



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

Guest Editors:

**Dr. Nicolás Pedrini**

Instituto de Investigaciones  
Bioquímicas de La Plata  
(INIBIOLP), National University of  
La Plata (UNLP), La Plata,  
Argentina

**Prof. Dr. Éverton Kort Kamp  
Fernandes**

Departamento de Biociências e  
Tecnologia, Universidade Federal  
de Goiás, Goiânia, Brazil

**Dr. Ivan M. Dubovskiy**

Head of Laboratory of Biological  
Plant Protection and  
Biotechnology, Novosibirsk State  
Agrarian University, Dobrolubova  
Str. 160, 630039 Novosibirsk,  
Russia

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### 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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## Editor-in-Chief

**Prof. Dr. David S. Perlin**

Hackensack Meridian Health  
Center for Discovery and  
Innovation, 340 Kingsland Street,  
Nutley, NJ 07110, USA

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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*Journal of Fungi* Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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