Contents

List of figures and tables page viii
Acknowledgements x
An introduction to philosophy of microbiology 1
1 Philosophy in microbiology; microbes in philosophy 16
2 Philosophical debates in high-level microbial classification 45
3 Philosophical debates in species-level microbial classification 65
4 Philosophical issues in microbial evolution 95
5 Microbial ecology from a philosophical perspective 132
6 Microbes as model biological systems 173
Conclusion: further philosophical questions 201

Glossary 219
References 222
Index 261