Selection of Beauveria isolates pathogenic to adults of Nilaparvata lugens

Maoye Li\textsuperscript{1,3a}, Shiguang Li\textsuperscript{1,3b}, Amei Xu\textsuperscript{1c}, Huafeng Lin\textsuperscript{1d*}, Dexin Chen\textsuperscript{2e}, Hui Wang\textsuperscript{1f}

\textsuperscript{1}School of Plant Protection, Anhui Agricultural University, Hefei 230036, Anhui Province, China
\textsuperscript{2}Qingzhou Tobacco Research Institute, China National Tobacco Corporation, Qingdao 266001, Shandong Province, China
\textsuperscript{3}These authors contributed equally to this work

Abstract

The brown planthopper, \textit{Nilaparvata lugens} Stål (Hemiptera: Delphacidae), is a destructive invasive pest and has become one of the most economically-important rice pests in China. Effective control measures are desperately needed. Entomopathogenic fungi, such as \textit{Beauveria bassiana} (Balsamo-Crivelli) Vuillemin (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae) and \textit{B. brongniartii} (Saccardo), have shown great potential for the management of some sucking pest species. In this study, to explore alternative strategies for sustainable control of the sucking pest population, nine isolates of \textit{Beauveria} from different pests were bioassayed under the concentrated standard spray of 1000 conidia/mm\textsuperscript{2} in laboratory. The cumulative mortalities of adults ranged from 17.2 to 79.1\% 10 days after inoculation. The virulence among all tested isolates exhibited significant differences (at \(p = 0.05\)). The highest virulent isolate was Bb09, which killed 79.1\% of the treated insects and had a median lethal time of 5.5 days. Its median lethal concentration values were estimated as 134 conidia/mm\textsuperscript{2} on day 10. The chitinase activities of nine isolates were also assayed. The results showed that the chitinase activity (18.7 U/mg) of isolate Bbr09 was the highest among all tested isolates. The biological characteristics of these strains, including growth rate, sporulation, and germination rate, were further investigated. The results showed that strain Bbr09 exhibited the best biological characteristics with relatively higher hyphal growth rate, the highest spore production, and the fastest spore germination. The isolate of Bbr09 had strong pathogenicity and exhibited great potential for sustainable control of \textit{N. lugens}.

Keywords: biological characteristics, chitinase, microbial control, virulence

Correspondence: a sj412bg@163.com, b lsg815@163.com, c xuemei0010@gmail.com, d hf.lin@163.com, e 13963973187@126.com, *Corresponding author

Editor: Stefan Jaronski was editor of this paper.

Received: 29 January 2013 Accepted: 21 August 2013 Published: 26 February 2014

Copyright: This is an open access paper. We use the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 license that permits unrestricted use, provided that the paper is properly attributed.

ISSN: 1536-2442 | Vol. 14, Number 32

Cite this paper as:
Li MY, Li SG, Xu AM, Lin HF, Chen DX, Wang H. 2014. Selection of Beauveria isolates pathogenic to adults of Nilaparvata lugens. \textit{Journal of Insect Science} 14:32. Available online: \url{http://www.insectscience.org/14.32}
Introduction

The brown planthopper, *Nilaparvata lugens* Stål (Hemiptera: Delphacidae), is one of the major rice pests throughout Asia. At present, chemical insecticides are still the only means utilized for the control of *N. lugens*. However, the consequential problems of chemical insecticides are of significant environmental concern. The extensive use of chemical insecticides can cause target insect resistance, detrimental impact on the natural enemies, health and environmental hazards, residue persistence, and development of tolerance (Liu et al. 2003; Jin et al. 2008; Kontsedalov et al. 2012). Therefore, there is a need for alternatives, and biocontrol may be an effective alternative to chemical control while also being friendly to environment (Faria and Wraight 2001).

