

Front cover legends



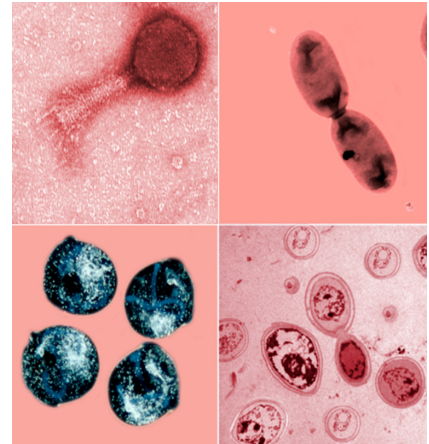
CENTER. Landscape of the Doñana National Park (Huelva, Spain), one of the Iberian territories where the population of the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) have been able to historically survive and from where this species seems to initiate its expansion to a wider range of the Iberian Peninsula geography. [See article by Núñez-Díaz et al. pp 31-41, this issue, on the fecal microbioma of the captive lynx.]

UPPER LEFT. Transmission electron micrograph of the marine phage H1 negatively stained. Phage was isolated from a strain of *Pseudoalteromonas* sp. from the Blanes Bay Microbial Observatory station (BBMO), a surface coastal site in the NW Mediterranean. Photo by Elena Lara, Marine Sciences Institute (ICM-CSIC) (Magnification, 330,000×)

UPPER RIGHT. Transmission electron micrograph of *Sphingobacterium detergens* during the process of cellular division. The bacterium was isolated from a soil sample from the Azorean Islands and was selected for its ability to reduce the surface tension of the culture medium. Photo by Ana M. Marqués and César Burgos-Díaz, Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences, University of Barcelona. (Magnification, 10,000×)

LOWER LEFT. Dark field micrograph of several individuals of the ciliate *Vorticella* sp. detached from its peduncles. Note the big and active macronucleus with the shape of a long and bluish band. Photo by Rubén Duro, Center for Microbiological Research, Barcelona. (Magnification, 1000×)

LOWER RIGHT. Transmission electron micrograph of the plasmolized yeasts (“lias”) of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* from the elaboration of sparkling wines according to the “cava” method after second fermentation in closed bottles. Photo by Montserrat Riu and Rebeca Tudela, Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Sciences, University of Barcelona. (Magnification, 10,000×)



Back cover: Pioneers in Microbiology

Paulina Beregoff (1902–1989), Colombia



Paulina Beregoff was the first woman to obtain a degree in medicine in Colombia. She was born in 1902 in Kiev—by then a city of the Russian Empire—, in an aristocratic family of Jewish descent. Due to the political situation in her country, she was educated in the United States, where, in 1921, she graduated in Bacteriology and Parasitology and Pharmacy and Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania. She

started working at the laboratory of Pathology of that university and became a member of the Rivas Bacteriological Society of the University of Pennsylvania. In 1922, the Dean of the School of Medicine of the University of Cartagena, Colombia, asked the University of Pennsylvania for an expert in tropical diseases, including yellow fever. This disease was a great concern in Cartagena due to the high mortality rates it caused and because of the implications on the image of the city, which was a major commercial and harbor center. The University needed a qualified advisor that could also train local physicians, and the University of Pennsylvania chose Beregoff for that task. Once in Cartagena, she had to identify an epidemic outbreak that had been causing many fatalities, mostly among indigenous peoples living in the Magdalena River shores. Colombian physicians were not familiar with symptoms and causal agents of diseases such as yellow fever, typhoid fever and malaria, but thought that the epidemic outbreak could be due to one of them. Beregoff sent samples of cultures

from corpses of people killed by the disease to be analyzed at the University of Pennsylvania. The disease turned out to be *fiebre tifomalarica* and not simply malaria, as they first had considered. Beregoff thought that the infection depended mostly on the deficiencies or resistance of the immune system and proposed that physicians should work to prevent the disease. Once she had achieved her task, she intended to go back to Philadelphia to study medicine at Temple University, but she was asked to remain in Cartagena, where she could also study medicine. In 1922 she enrolled at the University of Cartagena under special conditions. Due to her previous studies and qualification, she could be waived the first two years of the studies of medicine. She set up the first laboratories of bacteriology and parasitology in Cartagena, with microscopes and other equipment donated by the University of Pennsylvania. Her thesis director recognized her great contribution, she having been able to differentiate the various species of Laveran’s haematozoa, to observe the treponema causing yaws, to find the *Piroplasma Donovanii*, the parasite of Kala-Azar (visceral leishmaniasis) in the blood, and having been the first to isolate the “typhoid bacillus”, confirming thus the presence of typhoid fever in town. She could also to properly perform the Wassermann technique on syphilis. The fact that she was a foreign woman and she had had some privileges in her medicine studies was criticized by some people. In 1933 she married bacteriologist Arthur Stanley Gillow and they moved to Canada. Since then she signed her publications as Pauline Beregoff-Gillow. After her husband’s death, in 1964, she returned to Colombia and dedicated his husband’s legacy to set up a foundation under his name that should work on preventive medicine. She died on September 20, 1989 and left her fortune to the foundation.