

OBJECTIVE

In multicellular plants and animals, growth reflects as increase in size of the animal or plant, but the number of individuals is not increased. This is mediated by cell division. However, in the case of unicellular organisms like bacteria, growth is followed by cell division and it leads to increase in number of bacterial cells. As a result, increase in population can be noticed with more number of bacterial cells rather than cells becoming bigger in size. Growth rate in microorganisms is very high and microorganisms multiply very fast in a suitable environment. Under favourable conditions microorganisms multiply rapidly to maintain their surface to volume ratio, and their small size. However, there is no change in their morphology.

After reading this unit you will come to know about the following points:

How the bacteria multiply?

Various phases in its growth

Need for continuous and synchronous cultures

Various factors which affect the growth of bacteria