Special Issue

Phytopathogenic Fungi and Toxicity

Message from the Guest Editors

Phytopathogen fungi are responsible for serious plant diseases which might negatively affect crop productivity. Some of these fungi are also documented as opportunist human pathogens that cause infection in immunocompromised individuals. In this respect, fungal interaction with other organisms is of great interest because fungi employ an array of biochemical and mechanical strategies to infect the host in order to access nutrients. During infection, polymer-degrading enzymes or secondary metabolites are produced as virulence factors. Furthermore, fungi produce mycotoxins on crops, and this represents a considerable risk to human and animal health. In addition, phytopathogen fungi have also been studied as biocontrol agents against pests or for the capacity to produce compounds with a wide variety of biological activity, such as herbicidal, antibiotic, and antifungal activities. Studies of phytopathogen fungi might be interesting to understand the mechanism of fungal pathogenicity and virulence and to develop strategies for screening of disease and for the application of natural compounds with bioactivities.

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