Special Issue

Application of Insect Viruses as Biopesticides

Message from the Guest Editors

Indiscriminate use of broad-spectrum synthetic pesticides has widely been regarded as ecologically damaging. There is, consequently, increased social pressure to reduce their use by, for instance, promoting the adoption of safer alternatives, such as biopesticides. The Baculoviridade family, to which most potential viral pesticides belong, contains over 600 described species and their most common hosts are the larval forms of lepidopterans.

A number of approaches for the improvement of virus biopesticides can be foreseen. These include:

Establishment of Integrated Pest Management programs in which baculoviruses are combined with other organisms to improve pest control;

In countries where the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is restricted, improvements will be mainly at the level of in vitro production, diagnostics, UV protection, and formulation;

In countries with more relaxed attitudes towards the use of GMOs, the insecticidal activity of viruses may be augmented through genetic modification.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The worldwide impact of infectious disease is incalculable. The consequences for human health in terms of morbidity and mortality are obvious and vast but, when infections of animals and plants are also taken into account, it is hard to imagine any other disease that has such a significant impact on our lives—on healthcare systems, on agriculture and on world economics. *Pathogens* is proud to continue to serve the international community by publishing high quality studies that further our understanding of infection and have meaningful consequences for disease intervention.

Editor-in-Chief

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