

TABLE 1 Size scale of prokaryotic cells, from the largest to the smallest

Organism	Characteristics	Size^a (μm)	Biovolume (μm^3)	Reference
<i>Thiomargarita namibiensis</i>	Spherical sulfur bact.	750	200,000,000	83
<i>Epulopiscium fishelsoni</i>	Heterotrophic gut bact.	80 × 600	3,000,000	10
<i>Beggiatoa</i> spp.	Filamentous sulfur bact.	160 × 50 ^b	1,000,000	66
<i>Achromatium oxaliferum</i>	Ellipsoid sulfur bact.	35 × 95	80,000	33
<i>Thioploca araucae</i>	Filamentous sulfur bact.	43 × 30 ^b	40,000	85
<i>Lyngbya majuscula</i>	Filamentous cyanobact.	80 × 8 ^b	40,000	13
<i>Prochloron</i> sp.	Phototrophic bact.	30	14,000	11a
<i>Macromonas mobilis</i>	Rod-shaped sulfur bact.	14 × 30	3,500	86a
<i>Thiovulum majus</i>	Spherical sulfur bact.	18	3,000	97
<i>Staphylothermus marinus</i>	Archaea	15	1800	19
<i>Titanospirillum velox</i>	Rod-shaped sulfur bact.	5 × 30	600	30
<i>Magnetobacterium bavaricum</i>	Magnetotactic bact.	2 × 10	30	85a
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	Heterotrophic bact.	1 × 2	2	68a
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>	Pathogenic bact.	0.2	0.005	34a
<i>Thermoplasma</i> sp.	Archaea	0.2 × 0.08	0.003	87

^aWhere only one number is given this is the diameter of spherical cells.

^bMulticellular filaments of one to several cm length; the height of a single disk-shaped cell is indicated.