

Preface

Virology is the scientific study of viruses – submicroscopic, parasitic organisms of genetic material contained in a protein coat– and virus-like agents. It focuses on the following aspects of viruses: their structure, classification and evolution, their ways to infect and exploit host cells for reproduction, their interaction with host organism physiology and immunity, the diseases they cause, the techniques to isolate and culture them, and their use in research and therapy. Virology is a subfield of microbiology. The identification of the causative agent of tobacco mosaic disease as a novel pathogen by Martinus Beijerinck (1898) is now acknowledged as being the official beginning of the field of virology as a discipline distinct from bacteriology. He realized the source was neither a bacterial nor a fungal infection, but something completely different. Beijerinck used the word ‘virus’ to describe the mysterious agent in his ‘contagium vivum fluidum’ (‘contagious living fluid’). It was the first time anyone used the word the way we do today.

In the present book, fifteen typical literatures about Virology published on international authoritative journals were selected to introduce the worldwide newest progress, which contains reviews or original researches on Feather Disease Virus, Coronavirus, Chikungunya Virus, Hepatitis C virus, Rotavirus, Antivirals *ect.* We hope this book can demonstrate advances in Virology as well as give references to the researchers, students and other related people.

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