



Multifaceted *Beauveria bassiana* and Other Insect-Related Fungi 2.0

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (31 October 2023)

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Since Agostino Bassi first isolated the fungal pathogenic agent of the white muscardine in insects (later named as *Beauveria bassiana* in his honor), and Élie Metchnikoff cultivated *Metarhizium anisopliae* as a first approach to use fungi as pest control agents, many other entomopathogenic fungi have been studied over the last two centuries. Fungus–insect interactions are known to drive pathogenic cycles that usually culminate in killing the hosts; however, these fungi are also facultative saprophytes in the soil and/or the rhizosphere. *B. bassiana* can also develop endophytic relationships with plants, conferring a level of protection to the host plant from the insects that feed on them. In addition to invertebrate pathology, *B. bassiana* also has diverse applications in a range of other disciplines, including as an important whole cell eukaryotic biocatalyst, and together with other entomopathogenic fungi remains a reservoir for the discovery of numerous secondary metabolites with bioactive functions.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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