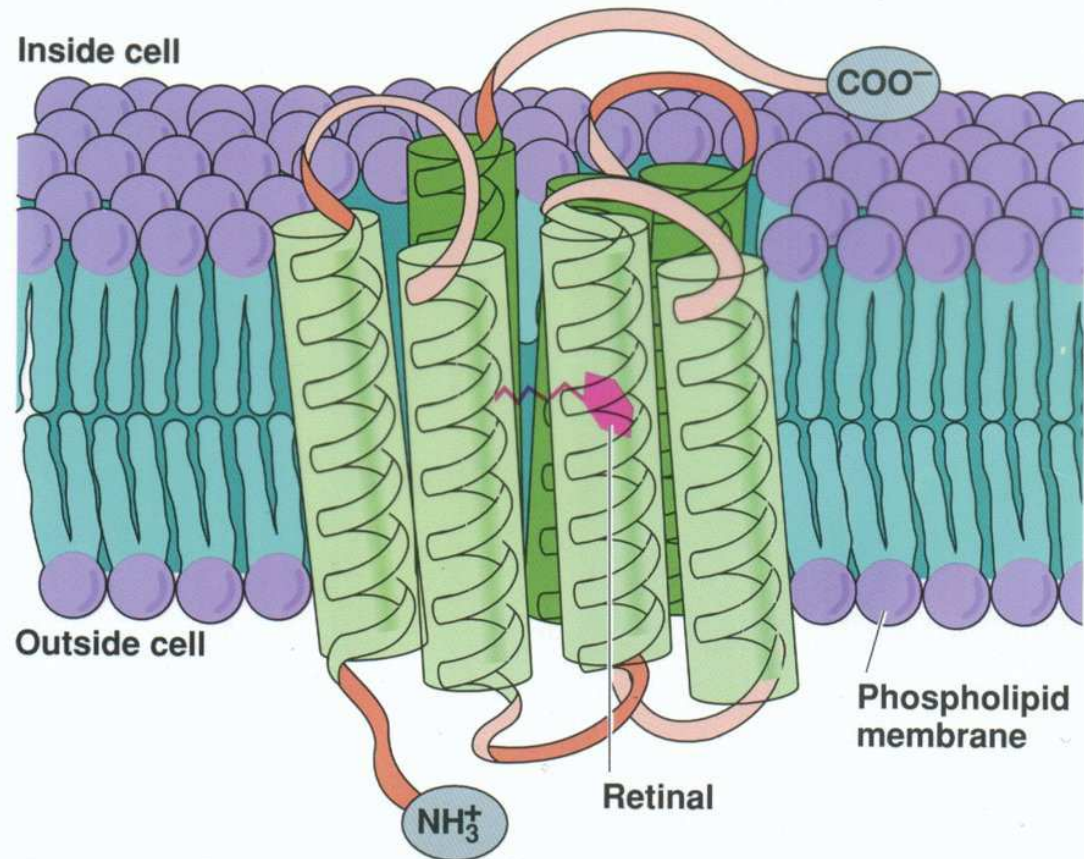
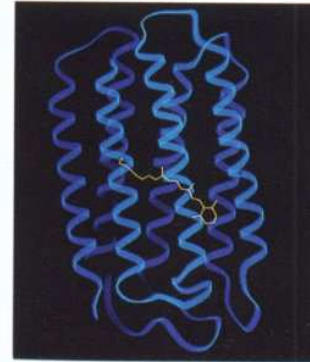
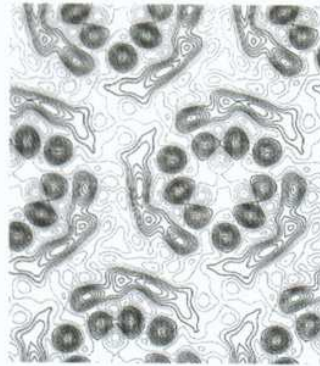
(b)

*Halobacterium salinarum*

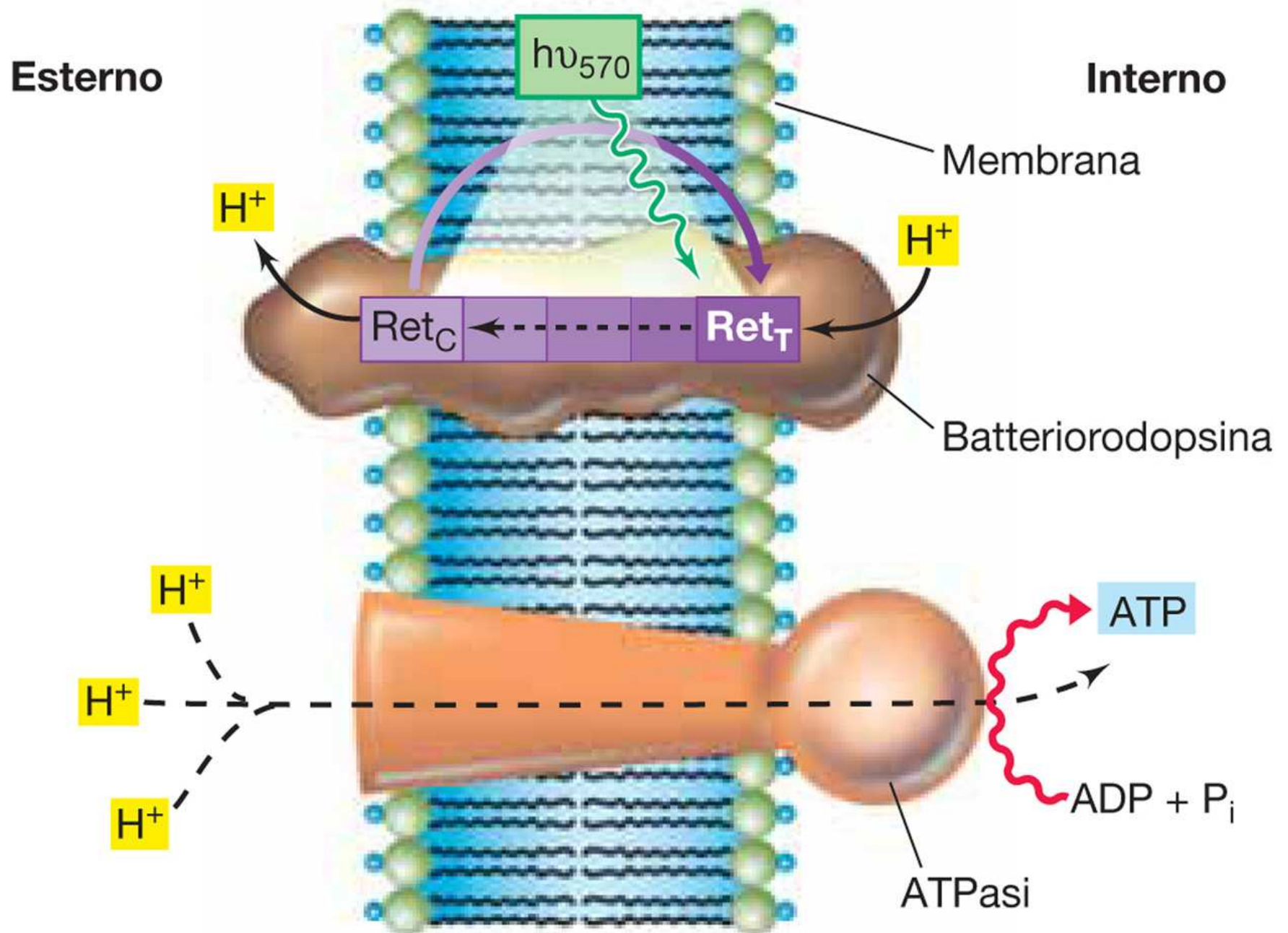
# Concentration of ions in cells of *Halobacterium salinarum*

<b>Ion</b>	<b>Concentration in medium (M)</b>	<b>Concentration in cells (M)</b>
<b>Na<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>K<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<b>Mg<sup>2+</sup></b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>0.12</b>
<b>Cl<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>

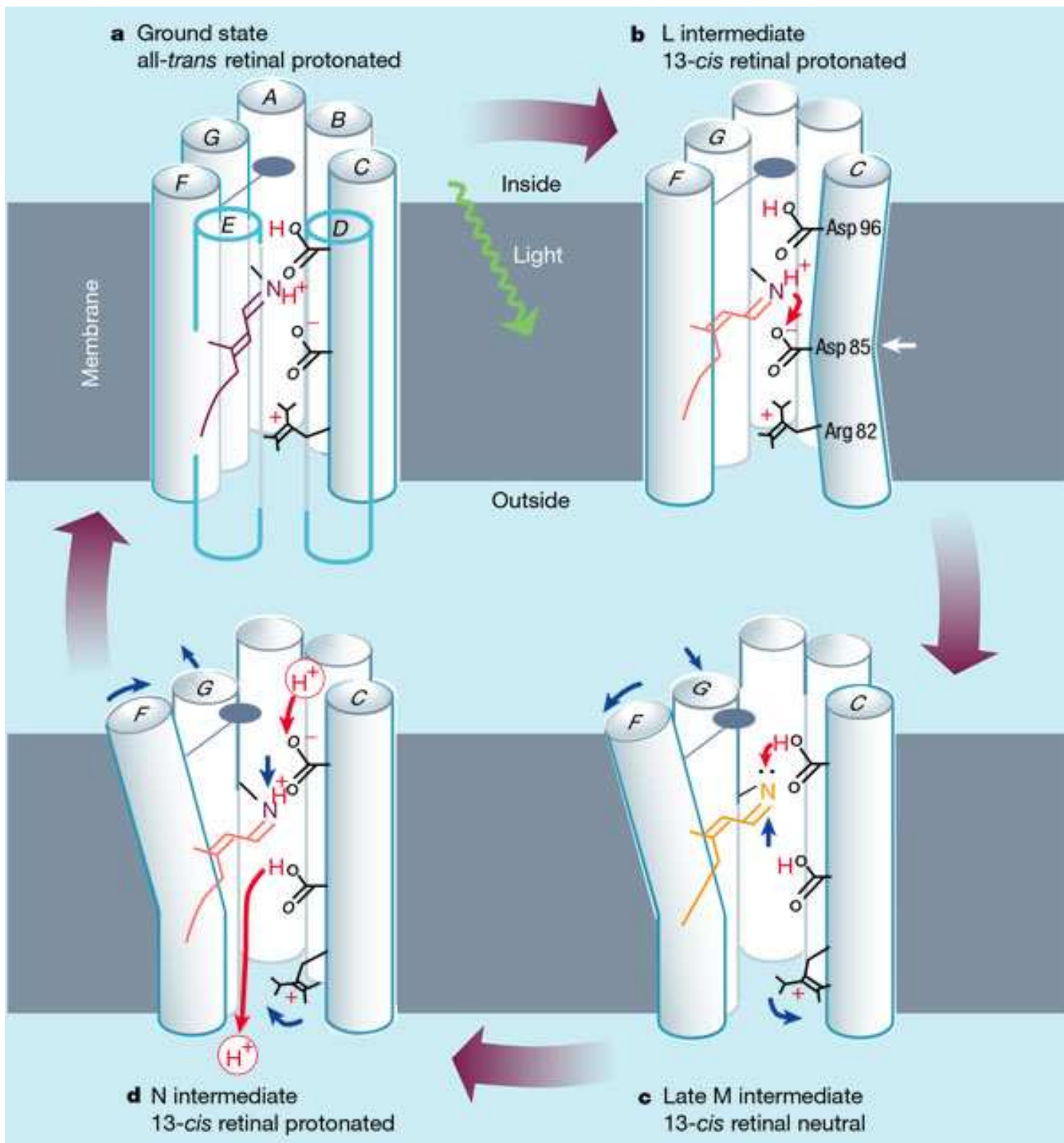
# Bacteriorhodopsin



# Mechanism of bacteriorhodopsin activity







# The Euryarchaeota: **methanogens**

# Habitats of Methanogens

1. Anoxic sediments: bogs, marshes, rice fields

2. Animal digestive tracts: rumen of ruminants, cecum of cecal animals (horse, rabbits), large intestine of monogastric animals (humans), hindgut of cellolytic insects (termites)

3. Geothermal sources of  $H_2 + CO_2$ : hydrothermal vents

4. Artificial biodegradation facilities: sewage sludge digestors

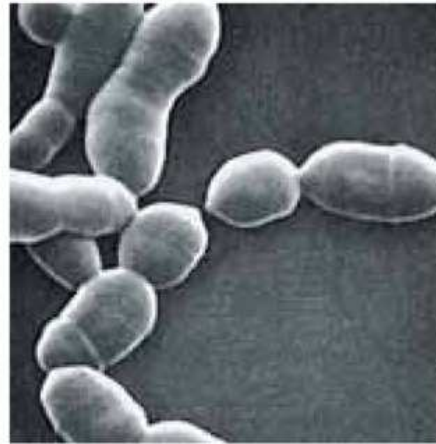
5. Endosymbionts of various anaerobic protozoa

