

Hydrocarbon Chemistry and Microbiology

Brief Notes

- 1) Many fermentative bacteria in soil, sewage plants and the ruminant stomach acquire the energy they require by oxidizing fatty acids and simple alcohols. The electrons released are used to reduce carbon dioxide to the simplest hydrocarbon: methane.
- 2) Some of this methane is subsequently oxidized by certain bacteria which are able to use one-carbon compounds. Some of this methane is discharged into the atmosphere.
- 3) Complex alicyclic hydrocarbons are resistant to microbial attack.