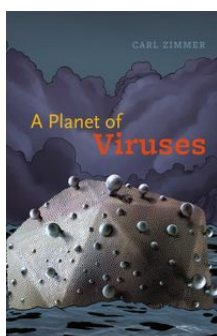


# A PLANET OF VIRUSES

Viruses are the smallest living things known to science, yet they hold the entire planet in their sway. We are most familiar with the viruses that give us colds or the flu, but viruses also cause a vast range of other diseases, including one disorder that makes people sprout branch-like growths as if they...



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## Peek Inside the Book

Human rhinoviruses may help train our immune systems not to overreact to minor triggers, instead directing their assaults to real threats. Perhaps we should not think of colds as ancient enemies but as wise old tutors. Carl Zimmer, A Planet of Viruses //

Influenza. If you close your eyes and say the word aloud, it sounds lovely. It would make a good name for a pleasant, ancient Italian village. Carl Zimmer, A Planet of Viruses //

## Reader's Opinions

A brief introduction to the role of viruses in life on earth. Ideally suited for the common reader; there is nothing stated that those studying microbiology wouldn't already know, but enjoyable and gripping nonetheless.

Carl Zimmer, one of the most gifted and engaging science writers of our time, has done it again. Few voices bring life to science this way, or indeed to the very rocks on which you walk. His details are always striking and intriguing. Here's an example: The human genome contains about 23,000 genes, coding sequences making up about 1.2%...