# Methanogens



Alexander Zehnder

(a)



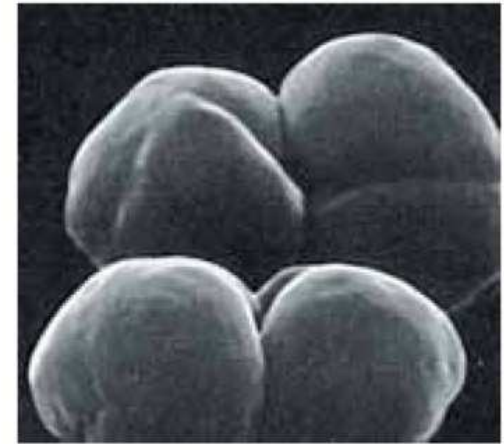
Alexander Zehnder

(b)



Alexander Zehnder

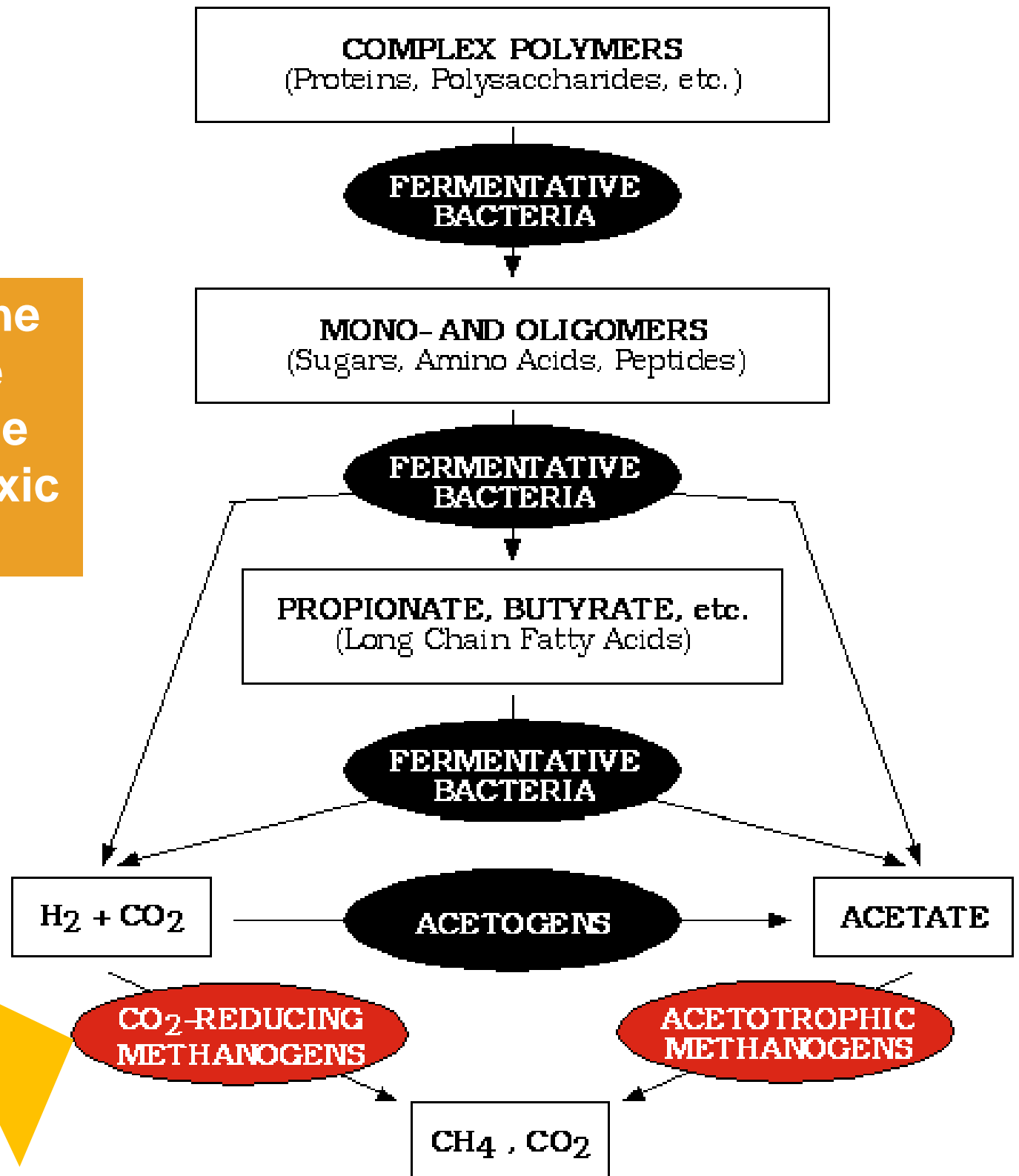
(c)

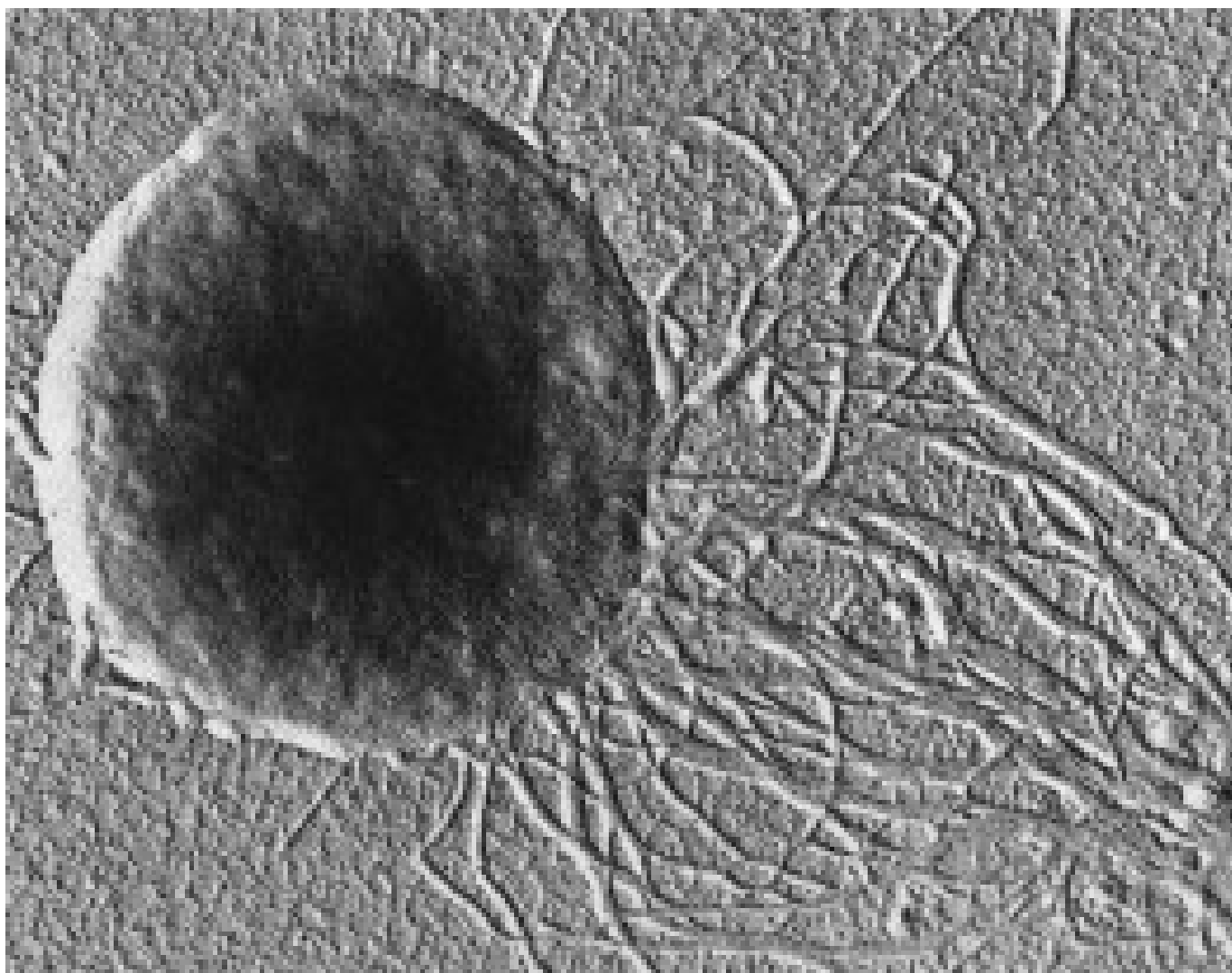


Alexander Zehnder

(d)

**Methanogenesis is the terminal step in the biodegradation of the organic matter in anoxic habitats**





- *Methanococcus jannischii* was originally isolated from a "white smoker" chimney at an oceanic depth of 2,600 meters on the East Pacific Rise.
- It can be grown in a mineral medium containing only H<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> as sources of energy and carbon for growth

# Substrates converted to methane by various methanogenic Archaea

## 1. CO<sub>2</sub>-type substrates

CO<sub>2</sub> (with electrons derived from H<sub>2</sub>, alcohols or pyruvate)

Formate, HCOO<sup>-</sup>

Carbon monoxide, CO

## 2. Methyl-substrates

Methanol, CH<sub>3</sub>OH

Methylamine, CH<sub>3</sub>NH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>

Dimethylamine, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>

Methylmercaptan, CH<sub>3</sub>SH

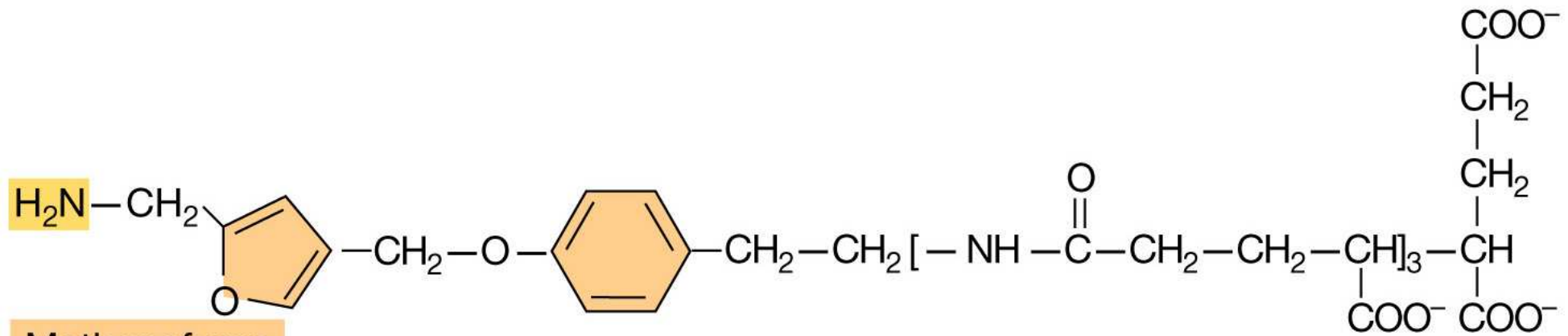
Dimethylsulfide, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>S

## 3. Acetotrophic substrates

Acetate, CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup>

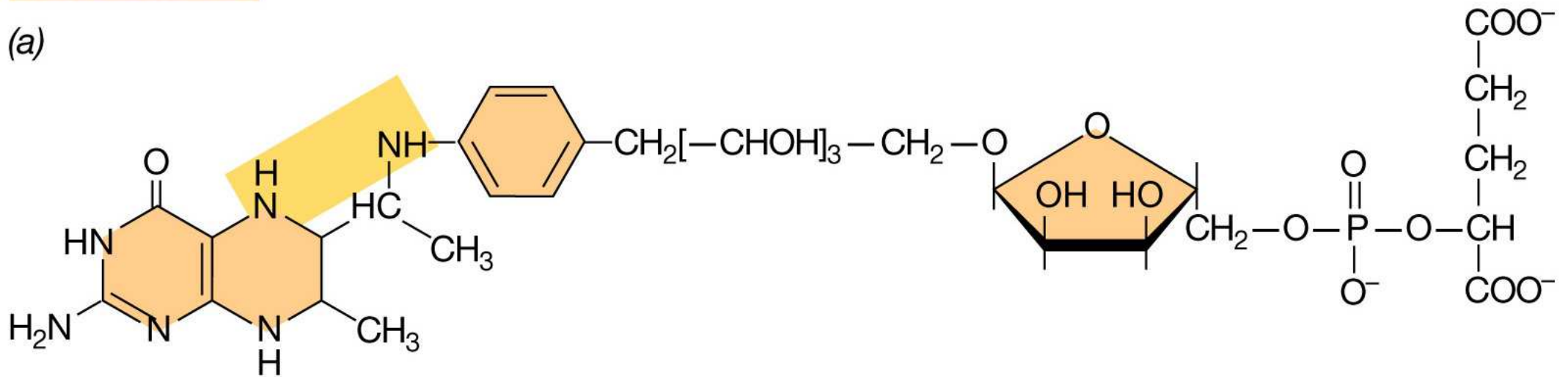
Pyruvate, CH<sub>3</sub>COCOO<sup>-</sup>

