



Article of Significant Interest from This Issue

A Pathway for Uric Acid Degradation in Anaerobic and Microaerobic Environments

Uric acid is used as a nitrogen source by many aerobic organisms. However, the metabolic pathway of uric acid degradation has been elucidated only in aerobic microbes. Iwadate and Kato ([e00573-18](#)) reveal that *Escherichia coli*, a facultative anaerobe, expresses a pathway that can use formate as an electron donor for uric acid degradation under anaerobic and microaerobic conditions. The enzyme responsible, formate dehydrogenase, and other accessory factors are identified. This is the first demonstration of oxygen-independent urate-degrading activity in a living organism.