Entomopathogenic fungi are important worldwide biological control agents, and a number of them are already commercially available (Peveling and Demba 1997; Faria and Wraight 2007; Rodriguez et al. 2009). At present, *Beauveria bassiana* (Balsamo-Crivelli) Vuillemin (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae), *Metarhizium anisopliae* (Metachnikoff) Sorokin, and *Metarhizium flavoviride* Gams and Rozsypal, which are studied intensively, have the potential to be used for biological control of sucking pests, such as aphids (Vandenbergh et al. 2001; Shan and Feng 2010), whiteflies (Abdel-Raheem et al. 2009; Cuthbertson et al. 2011), leafhoppers (Feng et al. 2004; Pu et al. 2005), and planthoppers (Toledo et al. 2007, 2008; Kiran and Veeranna 2012). It was reported that these entomopathogenic fungi appeared to be the most efficient because of their ease of virulence, massive production, storage, and application. As for fungal insecticide development, virulence of fungal biological control agents is usually used as a primary criterion for isolate selection in addition to other biological characteristics (Samuels et al. 1989; Reay et al. 2008; Petlamul and Prasertsan 2012). Virulence is the most important indicator when measuring the potential of fungi against a pest and is the basis for choosing highly virulent fungi in laboratory bioassays (Roberts and Leger 2004; Jin et al. 2008). Entomopathogenic fungi cause infection by active penetration through the cuticle of insects and release extracellular cuticle-hydrolyzing enzymes that participate in the decomposition of protein, chitin, and lipids, which are the principal components of the cuticle (St. Leger et al. 1986; Pedrini et al. 2007; Schrank and Vainstein 2010). Different studies suggest that chitinases and proteases are major determinants of fungal virulence in the complex and multifactorial insect pathogen relationship (Fan et al. 2007; Pelizza et al. 2012). Therefore, more and more laboratory bioassays continue to be conducted in order to obtain a fungal isolate with higher efficacy for integrated *N. lugens* control.

In this study, nine strains of *Beauveria* collected from different pest species were selected, and their virulence on *N. lugens* adults and biological characteristics, including colony morphology and growth rate, conidial germination, and chitinase activity, were assessed for the selection as a suitable biological control agent candidate in the management of *N. lugens*. 
Table 1. List of fungal species screened against adults of *Nilaparvata lugens*, original host, and geographic origin. Isolate codes follow fungal number of research center of entomopathogenic fungi.

| Isolate code* | Original host insect | Geographic origin |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Bb22          | *Dendrolimus punctatus* (Walker) (Lepidoptera: Lasiocampidae) | Suzhou, Jiangsu |
| Bb73          | *Dolycoris baccarum* (L.) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) | Xuchang, Anhui |
| Bb81          | *Echinonematus squamens* Schoenherr (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) | Hekou, Yuman |
| Bb154         | *Amrasca biguttula* (Ishida) (Homoptera: Cicadellidae) | Nanjing, Jiangsu |
| Bb255         | *Cryptotympana atrata* (F.) (Homoptera: Cicadidae) | Yuexi, Anhui |
| Bbr03         | *Oryza chinensis* (Thunberg) (Orthoptera: Catantopidae) | Yangling, Beijing |
| Bbr09         | *Anomaloscorus cupreus* (Motschulsky) (Coleoptera: Rutelidae) | Hefei, Anhui |
| Bbr14         | *Cosmosterta dorsimaculata* (Walker) (Homoptera: Cercopidae) | Hengshun, Anhui |
| Bbr92         | *Ichneumon sp.* (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) | Gunuijiang, Anhui |

Materials and Methods

Plant culture
*Oryza sativa* L. (Poales: Poaceae) cv. Nongfengyou, a rice cultivar susceptible to *N. lugens*, was prepared: 10-day-old rice seedlings in dishes (15 cm diameter) were transplanted in plastic pots (20 cm diameter, 20 cm high), which were filled with nutrition solution and cultured for another 10 days under controlled conditions (25–30°C; 14:10 L:D photoperiod; 80% RH) in the greenhouse at the School of Plant Protection, Anhui Agricultural University, Hefei, China.