# Coenzymes of methanogenic Archaea: C1 carriers in methanogenesis



Methanofuran

(a)

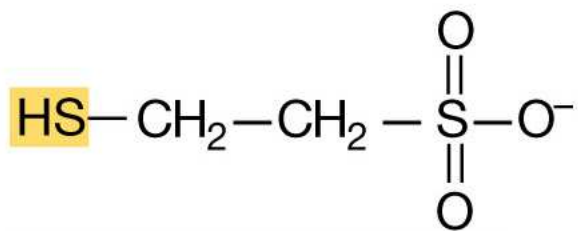


Methanopterin

(b)

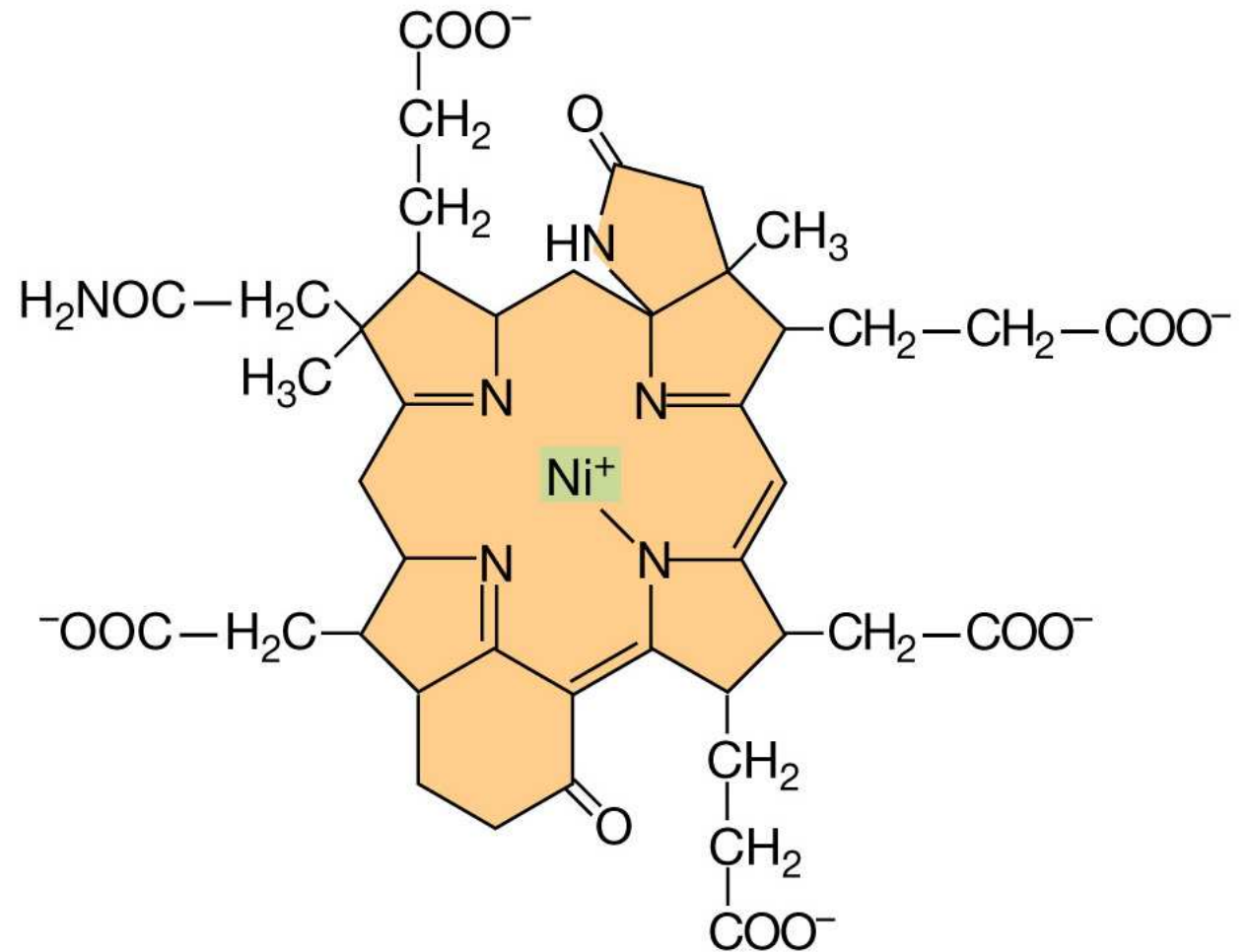


# Coenzymes of methanogenic Archaea: C1 carriers in methanogenesis



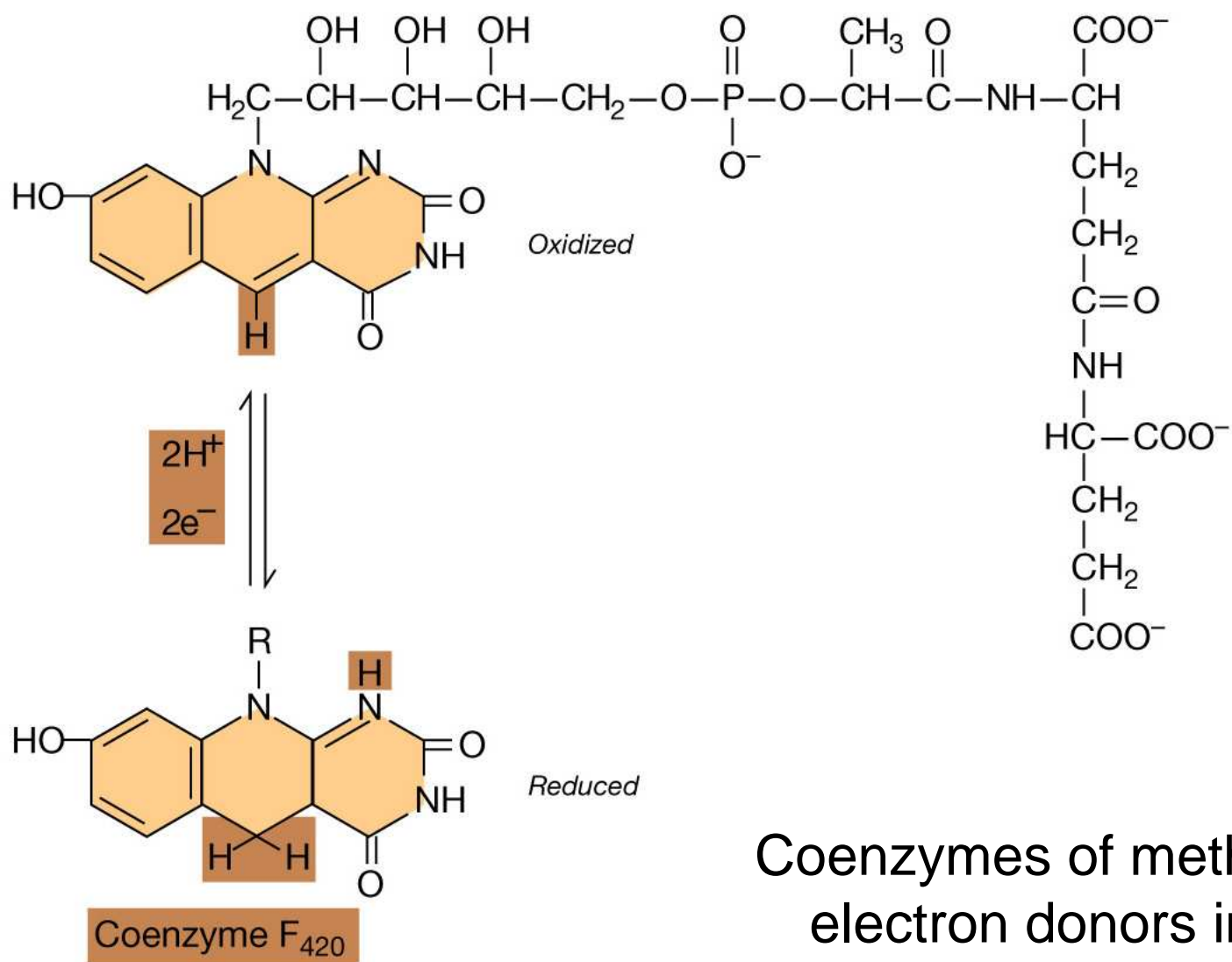
Coenzyme M (CoM)

(c)



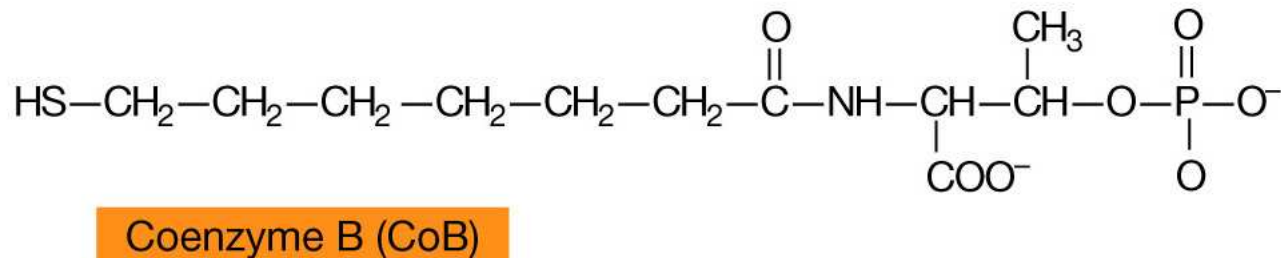
Coenzyme F<sub>430</sub>

(d)

