Special Issue

Insect Pathogens as Biocontrol Agents Against Pests

Message from the Guest Editors

Entomopathogens are microorganisms that are pathogenic to arthropods such as insects, mites, and ticks. Several species differ significantly in their biology and behavior and, hence, in their ability to control enemy populations in all environments. The proper use of entomopathogens requires good knowledge of the biological cycle of enemies. Entomopathogens such as bacteria, fungi, nematodes, and viruses infect a variety of arthropod pests and play an important role in their management. The pathogenicity caused by entomopathogens is not the same in all insects and differs even at each insect stage, usually being larger in young specimens, especially during the larval stage. The point of entry or growth of a pathogen also varies depending on the insect and entomopathogen: entomopathogens (usually viruses and bacteria) enter via the oral route, while fungi can invade their host from the insect cuticle. Some entomopathogens are mass-produced in vitro (bacteria, fungi) or in vivo (viruses) and sold commercially. In this Special Issue, we welcome original research and review articles covering this area of study.

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