*N. lugens* population rearing
Adult *N. lugens* (Figure 1A), originally collected from the rice fields in Anhui Agricultural University (No. 130 West Changjiang Rd, Hefei, Anhui, China), were reared on the rice seedlings described above. The condition stimulated the copula and oviposition by females. Nymphs that were born from these ovipositions and grew up to be adults were used in pathogenicity assays.

Sources of fungi
The fungal isolates of *B. bassiana* and *B. brongniartii* (Saccardo) used in the experiment were provided by Biocontrol Research Lab, Anhui Agricultural University, Hefei, China, and originally isolated from a broad spectrum of insects (Table 1). In order to confirm virulence of the isolates was not attenuated, original host insects were inoculated with these isolates and the fungi were re-isolated on Sabouraud dextrose agar yeast medium. The conidia colonies were inoculated to Sabouraud dextrose agar yeast medium in Petri dishes (9 cm diameter) and maintained at 25 ± 1°C in darkness for 15 days. After being scraped from the plate, conidia were dried to a water content of 5% at ambient temperature with a vacuum drier (VirTis, SP
Scientific, www.spscientific.com). Dry conidia were preserved at 4°C in darkness for use as soon as possible in all tests, warranting ≥ 90% viability.

Conidia of each fungal isolate were transferred into corresponding test tubes (3 cm diameter, 20 cm length) and suspended in sterile distilled water by shaking in 10 mL flasks containing 60 to 72 glass beads (3 mm diameter). No surfactant [0.02% Tween-80 (polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate)] was added, since 5 min of agitation at 700 oscillations on a mechanical shaker homogenize suspensions of viable single conidia. The suspensions were then adjusted to 1 × 10^8 conidia/mL by appropriate dilution based on hemocytometer counts.

**Bioassays with N. lugens adults**

Two different series of bioassays were conducted. For each fungal isolate, 60 adults (approximately 10 days old) from the rice seedlings in the greenhouse were aspirated into test tubes (3 cm diameter, 20 cm length). Afterwards, they were transferred into a transparent bell glass jar (6 cm diameter, 20 cm high) with a bottle cap that had small holes for air circulation to avoid adults escaping. The suspensions of 1 × 10^8 conidia/mL in sterile water with 0.05% (v/v) Tween-80 that was prepared previously were sprayed onto adults and rice seedlings in the glass jar by a handheld Micro Ultra sprayer (Micron Sprayers, www.micron.co.uk). The concentration of conidia deposited onto the adults and seedlings was measured as number of conidia/mm^2 using microscopic (400 × magnification) counts of conidia collected onto four glass slips (20 × 20 mm) under each spray. Four replicates per isolate were used, and a blank control was sprayed with 0.05% (v/v) Tween-80 for each fungal isolate. All treatments were maintained at 25 ± 1°C, a 14:10 L:D photoperiod, and 80% RH, with adult mortality recorded daily for 10 days post-treatment. The dead adults were transferred every day into 70% ethanol for 10 sec, washed in sterile distilled water, then treated with 0.5% sodium hypochlorite for 30 sec, and washed again in sterile distilled water. After that, the specimens were placed in Petri dishes (9 cm diameter) with filter paper that was moistened with sterile distilled water and maintained in a humidity chamber (saturated atmosphere) for fungal sporulation at 25 ± 1°C for three to five days.

The second series of bioassays included only those isolates that caused greater than 50% adult mortality in the first series of experiment. Bioassays used aqueous *B. brongniartii* (Bbr03 and Bbr09) suspensions (1 × 10^6, 1 × 10^7, and 1 × 10^8 conidia/mL) containing 0.02% Tween-80 in distilled water (the control). The bioassays were repeated four times using the same method described above.

