



Plant Viruses and Virus-Induced Diseases

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

These years of discoveries have shown us that viruses constitute excellent probes to dissect basic plant biological processes, including transcriptional, post-transcriptional and translational control of gene expression, macromolecular trafficking and transport routes, basal and induced plant defence mechanisms, and many other areas of the plant architecture, development, physiology and metabolism. Plant viruses, on their own, are fascinating entities, having evolved an incredible array of smart strategies to express their genes from very compact genomes. Using very few building blocks, often a single polypeptide and a nucleic acid molecule, plant viruses produce transmission and persistence particles with amazing properties and an incredible biotechnological potential. Last, but not least, plant viruses cause global and regional economic losses in agriculture, being responsible for a significant proportion of devastating emergent and re-emergent plant diseases; plant virology has provided important solutions, but there is still more to come.

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