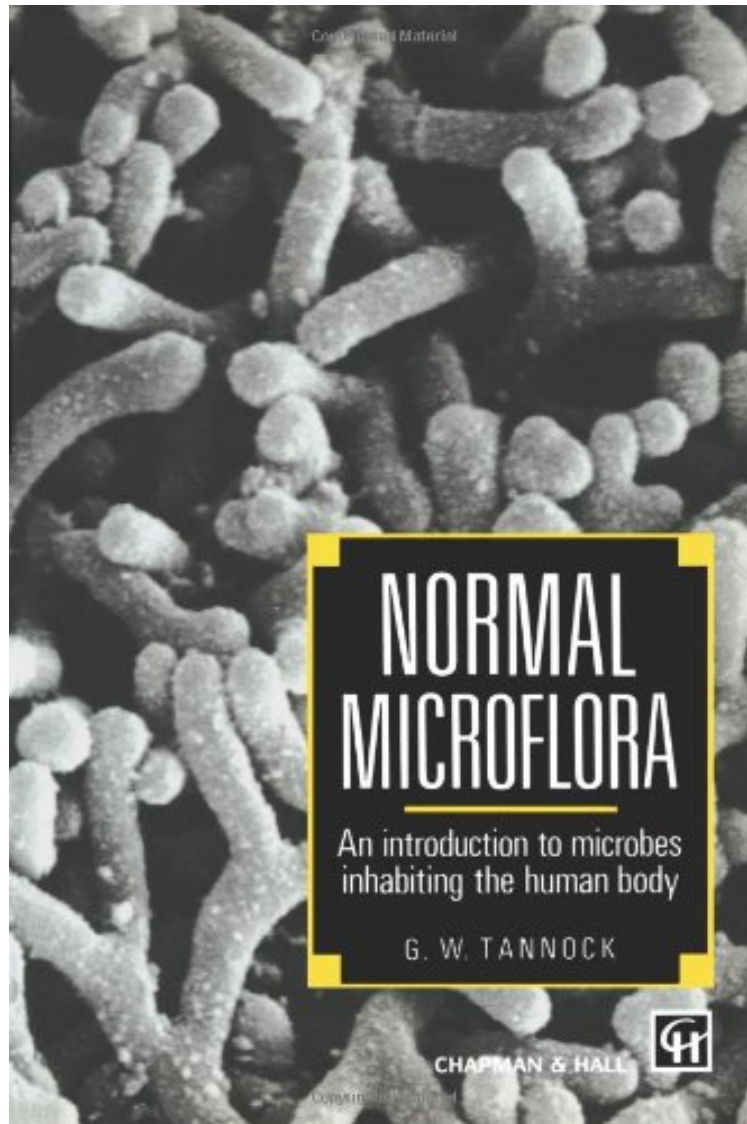


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Normal Microflora: An introduction to microbes inhabiting the human body

Gerald W. Tannock

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#3818536 in Books 1994-10-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.17 x .30 x 6.10l, .43 #File Name: 0412550407116 pages | File size: 64.Mb

Gerald W. Tannock : Normal Microflora: An introduction to microbes inhabiting the human body before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Normal Microflora: An introduction to microbes inhabiting the human body:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A concise semi-technical intro By T. Gwinn Your body has approximately 10^{13} cells in it. And yet there are approximately 10^{14} microbes crawling all over your skin, inside

your respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract and other, um, 'nether regions'. This is a vibrant and very complex ecosystem we carry around on, and in, us. In the gastrointestinal tract alone there may be over 400 different types of microbes! Tannock, professor of microbiology, author also of *Medical Importance of the Normal Microflora* and *Probiotics: A Critical Review*, gives us here an overview of the remarkable preponderance of the indigenous microbiota. The book straddles the line somewhat between a general readership book and a book for students of microbiology, although it definitely leans toward the latter. For the astute layperson, it contains many fascinating bits of information. Indeed, I would like to see Tannock come out with a longer version aimed squarely at the general science readership. Chapters are as follows: 1. More than a smell: the complexity of the normal microflora 2. Happy Birthday: the acquisition of the normal microflora 3. Sticky Microbes: the association of microbes with host surfaces 4. Invisible forces: the influence of the normal microflora on host characteristics 5. Undesirable company: the role of the normal microflora in disease 6. Internal renewal: the potential for modification of the normal microflora. At just over 100 pages, it is a quick read, despite some technical text. References at the end of each chapter are to professional journals and textbooks. Perhaps it is because of the book not catering exactly to a particular category of reader that has made it scarce, but whatever the reason, I had a hard time ordering this book through and ended up getting it via Kluwer Academic Publishers in Norwell, Mass. As in his other books, Tannock conveys the interdependencies of our symbiosis with the microflora, and as he says in this Preface: "Our relationship with the normal microflora provide excellent examples of ecological balances that have evolved between species, and the repercussions that ensue should the balance be tilted in favour of one or another partner. An appreciation of this concept is important for all those who study biological sciences."

This book is about the microbial species that inhabit the human body, and the consequences of the intimate relationships that we share with them. It is intended that the book will provide an introduction to the normal microflora for those studying disciplines within the health sciences, and for those in the food industry where interest in the microbiology of the digestive tract, especially with respect to lactic acid bacteria, is topical.

Gerald Tannock is to be commended for putting together this concise book on the normal microflora. The book should be of interest to a wide variety of veterinary and medical students, as well as to graduate students and the research community interested in nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, immunology and infectious diseases - *Trends in Microbiology*; Tannock's book is suitable as a general work for readers interested in an overview of the human microbial flora. A useful addition to libraries. - *Choice*; Chapter titles such as 'More than a smell: the complexity of the normal microflora' should be sufficient to tempt anyone even with only a passing interest in this subject to read this book, and they will not be disappointed. This [is a] very readable book. *SGM Quarterly*; Considering that there is no other up-to-date survey of the subject, this small book is a must for all scientists professionally dealing with human microflora or interested in microbial ecology of animals ... it is also a useful reference for physicians or microbiology teachers, and is recommended as bedside reading for anyone fascinated by our intimate interaction with a bunch of microbes that easily outnumber the cells of our body by order of magnitude. - *Microbiology Europe*; The writing is lively. The author has tried to produce a readable book and he has by and large succeeded...this book can be thoroughly recommended to undergraduates; they will enjoy it and its lessons will stand them in good stead. - *Letters in Applied Microbiology*