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Bacillus thuringiensis: A Broader View of Its Biocidal Activity

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Message from the Guest Editors

Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) is the best-characterized Gram-positive entomopathogenic bacterium with many strains bearing plasmids containing a wide variety of insecticidal genes. This has bestowed Bt-based products as the most marketed microbial insecticides to date. The encoded insecticidal proteins include both crystal and vegetative insecticidal proteins highly toxic against a wide range of invertebrates, with several of them incorporated into crops conferring resistance to some of the most destructive insect pest species worldwide.

However, insects targeted by Bt crops have been subjected continuously to selective pressures and started showing resistance to some of the most used insecticidal proteins, which has promoted worldwide screening programs for strains harboring novel insecticidal proteins intended both to overcome insect resistance and to broaden host ranges.

This Special Issue will address either the description of isolated Bt strains nor insecticidal proteins showing novel biocidal activities, which can be used not only for delaying/overcoming insect resistance but also for enlarging host spectrums.

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