

extremophiles

Organisms which require extreme physico-chemical conditions for their optimum growth and proliferation. Extremophilic microorganisms are e.g. *thermophiles* or psychrophiles, *halophiles*, alkalophiles or acidophiles, osmophiles and barophiles, based on their growth at extremes of temperature, salt concentration, pH, osmolarity or pressure, respectively.

1992, 64, 153