**Fungal characteristics, colony growth rates, and conidial yields**

The isolates were cultured on Sabouraud dextrose agar yeast medium in Petri dishes (90 mm diameter), with four replicates for each isolate. The dishes were maintained in an incubation chamber at 25 ± 1°C and RH ≥ 80% in the dark. The diameters of the colonies were measured five, 10, and 15 days after incubation. After 15 days, a culture disc from the center of each fungal colony was removed using a sterile 13 mm diameter punch and placed into a 50 mL flask with 20 mL sterile 0.05% Tween-80. Each isolate contained four flask cultures as replicates. The conidial suspensions of the nine isolates were prepared by stirring as described above. Conidial concentrations were determined using a
Table 2. Bioassay results for adults of Nilaparvata lugens representing isolates of Beauveria.

| Isolate code | Conidial spray (conidial/mm²) | Mortality (%) at indicated days after inoculation | Median lethal time (days) |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bbr09        | 1013 ± 35                    | 20.2 ± 1.9a                                  | 5.5                      |
| Bbr03        | 1118 ± 40                    | 20.8 ± 1.0a                                  | 6.4                      |
| Bb255        | 970 ± 82                     | 15.4 ± 0.8c                                  | 9.4                      |
| Bb154        | 1050 ± 63                    | 17.1 ± 1.6abc                                | 10.1                     |
| Bb14         | 1177 ± 149                   | 16.7 ± 1.9bc                                 | 10.8                     |
| Bb22         | 1245 ± 44                    | 12.9 ± 2.5de                                 | 12.4                     |
| Bb92         | 1338 ± 84                    | 10.8 ± 2.2ef                                 | >14.0                    |
| Bb81         | 901 ± 52                     | 8.8 ± 0.8f                                   | >14.0                    |
| Bb73         | 1271 ± 136                   | 8.3 ± 1.4f                                   | >14.0                    |
| Control      |                             | 6.7                                           | 6.7                      |

Mean ± SD was estimated from three replicate bioassays. Means with the same letter in the same column are not significantly different (p > 0.05) by ANOVA followed by Tukey’s test. CK = control.
ease progressed, *N. lugens* adults’ bodies turned brown when infected with *Beauveria* for three days, and white flocculent hyphae grew out of the insect body from the segmacoria, somatic fold sag, foot joints, etc. In the following one to two days, the mycelium covered the whole body until white or light yellow conidia (Figure 1B) emerged. From inoculation to the completion of the entire process of intrusion infection, tissue lesions, host’s death, and in vitro sporulation, the shortest time needed was four days, and the longest nine days.

**Virulence test on N. lugens adults**

The cumulative corrective mortalities of *N. lugens* differed significantly among the 10 isolate treatments (*F*$_{8,27} = 269.5, p < 0.01$) on the 10th day after spraying. Only two isolates, Bbr03 and Bbr09, killed more than 50% of the adults, of which Bbr09 had the lowest LT$_{50}$ of (5.5 days). Cumulative adult mortality increased with conidial concentration. Based on the estimates of the LC$_{50}$ and associated 95% CI (Table 3), the two isolates, Bbr09 and Bbr03, had LC$_{50}$s of 134 and 443 conidia/mm$^2$ on day 10, respectively.

**Fungal characteristics, colony growth rates, and conidial yields**

Viewing from biological characteristics of the original 15 days of culture (Table 4), colony growth rates (5 days: *F*$_{8,27} = 60.7, p < 0.01$; 10 days: *F*$_{8,27} = 177.1, p < 0.01$; 15 days: *F*$_{8,27} = 247.4, p < 0.01$), conidial yields (*F*$_{8,27} = 477.7, p < 0.01$), and spore germination (*F*$_{8,27} = 31.8, p < 0.01$) of the nine isolates were tested, and the results differed significantly among them. The isolate Bbr09 generally had the fastest colony growth rates and the highest conidial yields. Spore germination of all tested isolates exceeded 80% within 24 hr.
Chitinase activities
The chitinase activities of nine isolates demonstrated a significant variation (Figure 2; \( p < 0.01 \)). The three strains Bbr09, Bbr03, and Bb255 had high chitinase activities, among which Bbr09 had the highest chitinase activity of (18.7 U/mL), whereas, the isolate Bb81 showed the least chitinase activity (4.3 U/mL).

