
Chapter 1

General introduction

Contributions

This chapter was written by Maïke Otto and reviewed by Lars M. Blank and Nick Wierckx.

1 General introduction

1.1 A short history of (micro)biology

The products of microbial catalysis have been an integral part of human civilization for thousands of years. Derived from simple applications such as the production of fermented beverages, the discoveries in the natural sciences over the last centuries nowadays enable controlled microbial bioprocesses for the synthesis of industrially relevant chemicals (Table 1).

Table 1. Key data in the history of microbiology leading up to this thesis.