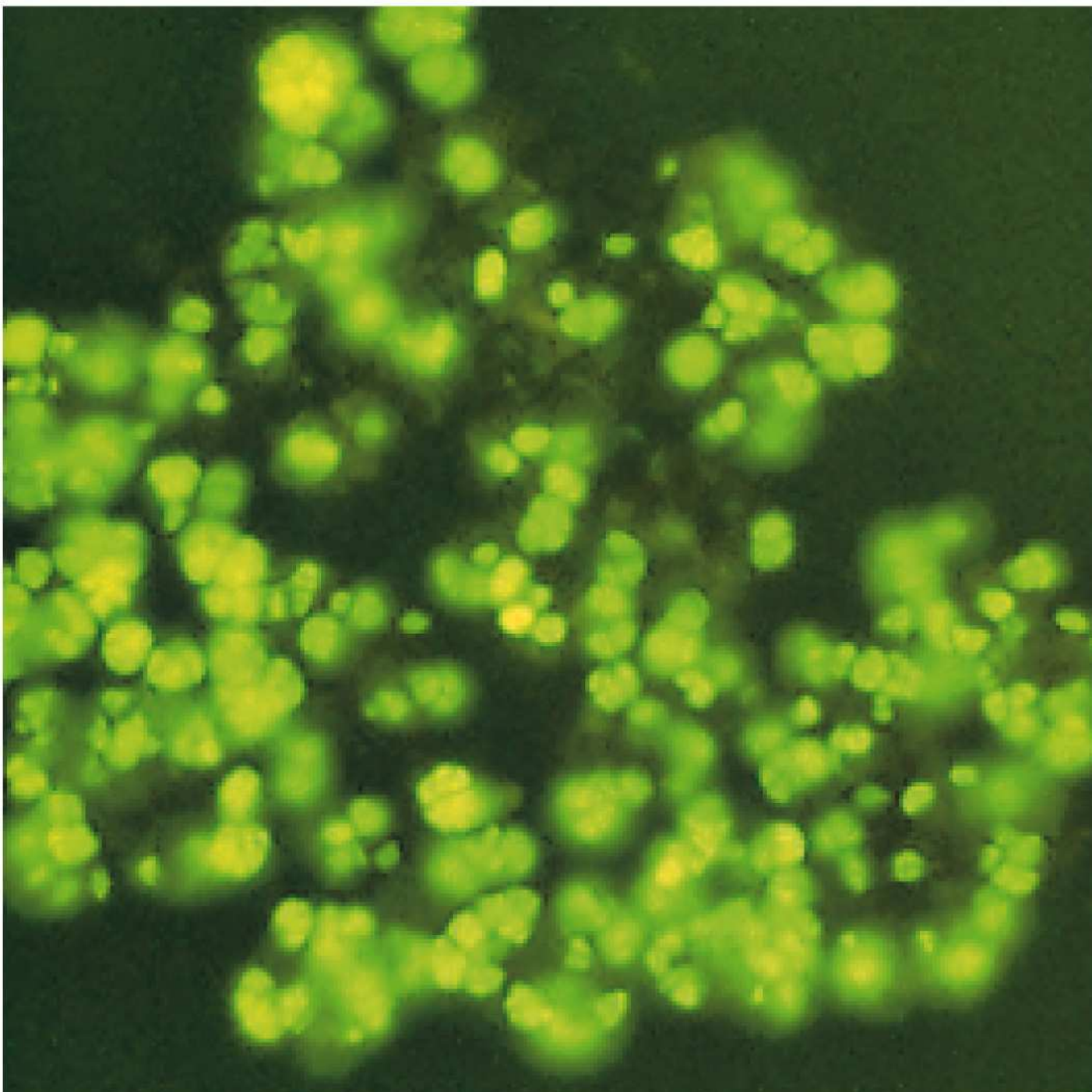


Coenzymes of methanogenic Archaea:  
electron donors in methanogenesis

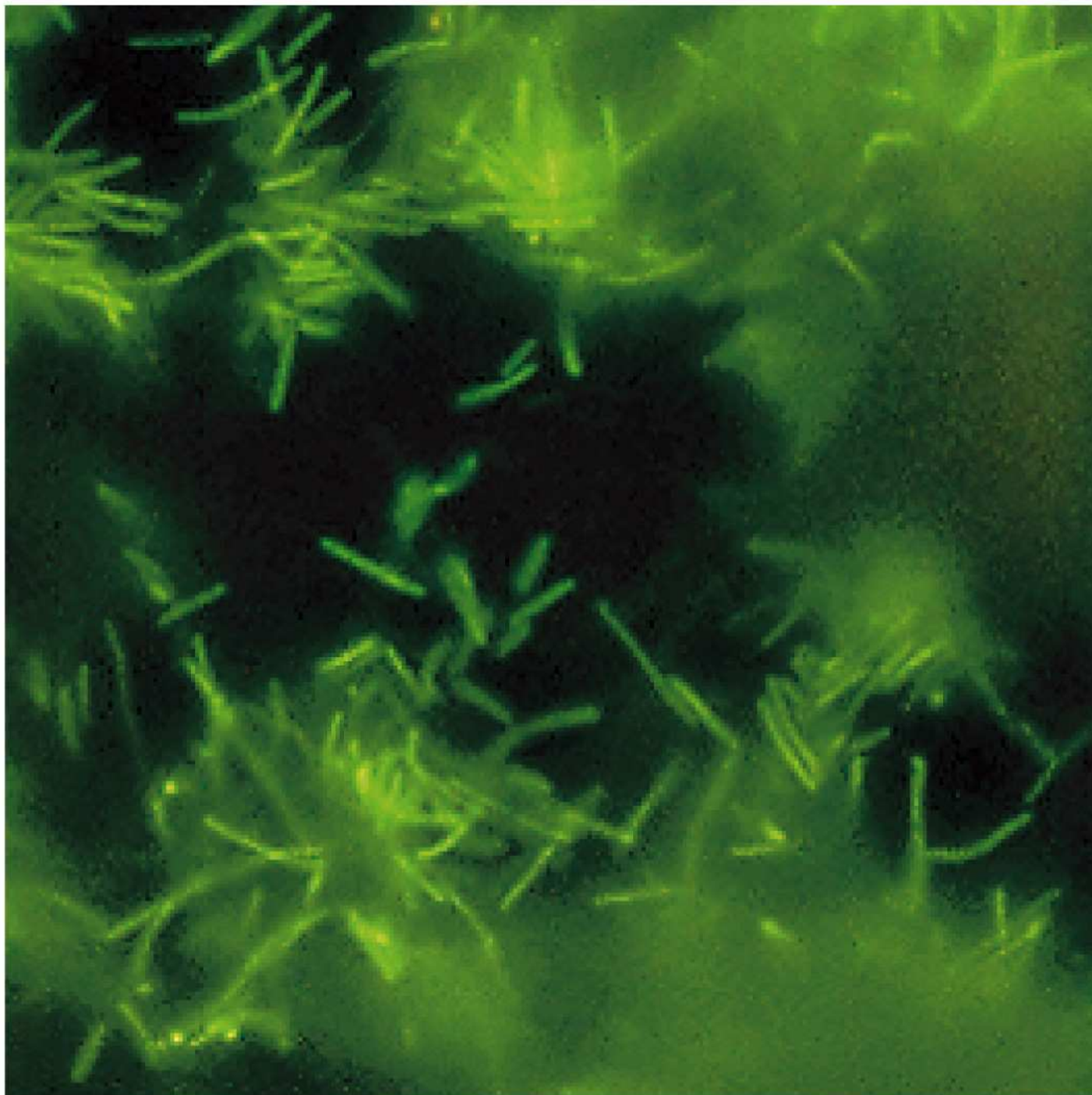
(e)



(f)



Autofluorescence in cells of the methanogen *Methanosarcina barkeri* due to the presence of the unique electron carrier F<sub>420</sub>

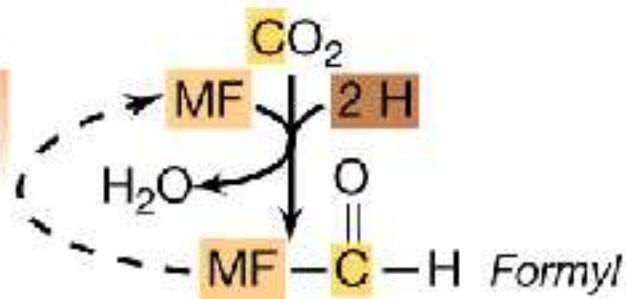


F<sub>420</sub> fluorescence in cells of the methanogen  
*Methanobacterium formicum*

# Pathway of methanogenesis from CO<sub>2</sub>

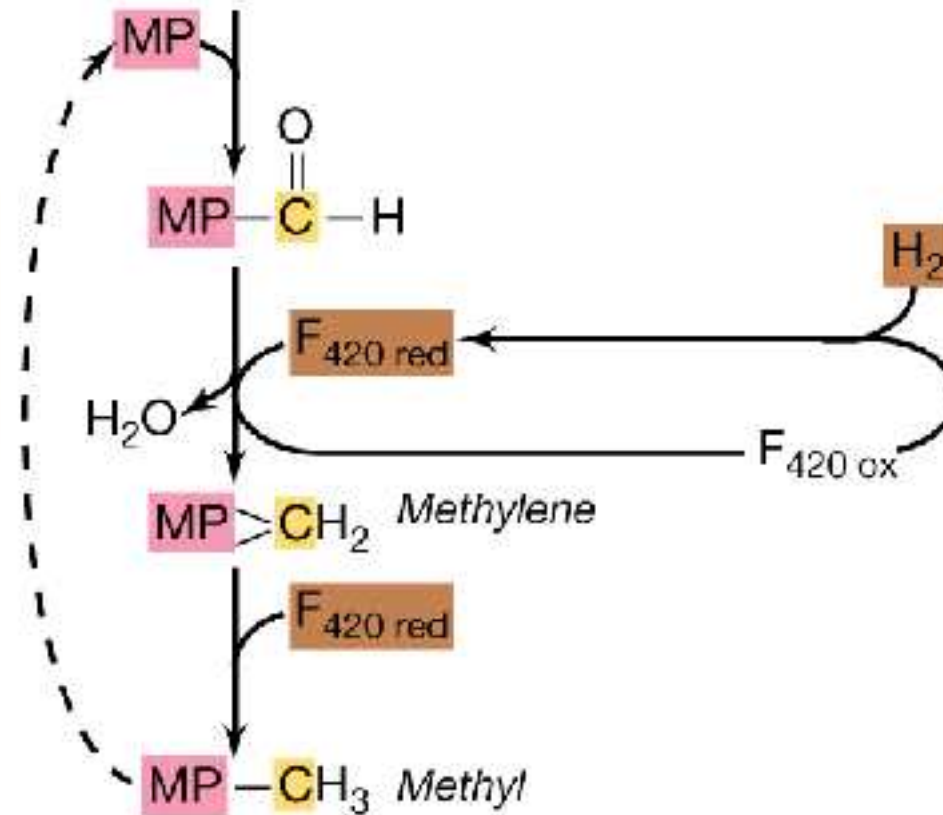
1

Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to formyl

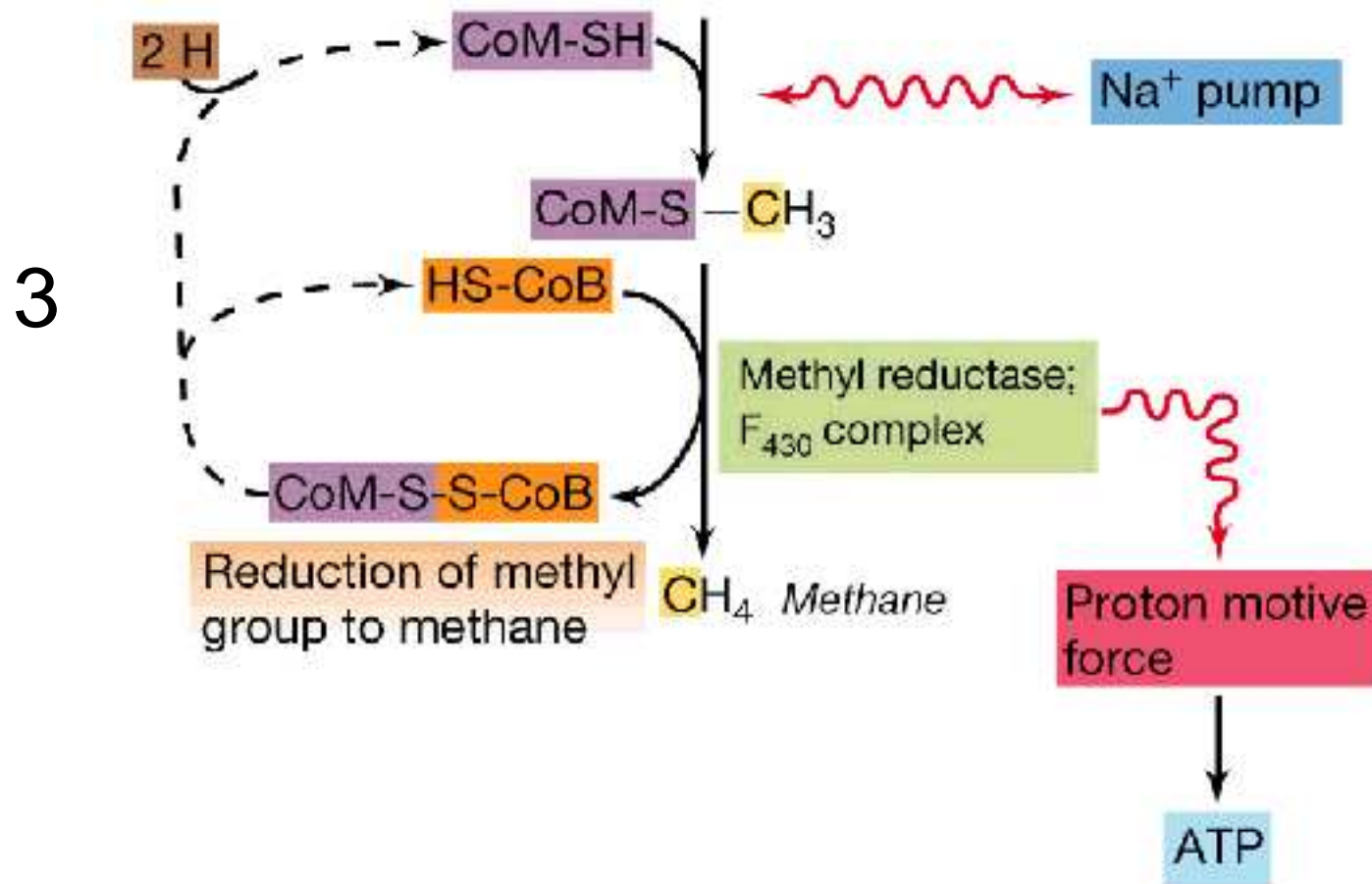


2

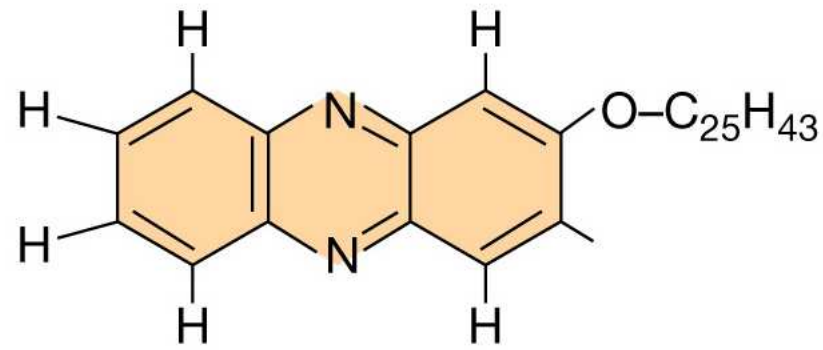
Reduction of formyl to methylene and then methyl