Discussion
In this research, no relationship between pathogenicity and the isolates’ original hosts was observed, even though most authors agree that isolates of entomopathogenic fungi are generally more pathogenic to the species of insect that they are isolated from or a closely related species (Zimmermann 1982; Poprawski et al. 1985). The results of our study do not support this point of view, since the most pathogenic isolate, B. brongniartii Bbr09, was isolated from larvae of Anomala corpulenta Motschulsky (Coleoptera: Rutelidae) living in corn crops. The results from this study suggest that isolates from natural environments have the potential to be highly pathogenic, and the screening of entomopathogenic fungi should not be limited only to isolates from the target host or its close relatives.

As the results of this study showed, isolates with higher chitinase activity had relatively higher virulence. The strain Bbr09, which had the highest chitinase activity among the test isolates, also caused the highest adult mortality. Studies have shown that the chitinase secreted from B. bassiana (Gupta et al. 1992; Havukkala et al. 1993; Pelizza et al. 2012), M. anisopliae (St. Leger et al. 1991), M. flavoviride (St. Leger et al. 1993), and Nomuraea rileyi (El-Sayed et al. 1989) was closely related to strain virulence. Fang et al. (2005) showed that highly expressed chitinase (Bbchit1) of B. bassiana could significantly improve the insecticidal virulence, and this phenomenon has been found in both fungi and bacteria. Research on Beauveria and Metarhizium infecting Peregrinus maidis by Toledo et al. (2010) showed a similar phenomenon, as during the process of conidia germinating and penetrating epidermis, the secreted chitinase, esterase, and extracellular protease destroyed insect body surface and promoted the successful invasion of hyphae. During the process of entomopathogenic fungi infecting insects, chitinase not only participated in the degradation of the insect body wall by itself, but also played did so together with other enzymes, such as protease.
This research showed that biological characteristics of fungi strains were related to virulence. Zhang et al. (2011) found that the average growth speed, spore production quantity, and germination percentage of the strains were all related to virulence of the strains during the process of screening Beauveria, which had high virulence to Dendroctonus valens. Petlamul and Prasertsan (2012) argued that strains with higher germination rate had stronger virulence to Spodoptera litura. However, Liu et al. (2003) reported that no obvious correlation between germination rate and virulence of the fungal isolates was found in Beauveria and Metarhizium isolates against Lymantria xylina. In this study, colony growth rates, conidial germination rates, and spore production quantity of isolate Bbr09 were all superior to those of the other eight indoor saved strains. A shorter time needed for producing spores and a higher unit area of spore production quantity meant a higher production efficiency during the industrial production of fungal pesticides (Feng et al. 1994; Kassa et al. 2008); meanwhile, in the natural environment, strains would produce more spores for the next infection and diffusion cycle after finishing infecting the host insect.

In this study, bioassay results of the new strain B. brongniartii Bbr09, isolated from the field, showed it had the highest (79.1%) accumulative corrective mortality and the least LT$_{50}$ (5.5 days) to N. lugens among the test strains. The study on chitinase activity, conidium infection ability, and biological characteristics showed the isolate Bbr09 was superior to those of other strains. The isolate Bbr09 was found to be efficient in the control of eggs of N. lugens (Li et al. 2012). This strain had high insecticidal efficiency and was easily produced, showing that it has great application potential in field control of N. lugens.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Dr. Ian Riley, who is senior biologist in the South Australian Research and Development Institute, for a critical review of the manuscript. This research was supported by the Anhui Agricultural University Science Foundation for Young Scholars (2012zd013), the science and technology key projects of China tobacco corporation (110201202003), the science and technology projects of Sichuang company of China tobacco corporation (201202007), Anhui Province Natural Science Foundation (1408085QC52), and by the National High Technology Research and Development Program of China (863 Program) (2011AA10A205).

References

Abdel-Raheem AM, Sabry KH, Ragab ZA. 2009. Effect of different fertilization rates on control of Bemisia tabaci (Genn.) by Verticillium lecanii and Beauveria bassiana in potato crop. Egyptian Journal of Biological Pest Control 19: 129-133.

