Special Issue

Phytoplasma Diseases of Trees and Shrubs

Message from the Guest Editor

Phytoplasma diseases of trees and shrubs are widespread and of considerable economic and ecological significance. These diseases differ in their geographic distribution, number and size of the various taxonomic groups and subgroups of the associated phytoplasma(s), and insect vector relationships. In several instances, phytoplasma diseases of trees and shrubs escape observation because affected plants show non-specific symptoms only such as yellowing, stunting and/or decline. Also, the phytoplasma titer in diseased plants, especially in those with non-specific symptoms, is often so low that infections can only be detected through highly sensitive nested PCR assays. Latent phytoplasma infections, which are common in some trees and shrubs, can serve as inoculum reservoirs for further spread to susceptible plants.

This Special Issue covers several aspects of the mentioned diseases including (i) molecular and taxonomic identy of the associated phytoplasmas, (ii) phytoplasma-insect vector relationships, (iii) phytoplasma-plant host interactions, (iv) phytoplasma titer and colonization behavior in affected plants, and (vi) disease management and control.

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"Microorganism" merges the idea of the very small with the idea of the evolving reproducing organism is a unifying principle for the discipline of microbiology. Our journal recognizes the broadly diverse yet connected nature of microorganisms and provides an advanced publishing forum for original articles from scientists involved in high-quality basic and applied research on any prokaryotic or eukaryotic microorganism, and for research on the ecology, genomics and evolution of microbial communities as well as that exploring cultured microorganisms in the laboratory.

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