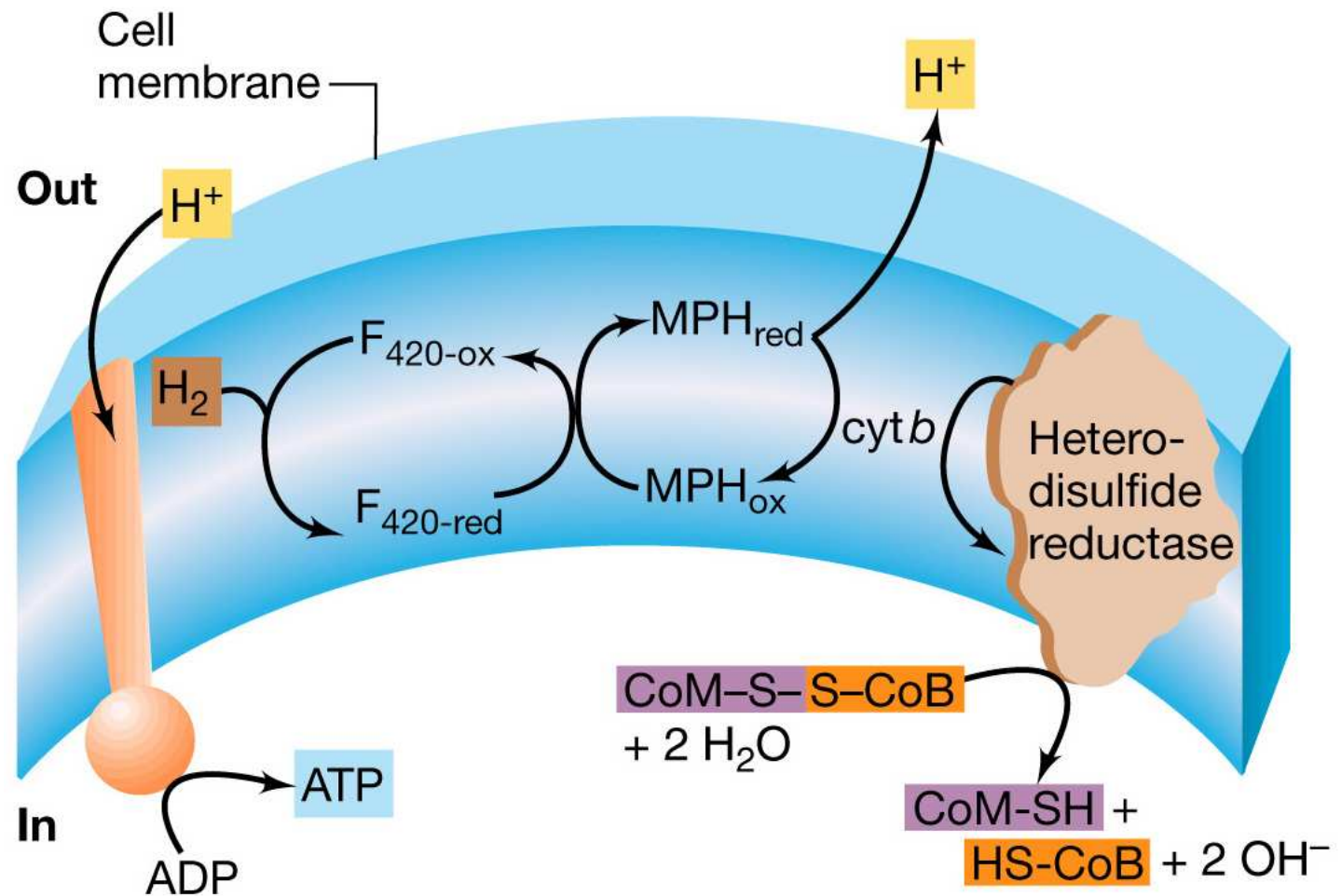
# Pathway of methanogenesis from CO<sub>2</sub>



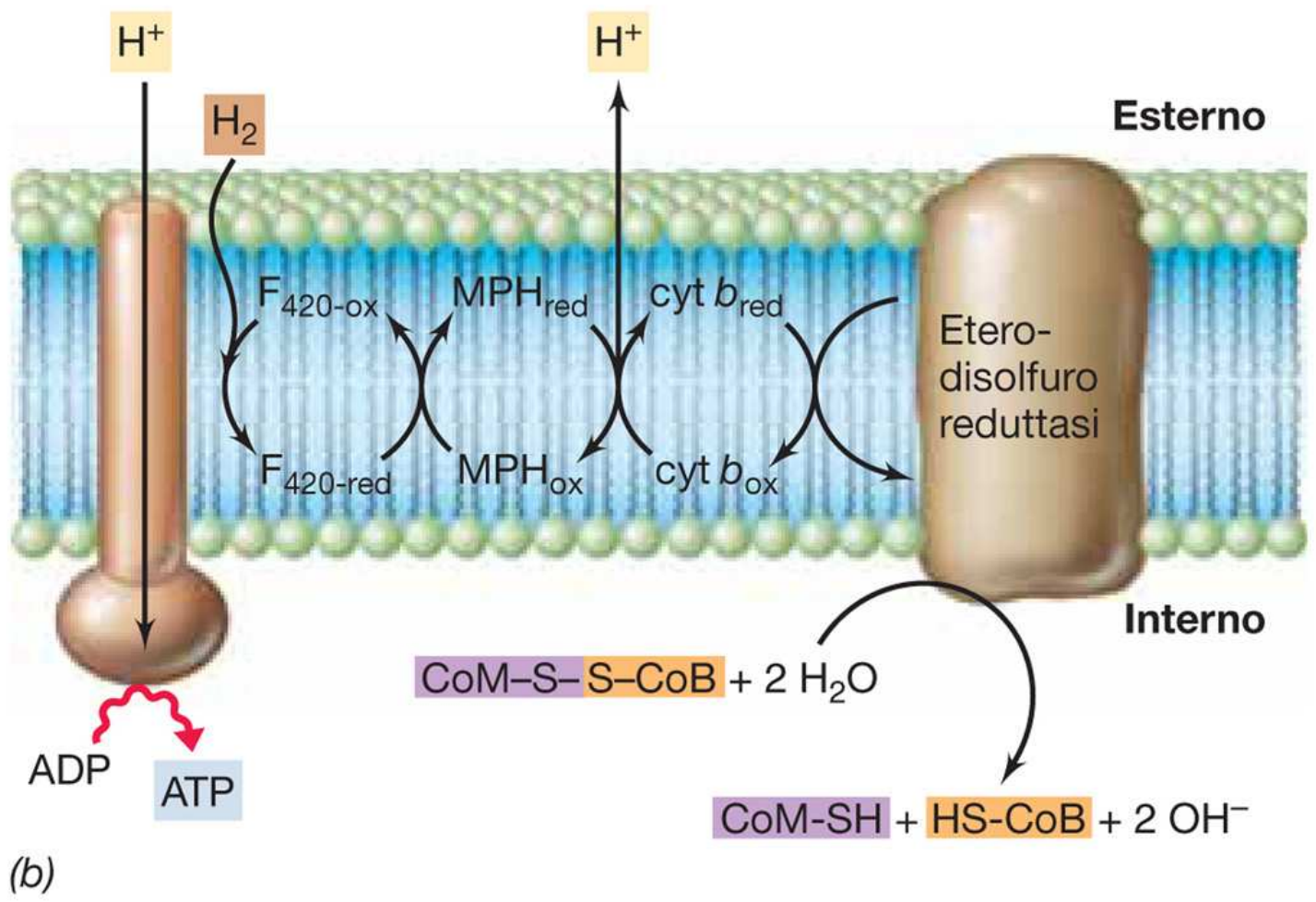
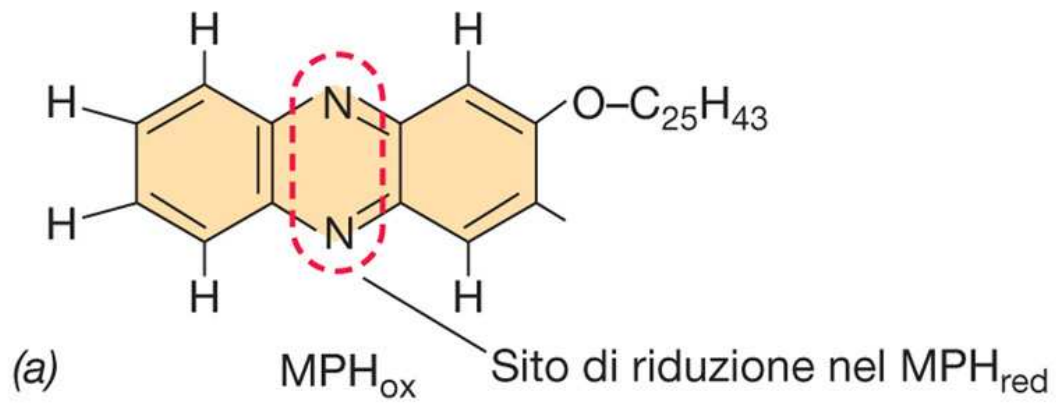
# Energy conservation in methanogenesis



(a)

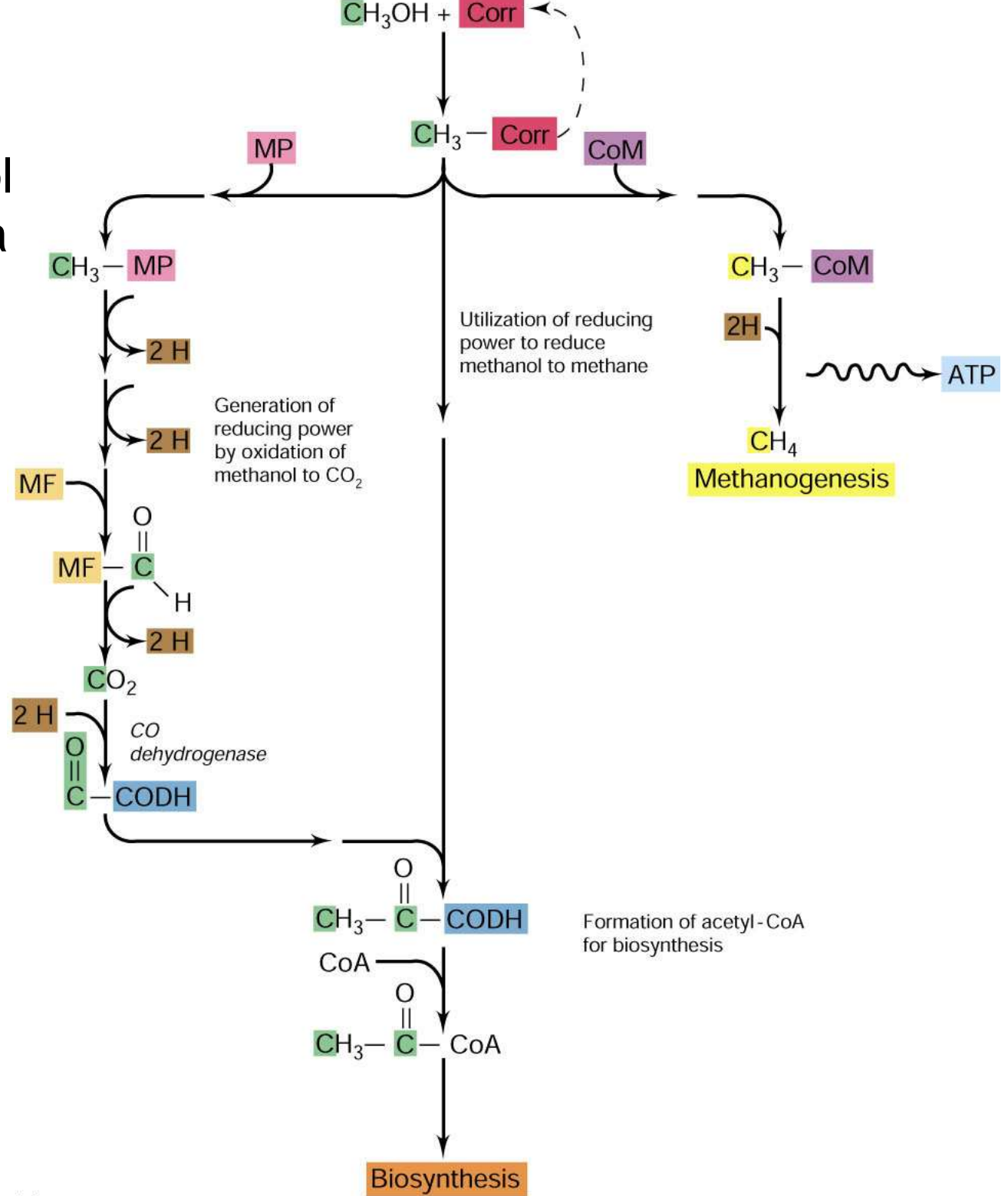


(b)



