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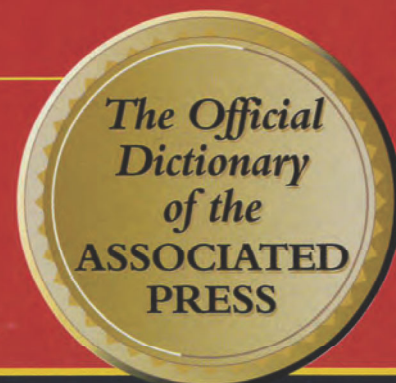
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Fourth Edition

Michael Agnes
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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micro-habi-tat (mī'krō hab'i tat') *n.* a small, localized habitat within a larger ecosystem, as a decomposing log in a forest, having conditions that sustain a limited range of animals and plants

micro-injec-tion (mī'krō in jek'shən) *n.* an injection made by means of a very thin needle and with the aid of a microscope, as, for example, to insert genetic material into a cell —**mi'cro-inject'** *vt.*

micro-instruc-tion (mī'krō in struk'shən) *n.* Comput. an elementary instruction in microcode

micro-lith (-lith') *n.* [MICRO- + -LITH] any of various tiny flint tools flaked in two directions and set in bone or wood: characteristic of the Mesolithic period

micro-man-age (mī'krō man'ij) *vt.* —**aged**, —**ing** to manage or control very closely, as by making decisions about even the smallest details, often so as to be regarded as acting inefficiently or counterproductively —**mi'cro-man'-age-ment** *n.*

micro-mere (mī'krō mir') *n.* [MICRO- + -MERE] any of certain small cells produced by unequal cell division during early embryologic development in many animals, as in mollusks, flatworms, etc.

micro-me-teor-ite (mī'krō mēt'ē ar it') *n.* a very small meteorite, esp. one that drifts through the earth's atmosphere to the ground without becoming incandescent

micro-me-teor-oid (-mēt'ē ar oid') *n.* [MICRO- + METEOROID] an extremely small meteoroid

micro-me-teor-ol-ogy (-mēt'ē ar ōl'ə jē) *n.* [MICRO- + METEOROL-OGY] the branch of meteorology that deals with the small-scale processes, physical conditions, and interactions of the lowest part of the atmosphere, esp. in the first few hundred feet above the earth's surface

mi-crom-eter¹ (mī krām'et ar) *n.* [Fr *micromètre*: see MICRO- & -METER] 1 an instrument for measuring very small distances, angles, diameters, etc., used on a telescope or microscope 2 MICROMETER CALIPER

micro-meter² (mī'krō mēt'ar) *n.* MICRON: Brit. sp. **mi'cro-metre**

mi-crom-eter caliper (or **calipers**) (mī krām'et ar) calipers with a micrometer screw, for extremely accurate measurement

mi-crom-eter screw (mī krām'et ar) a finely threaded screw of definite pitch, with a head graduated to show how much the screw has been moved in or out: used in micrometers, etc. to give fine measurements, as of thickness, sometimes to .0001 of an inch

mi-crom-etry (mī krām'ə trē) *n.* measurement with micrometers

micro-micro- (mī'krō mī'krō) combining form PICO-

micro-milli- (-mil'i, -ə) combining form NANO-

micro-minia-ture (-min'ē ə chər, -min'i chər) *adj.* of or using extremely small electronic parts, circuits, etc.

micro-minia-tur-ize (-chər iz') *vt.* —**ized**', —**-iz-ing** to provide with extremely small electronic equipment —**mi'cro-min'ia-turi-za-tion** *n.*

mi-cron (mī'krän') *n., pl.* —**crons**' or —**cra** (-krə) [ModL < Gr *mikron*, neut. of *mikros*, small, minute: see MICA] a unit of linear measure equal to one millionth of a meter, or one thousandth of a millimeter; micrometer: symbol, μ m

Mi-cro-nesia (mī'krō nē'zhə, -shə) [ModL < MICRO- + Gr *nēsos*, island (see NATANT) + -IA] country on a group of islands in the W Pacific: 271 sq mi (702 sq km); pop. 108,000; cap. Palikir: official name Federated States of Micronesia

