Special Issue

Phytoplasmas and Phytoplasma Diseases

Message from the Guest Editors

Phytoplasma diseases are widespread and of considerable economic and ecological significance. These diseases differ in their geographic distribution, number and size of the various ribosomal groups and subgroups of the associated 'Candidatus Phytoplasma' species, and insect vector relationships. In several instances, phytoplasma diseases escape observation because affected plants show non-specific symptoms 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 molecular assays. Latent phytoplasma infections, which are common in woody plants, can serve as inoculum reservoirs for further spread the bacteria to susceptible plants.

This Special Issue covers several aspects of phytoplasmas and their associated diseases including (i) detection, identification, (ii) phytoplasma-plant host interactions, (iii) phytoplasma-insect vector relationships, (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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