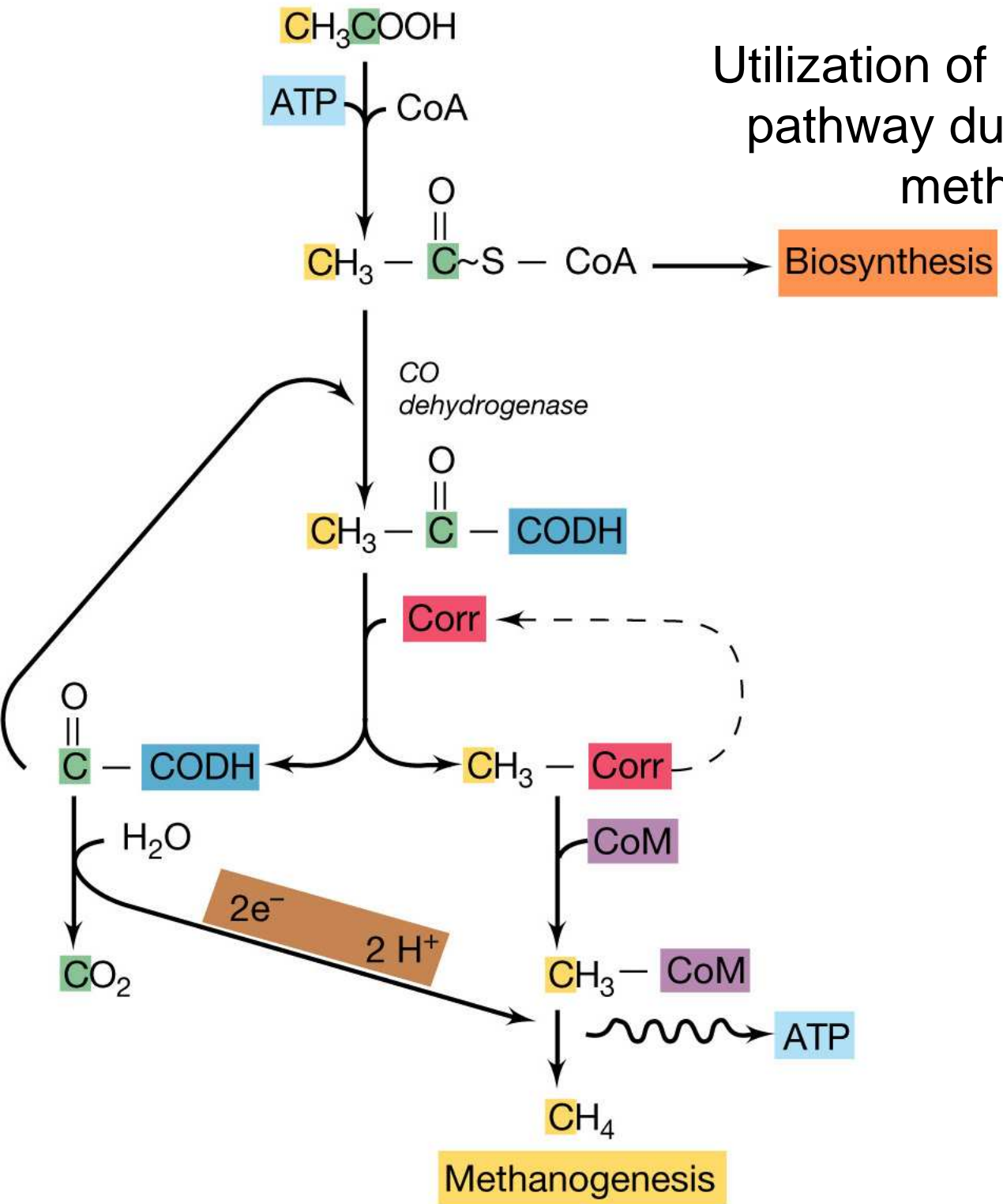


# Utilization of reactions of the acetyl-CoA pathway during growth on methanol by methanogenic Archaea

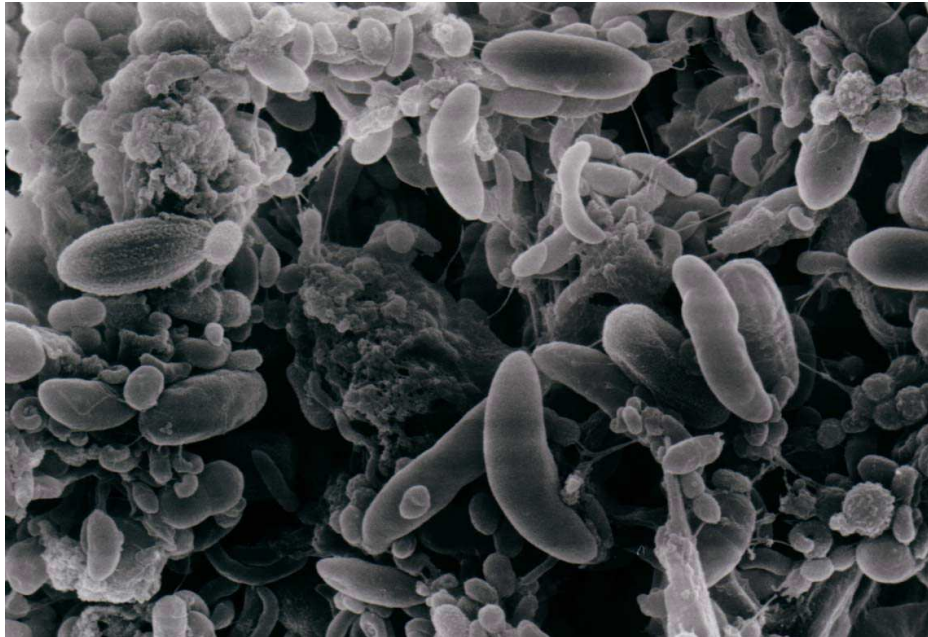
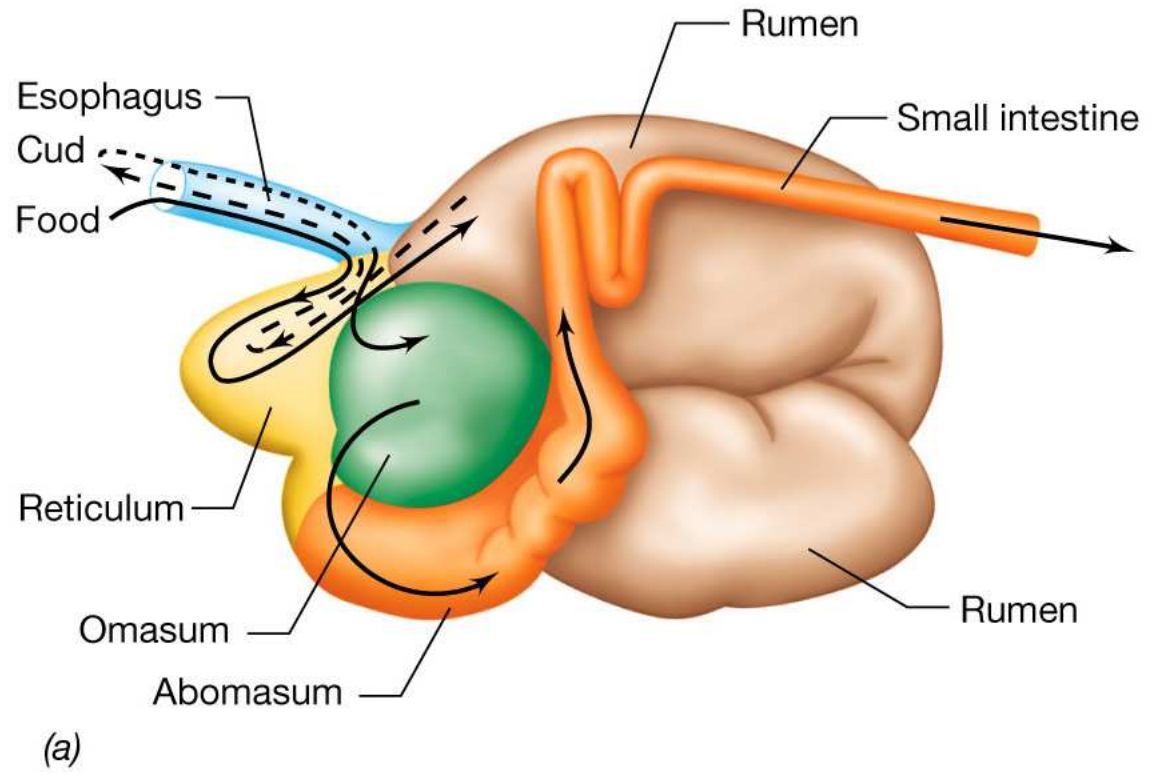


(a) Methanol reactions

# Utilization of reactions of the acetyl-CoA pathway during growth on acetate by methanogenic Archaea

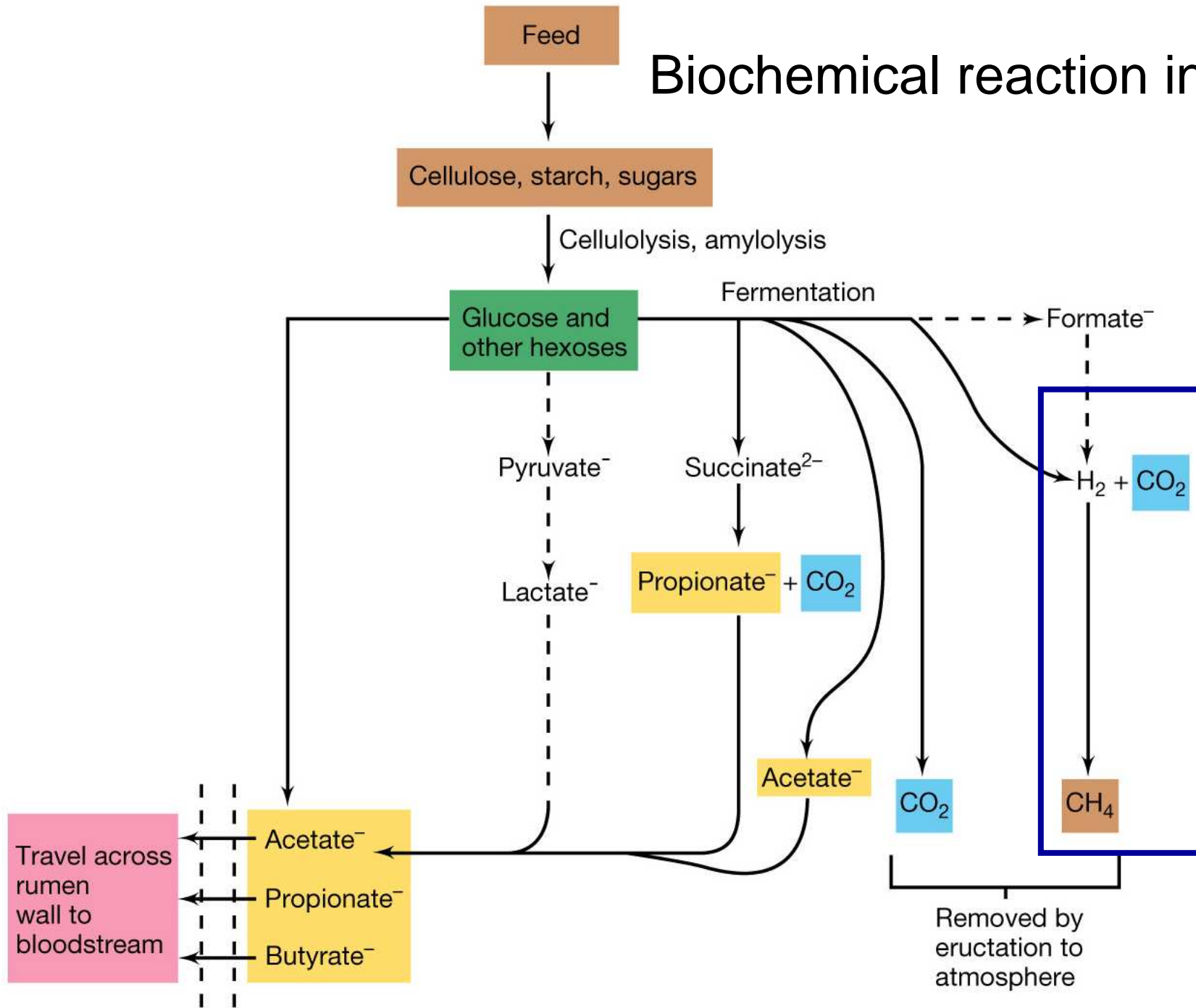


(b) Acetate reactions



(b)