Mi-cro-nesian (-zhən, -shən) *adj.* of Micronesia or its peoples, languages, or cultures —*n.* 1 a person born or living in Micronesia 2 the group of Austronesian languages spoken in Micronesia

★**mi-cron-ize** (mī'krō niz') *vt.* —**ized**', —**-iz-ing** [MICRON + -IZE] to reduce to particles of only a few microns in diameter

micro-nu-cleus (mī'krō nū'klē əs, -nyū'ə-) *n.* the smaller of two types of nuclei present in the cells of ciliated protozoans, associated primarily with reproduction and genetics —**mi'cro-nu'-clear** *adj.*

micro-nu-tri-ent (-nū'trē ənt, -nyū'ə-) *n.* [MICRO- + NUTRIENT] any of the chemical elements, as iron, required in minute quantities for growth of an organism

micro-organ-ism (-ôr'gə niz'əm) *n.* any microscopic or ultramicroscopic animal, plant, bacterium, virus, etc.

micro-paleon-tol-ogy (mī'krō pāl'ē ən täl'ə jē) *n.* the branch of paleontology that deals with microscopic fossils —**mi'cro-pa'leon'-to-log'i-cal** (-än'tə lāj'i kəl) *adj.* or **mi'cro-pa'leon'-to-log'ic** —**mi'cro-pa'leon'-tol'o-gist** *n.*

micro-para-site (-par'ə sit') *n.* a parasitic microorganism —**mi'cro-pa'-sit'ic** (-sit'ik) *adj.*

micro-phone (mī'krō fōn') *n.* [MICRO- + -PHONE] an instrument containing a transducer that converts the mechanical energy of sound waves into an electric signal, used in telephony, radio, sound amplification, etc. —**micro-phonic** (mī'krō fān'ik) *adj.*

micro-pho-nics (mī'krō fān'iks, -krə-) *n.* [prec. + -ICS] noise in the output of various electronic devices, as a speaker, caused by mechanical vibration of some part

micro-pho-to-graph (-fōt'ə graf') *n.* 1 a very small photograph requiring enlargement to bring out the details 2 PHOTOMICROGRAPH 3 an enlarged photograph printed from a microfilm —**mi'cro-pho'-to-graph'ic** *adj.* —**mi'cro-pho-tog'-ra-phy** (-fə tæg'rə fē) *n.*

micro-phyte (mī'krō fit', -krə-) *n.* [MICRO- + -PHYTE] any microscopically small plant —**mi'cro-phyt'ic** (-fit'ik) *adj.*

micro-print (-print') *n.* a microphotograph of printed or written matter to be read by means of a magnifying projector or viewer

micro-proc-ess-or (mī'krō präs'es ar) *n.* [MICRO- + PROCESSOR] a chip containing the logical elements for performing calculations, carrying out stored instructions, etc.: used as the central processing unit of a microcomputer

micro-program (mī'krō prō'gram') *n.* Comput. MICROCODE

micro-program-ming (mī'krō prō'gram'ing, -grām-) *n.* Comput. the programming of microcode

micro-pub-lish-ing (-pub'lish ing) *n.* publication in microform

micro-pyle (mī'krō pil') *n.* [Fr < Gr *mikro-* (see MICRO-) + *pylē*, gatel] 1 Bot. a) a very small opening in the outer coats of an ovule, through which the pollen tube penetrates b) the corresponding opening in the developed seed 2 Zool. a very small opening in the membrane of an ovum of some animals, through which spermatozoa can enter —**mi'cro-py'-lar** (-pi'lər) *adj.*

micro-py-rom-eter (mī'krō pī rām'et ar) *n.* [MICRO- + PYROMETER] an optical instrument for determining temperature, etc. of minute bodies giving off light or heat

micro-ra-dio-graph (-rād'ē ō graf') *n.* [MICRO- + RADIOGRAPH] an X-ray photograph showing very small details —**mi'cro-ra'-dio-graph'ic** *adj.* —**mi'cro-ra'-di-og'-ra-phy** (-rād'ē āgr'ə fē) *n.*

micro-scope (mī'krə sköp') *n.* [ModL *Microscopium*: see MICRO- &

-SCOPE] an instrument consisting essentially of a lens or combination of lenses, for making very small objects, as microorganisms, look larger so that they can be seen and studied: see also ELECTRON MICROSCOPE

micro-scopic (mī'krə skäp'ik)

adj. 1 so small as to be invisible or obscure except through a microscope; extremely small: minute 2 of, with, or as if with a microscope 3 like or suggestive of a microscope; searching; minutely observing Also **mi'cro-scop'i-cal** —**mi'cro-scop'i-cally** *adv.*

