

Answer on Question #54235 – Biology – Microbiology

Task:

List six characteristics which differentiate viruses from cellular life forms and list ten virally caused diseases.

Answer:

Viruses differ from cellular life forms by:

	Viruses	Cellular life forms
Ribosomes	Absent	Present
Cell wall	No cell wall	Present
Living attributes	Controversial: some scientists consider them as organic structures interacting with living organisms	Living organisms
Number of cells	No cell	Unicellular
Reproduction	Invades a host cell, destroys it and releases new viruses	Fission (a form of asexual reproduction)
Size	20-400 nm	1,000 nm

Virally caused diseases:

- hepatitis;
- meningitis;
- AIDS;
- measles;
- mumps;
- poliomyelitis;
- herpes zoster;
- pneumonia;
- myocarditis;
- pericarditis.