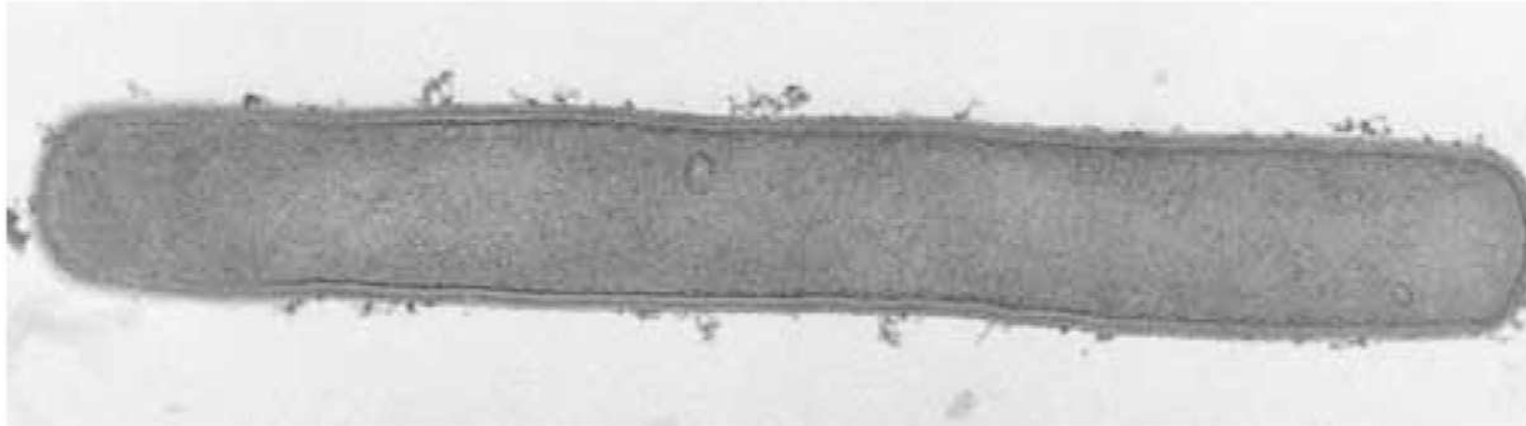
# Biochemical reaction in the rumen



## Overall stoichiometry of rumen fermentation:

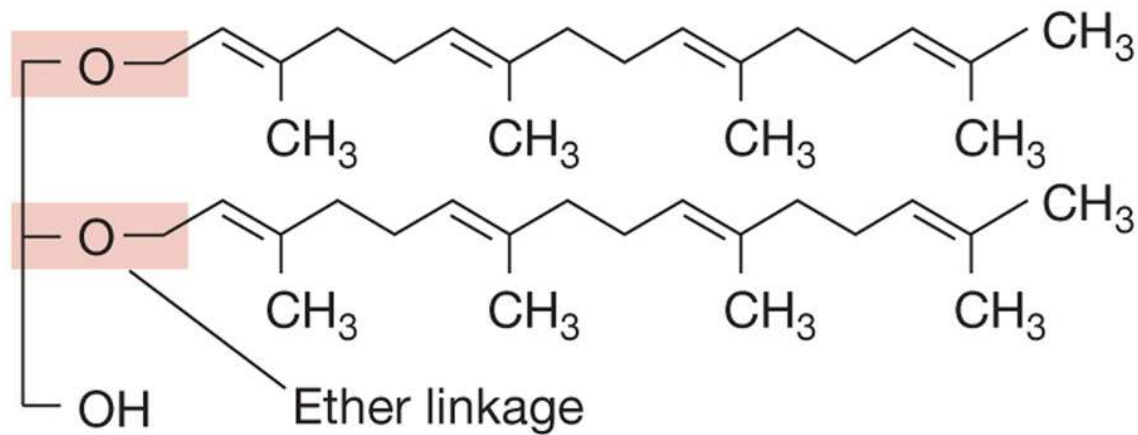


Methanopyrus grows optimally at 100°C and can make CH<sub>4</sub> only from CO<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>. Here is shown the structure of the lipid of M. kandleri.



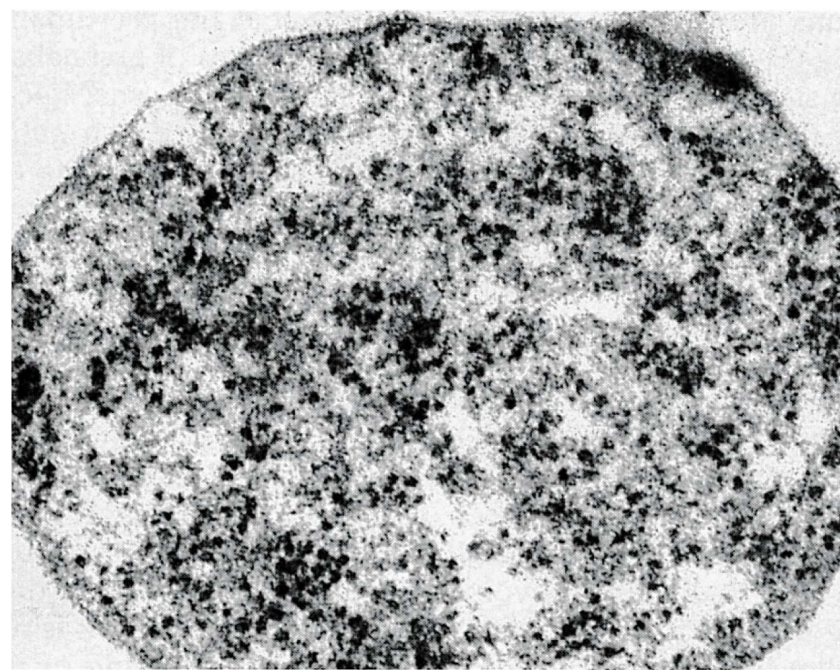
R. Rachel and K. O. Stetter

(a)



(b)

**The Euryarchaeota:**  
**Thermoplasma**



T. D. Brock

(a)



and K. O. Stetter

*Thermoplasma acidophilum*, an acidophilic, thermophilic  
**mycoplasma-like** archaeon

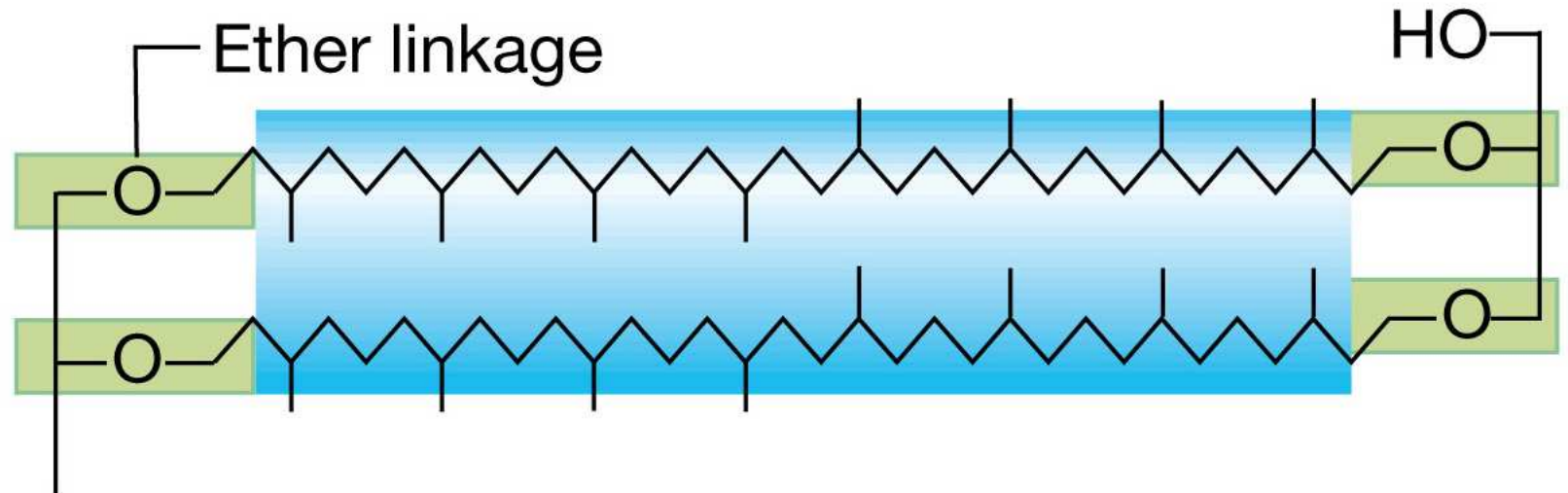


T. D. Brock

A typical self-heating coal refuse pile, habitat of *Thermoplasma*



# Structure of the tetraether lipoglycan of *Thermoplasma acidophilum*



$[R]_8 \text{ Glu } (\alpha 1 \rightarrow 1) - \text{O}$

$R = \text{Man } (\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2) \text{ Man } (\alpha 1 \rightarrow 4) \text{ Man } (\alpha 1 \rightarrow 3)$

**The Crenarcaeota:**  
**hyperthermophilic Archaea**



Habitats of hyperthermophilic Archaea: A typical solfatara in Yellowstone National Park



Habitats of hyperthermophilic Archaea: A typical boiling spring of neutral pH in Yellowstone Park; Imperial Geyser



- Habitats of hyperthermophilic Archaea: Sulfur-rich hot spring, a habitat containing dense populations of *Sulfolobus*.
- The acidity in solfataras and sulfur springs comes from the oxidation of  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{SO}$  to  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  by *Sulfolobus* and related prokaryotes



Habitats of hyperthermophilic Archaea: An acidic iron-rich geothermal spring, another *Sulfolobus* habitat

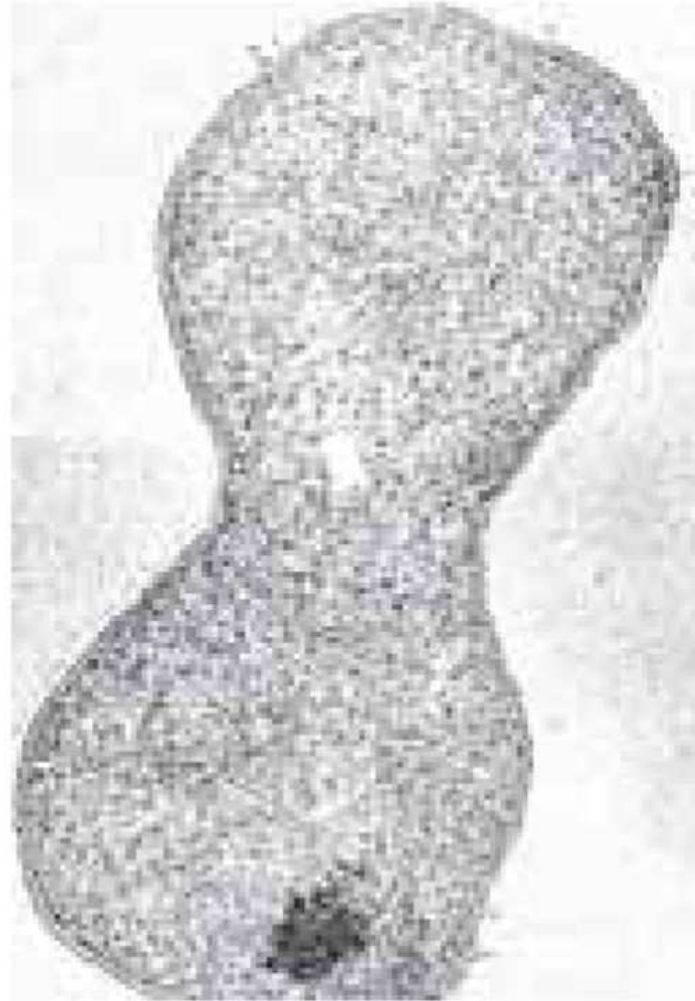
# Energy yielding reactions of hyperthermophilic Archaea

