Bacterial and eukaryotic lipid (glycerol diester)

Palmitate

Archaean lipid (glycerol diether)

Phytanol

Archaean lipid (diglycerol tetraether)

Phytanol

FIGURE 6.9. Comparison of cell membrane lipids. (A) In bacteria and eukaryotes, membrane lipids contain ester linkages between glycerol at one end and linear fatty acids at the other. (B,C) In archaea, lipids contain ether linkages between glycerol and branched hydrocarbon chains. In some (B), glycerol is only at one end; in others (C), glycerol is on both ends, resulting in a monolayer membrane.

6.9, unattributable

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