Cuthbertson AGS, Blackburn LF, Eyre DP, Cannon, RJC, Miller J, Northing P. 2011. Bemisia tabaci: The current situation in the UK and the prospect of developing strategies for eradication using entomopathogens. Insect Science 18: 1-10.

El-Sayed GN, Coudron TA, Ignoffo CM. 1989. Chitinolytic activity and virulence associated with native and mutant isolates of an entomopathogenic fungus Nomuraea rileyi.
Fan YH, Fang WG, Gou SJ, Pei XQ, Zhang YJ, Xiao YH, Li DM, Jin K, Bidochka MJ, Pei Y. 2007. Increased Insect Virulence in *Beauveria bassiana* Strains Over-expressing and Engineered Chitinase. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* 73: 295-302.

Fang W, Leng B, Xiao Y, Jin K, Ma JC, Fan YH, Feng J, Yang XY, Zhang YJ, Pei Y. 2005. Cloning of *Beauveria bassiana* chitinase gene Bbchit1 and its application to improve fungal strain virulence. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* 71: 363-370.

Faria M, Wraight SP. 2001. Biological control of *Bemisia tabaci* with fungi. *Crop Protection* 20: 767-778.

Faria M, Wraight SP. 2007. Mycoinsecticides and mycoacaricides: a comprehensive list with worldwide coverage and international classification of formulation types. *Biological Control* 43: 237-256.

Feng MG, Poprawski TJ, Khachatourians GG. 1994. Production, formulation and application of the entomopathogenic fungus *Beauveria bassiana* for insect control: current status. *Biocontrol Science and Technology* 4: 3-34.

Feng MG, Pu XY, Ying SH, Wang YG. 2004. Field trials of an oil-based emulsifiable formulation of *Beauveria bassiana* conidia and low application rates of imidacloprid for control of false-eye leafhopper *Empoasca vitis* on tea in southern China. *Crop Protection* 23: 489-496.

Gupta SC, Leathers TD, El-Sayed GN, Lgnoffo CM. 1992. Insect cuticle-degrading enzymes from the entomogenous fungus *Beauveria bassiana*. *Experimental Mycology* 16: 132-137.

Havukkala I, Mitamura C, Hara S, Hirayae K, Nishizawa Y, Hibi T. 1993. Induction and purification of *Beauveria bassiana* chitinolytic enzymes. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology* 61: 97-102.

Jin SF, Feng MG, Chen JQ. 2008. Selection of global *Metarhizium* isolates for the control of the rice pest *Nilaparvata lugens* (Homoptera: Delphacidae). *Pest Management Science* 64: 1008-1014.

Kassa A, Brownbridge M, Parker BL, Skinner M, Gouli V, Gouli S, Guo M, Lee F, Hata T. 2008. Whey for mass production of *Beauveria bassiana* and *Metarhizium anisopliae*. *Mycological Research* 112: 583-591.

Kiran R, Veeranna R. 2012. Evaluation of bio-pesticide *Metarhizium anisoplea* against brown plant hopper (*Nilaparvatha lugens*) and its efficiency on the improvement of the productivity of paddy. *International Journal of Plant Protection* 5:81-83.

Kontsedalov S, Abu-Moch F, Lebedev G, Czosnek H, Horowitz AR, Ghanim M. 2012.
Bemisia tabaci biotype dynamics and resistance to insecticides in Israel during the years 2008-2010. *Journal of Integrative Agriculture* 11: 312-320.

Li MY, Lin HF, Li SG, Xu AM, Feng MF. 2012. Efficiency of entomopathogenic fungi in the control of eggs of the brown planthopper *Nilaparvata lugens* Stål. *African Journal of Microbiology Research* 6: 7162-7167.

Liu HP, Skinner M, Brownbridge M, Parker BL. 2003. Characterization of *Beauveria bassiana* and *Metarhizium anisopliae* isolates for management of tarnished plant bug, *Lygus lineolaris* (Hemiptera: Miridae). *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology* 82: 139-147.