Nutritional class	Energy-yielding reaction	Metabolic type	Example
Chemoorganotrophic	Organic+ S <sup>0</sup> = H <sub>2</sub> S+CO <sub>2</sub>	AnRespir	<i>Thermoproteus</i>
	Organic+SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> = H <sub>2</sub> S+CO <sub>2</sub>	AnRespir	<i>Archaeoglobus</i>
	Organic+O <sub>2</sub> = H <sub>2</sub> O+CO <sub>2</sub>	AeRespir	<i>Sulfolobus</i>
	Pyruvate= CO <sub>2</sub> +H <sub>2</sub> +FA	Ferment	<i>Pyrococcus</i>
Chemolithotrophic	H <sub>2</sub> +S <sup>0</sup> = H <sub>2</sub> S	AnRespir	<i>Pyrodictium</i>
	H <sub>2</sub> +2Fe <sup>3+</sup> = 2Fe <sup>2+</sup> +2H <sup>+</sup>	AnRespir	<i>Pyrodictium</i>
	2H <sub>2</sub> +O <sub>2</sub> = 2H <sub>2</sub> O	AeRespir	<i>Sulfolobus</i>
	2S <sup>0</sup> +3O <sub>2</sub> +2H <sub>2</sub> O= 2H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	AeRespir	<i>Sulfolobus</i>



H. König and K. O. Stetter

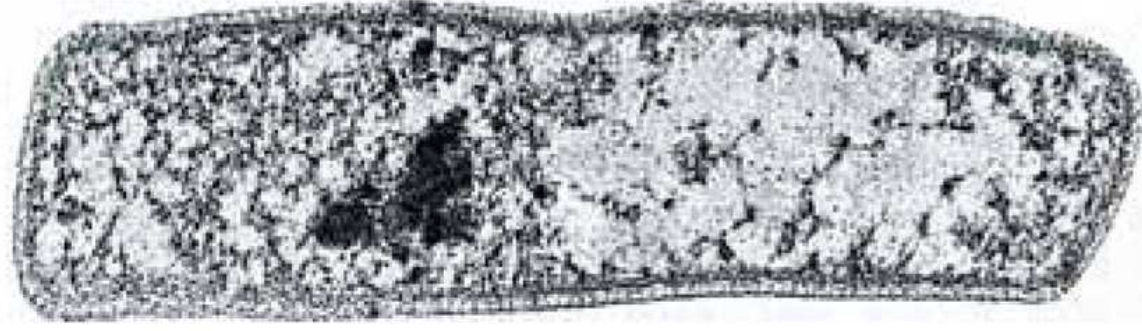
*Thermococcus celer*



G. Fiala and K. O. Stetter

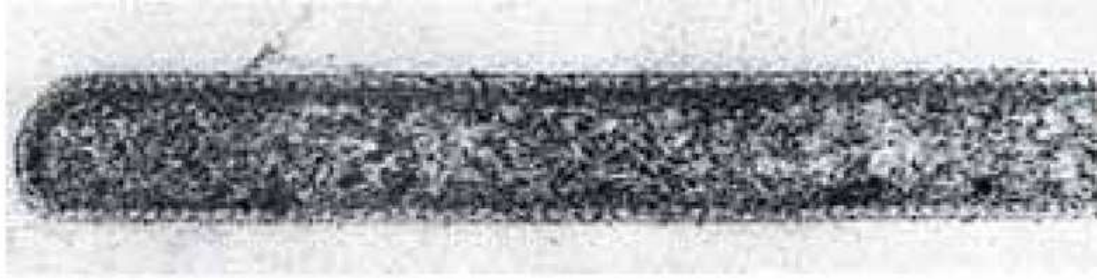
*Pyrococcus furiosus*





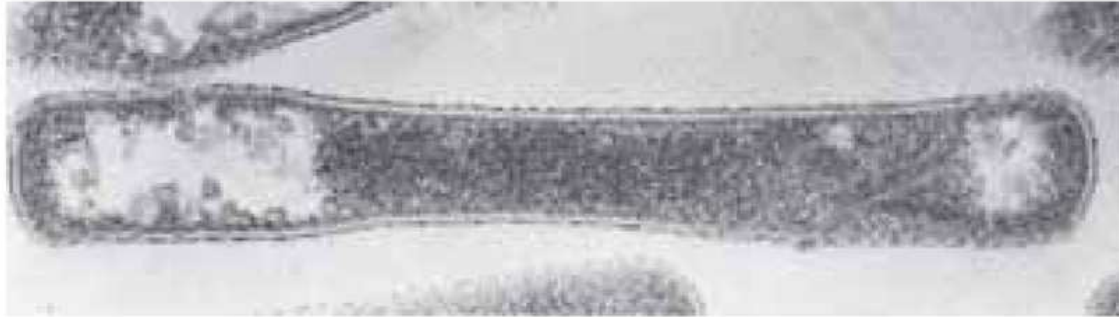
H. König and K. O. Stetter

(a)



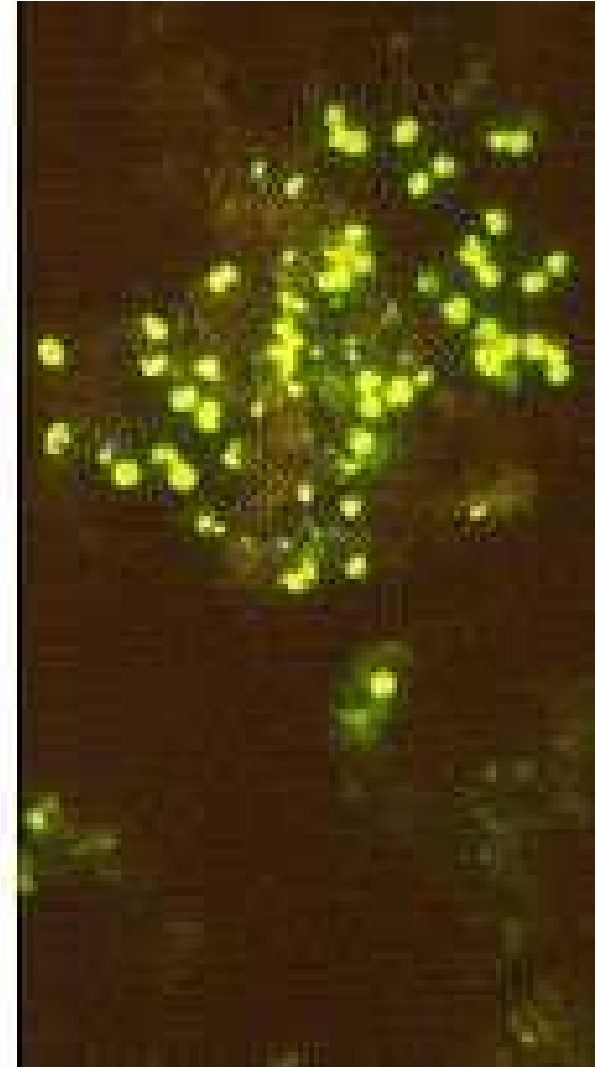
H. König and K. O. Stetter

(b)

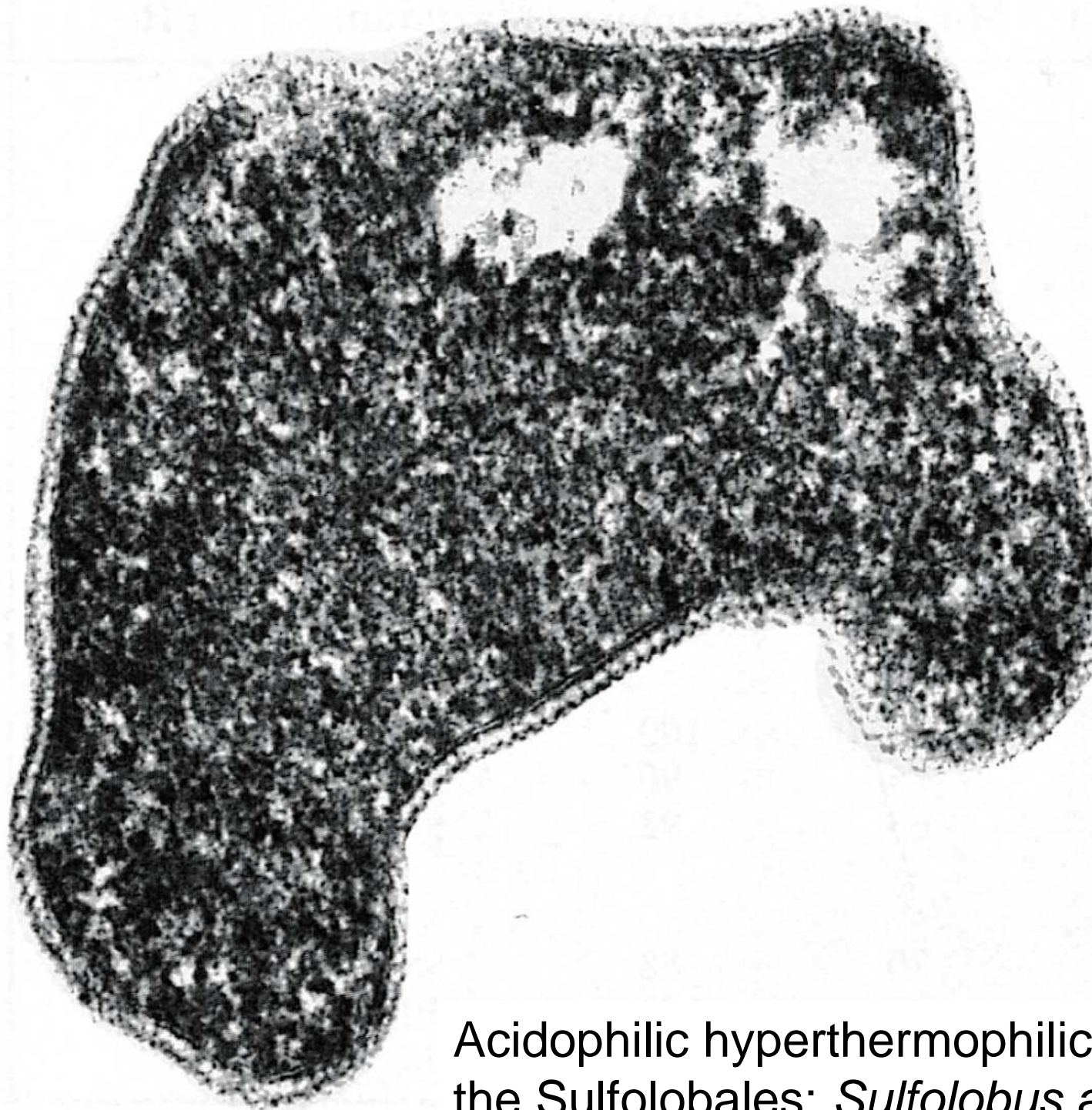


R. Rachel and K. O. Stetter

(c)

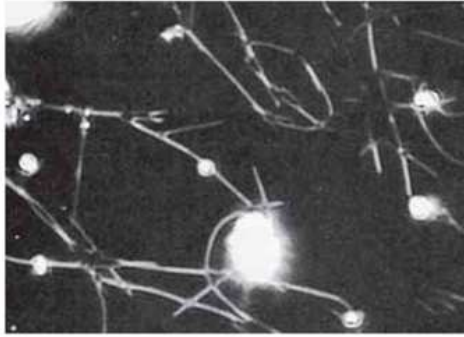


- *Sulfolobus acidocaldarius* is an extreme thermophile that has been found in geothermally-heated acid springs, mud pots and surface soils 60 to 95 degrees C, and a pH of 1 to 5.
- Fluorescent photomicrograph of cells attached to a sulfur crystal



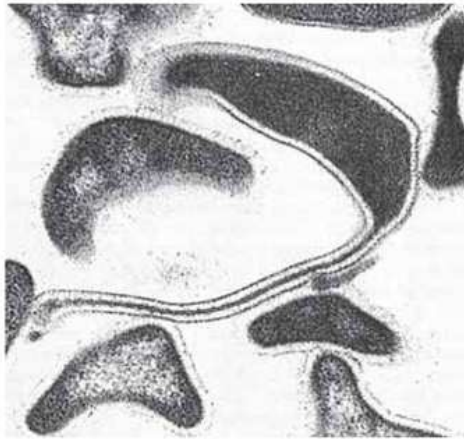
Acidophilic hyperthermophilic Archaea,  
the Sulfolobales: *Sulfolobus acidocaldarius*

(a)

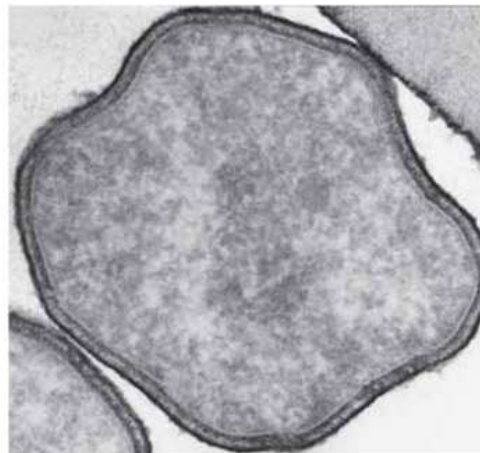


(a)

*Pyrodictium occultum*



(b)



(c)

*Pyrolobus fumarii*

