

Assignment

1. Crystallization of viruses by Stanley stimulated considerable debate about the living nature of viruses. Suppose a virus is discovered today containing both DNA and RNA. Do you expect this to stir an equally hot debate on the nature of viruses? Elaborate?
2. How have findings from studies on viruses, viroids, and prions complicated some of the traditional views on the principles of biology?
3. In coming times, an acceptable classification system of viruses need to be established. What factors and criteria would you consider to be important in grouping viruses into logical clusters?
4. Virologists prefer to call viral multiplication as replication rather than reproduction. Do you think it is appropriate and why so?
5. In view of the the hypotheses proposed for viral evolution, how do you think viruses have originated and evolved?
6. Viruses are generally considered a threat to humanity due to numerous diseases they cause. Do you think that there is a positive side of viruses too? Substantiate with examples.