Micro-sco-pium (mī'krə sköp'ē əm) *n.* a S constellation between Capricornus and Indus

mi-cros-copy (mī kräs'kə pē) *n.* the use of a microscope; investigation by means of a microscope —**mi-cros'-co-pist** *n.*

micro-second (mī'krō sek'ənd) *n.* [MICRO- + SECOND] one millionth of a second: symbol, μ s

micro-seism (mī'krō siz'əm) *n.* [MICRO- + Gr *seismos*: see SEISMIC] a very slight tremor or quivering of the earth's crust that is not related to an earthquake, usually caused by an atmospheric disturbance —**mi'cro-seis'mic** (-siz'mik, -sis'mik) *adj.*

micro-some (-sōm') *n.* [MICRO- + -SOME] any of a number of minute granules in the cytoplasm of an active cell, that are filled with enzymes and thought to be associated with protein synthesis —**mi'cro-so'-mal** *adj.*

micro-sphere (mī'krō sfir') *n.* [MICRO- + -SPHERE] any of various minute globules, as the hollow particles used in making lighter plastics or a cell-like structure resembling a proteinoid

micro-spo-ran-gium (mī'krō spō ran'jē əm) *n., pl.* —**-gia** (-ə) [ModL] a sporangium containing microspores, as the pollen sac of the anther in seed plants

micro-spore (mī'krō spôr') *n.* a haploid spore, usually smaller than a megaspore of the same plant, which gives rise to a male gametophyte: found in all seed plants, where it is an immature pollen grain, and in many lower vascular plants —**mi'cro-spor'ic** *adj.*

micro-spo-ro-phyll (mī'krō spôr'ə fil') *n.* a sporophyll bearing only microsporangia

micro-state (mī'krō stāt') *n.* any very small nation

micro-stoma-tous (mī'krō stām'ə təs, -stō'mə-) *adj.* [MICRO- + STOMATOUS] having a small mouth: also **mi-cros-to-mous** (mī kräs'tə məs)

micro-struc-ture (mī'krō struk'chər) *n.* the structure, as of a metal or alloy, seen under a microscope

micro-sur-gery (-sər'jər ē) *n.* surgery performed while viewing through a microscope and using minute instruments or laser beams —**mi'cro-sur'-gi-cal** *adj.*

micro-tome (-tōm') *n.* [MICRO- + -TOME] any of various precision instruments for cutting thin sections, as of organic tissue, for study under the microscope

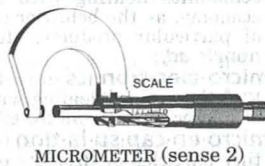
mi-cro-to-my (mī krät'ə mē) *n.* the skill or work of using a microtome —**mi-crot'o-mist** *n.*

mi-cro-tone (mī'krō tōn') *n.* Music an interval smaller than a semitone —**mi'cro-ton'al** *adj.*

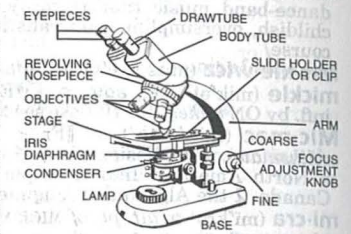
micro-tubule (mī'krō tū'byūōl') *n.* any of a number of small, hollow filaments, composed of long strands of tubulins, that are found in animal or plant cells and are associated esp. with cell structure and movement and with mitosis

micro-villus (mī'krō vil'əs) *n., pl.* —**-li** (-ī) any of a number of tiny, fingerlike structures projecting from the plasma membrane of certain specialized cells

micro-wave (mī'krō wāv') *adj.* 1 designating or of that part of the electromagnetic spectrum associated with the larger infrared waves and the shorter radio waves: used for radar, communications, etc. and generally regarded as from 300,000 to 300 mega-



MICROMETER (sense 2)



BINOCULAR MICROSCOPE