Prof. B Davis
Harvard
12/18/83

Syntrophy still lives

Dear Bernie —

I doubt there is any real paradox here: cross-diffusion of metabolites is still a sufficient explanation, given all the experimental feedback we know well.

We did in ancient history, as I recall, discuss whether factors other than actual nutrients might be exchanged; and nowadays we'd have to add conceivable surface-to-surface interactions in transport mechanisms.

One would like to think of experimental tests to settle most exotic possibilities.

Do you know if anyone has put together a mathematical formulation for syntrophic growth?
Include diffusion rates? cell-concentration dependence? .....

Yours