Liu ZW, Han ZJ, Wang YC, Zhang LC, Zhang HW, Liu CJ. 2003. Selection for imidacloprid resistance in *Nilaparvata lugens*: cross-resistance patterns and possible mechanisms. *Pest Management Science* 59: 1355-1359.

Pedrini N, Crespo R, Juarez MP. 2007. Biochemistry of insect epicuticle degradation by entomopathogenic fungi. *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology* 146: 124-137.

Pelizza SA, Eliades LA, Scorsetti AC, Cabello MN, Lange CE. 2012. Entomopathogenic fungi from Argentina for the control of *Schistocerca cancellata* (Orthoptera: Acrididae) nymphs: fungal pathogenicity and enzyme activity. *Biocontrol Science and Technology* 22: 1119-1129.

Petlamul W, Prasertsan P. 2012. Evaluation of strains of *Metarhizium anisopliae* and *Beauveria bassiana* against *Spodoptera litura* on the basis of their virulence, germination rate, conidia production, radial growth and enzyme activity. *Mycobiology* 40: 111-116.

Peveling R, Demba SA. 1997. Virulence of the entomopathogenic fungus *Metarhizium flavoviride* Gams and Rozsypal and toxicity of diflubenzuron, fenitrothion-esfenvalerate and profenofos-cypermethrin to nontarget Arthropods in Mauritania. *Archives of environmental contamination and toxicology* 32: 69-79.

Poprawski TJ, Marchal M, Robert PH. 1985. Comparative susceptibility of *Otiorrhynchus sulcatus* and *Sitona lineatus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) early stage to five entomopathogenic hyphomycetes. *Environment Entomology* 14: 247-253.

Pu XY, Feng MG, Shi CH. 2005. Impact of three application methods on the field efficacy of a *Beauveria bassiana*-based mycoinsecticide against the false-eye leafhopper, *Empoasca vitis* (Homoptera: Cicadellidae), in tea canopy. *Crop Protection* 24: 167-175.

Reay SD, Brownbridge M, Cummings NJ, Nelson TL, Souffre B, Lignon C, Glare TR. 2008. Isolation and characterization of
Beauveria spp. associated with exotic bark beetles in New Zealand Pinus radiata plantation forests. Biological Control 46: 484-494.

Reissig JL, Strominger JL, Leloir LF. 1955. A modified colorimetric method for the estimation of n-acetyl amino sugars. Journal of Biological Chemistry 217: 959-966.

Roberts DW, Leger RJ. 2004. Metarhizium spp., cosmopolitan insect-pathogenic fungi: mycological aspects. Advances in Applied Microbiology 54: 1-70.

Rodriguez M, Gerding M, France A, Ceballos R. 2009. Evaluation of Metarhizium anisopliae var. anisopliae Qu-M845 isolate to control Varroa destructor (Acari: Varroidae) in laboratory and field trials. Chilean Journal of Agricultural Research 69: 541-547.

Samuels KDZ, Heale JB, Llewellyn M. 1989. Characteristics relating to the pathogenicity of Metarhizium anisopliae toward Nilaparvata lugens. Journal of Invertebrate Pathology 53: 25-31.

Schrank A, Vainstein MH. 2010. Metarhizium anisopliae enzymes and toxins. Toxicon 56: 1267-1274.

Shan LT, Feng MG. 2010. Evaluation of the biocontrol potential of various Metarhizium isolates against green peach aphid Myzus persicae (Homoptera: Aphididae). Pest Management Science 66: 669-675.

St. Leger RJ, Charnley AK, Cooper RM. 1986. Cuticle-degrading enzymes of entomopathogenic fungi: mechanisms of interaction between pathogen enzymes and insect cuticle. Journal of Invertebrate Pathology 47: 295-302.

St. Leger RJ, Cooper RM, Charnley AK. 1991. Characterization of chitinase and chitobiase produced by the entomopathogenic fungus Metarhizium anisopliae. Journal of Invertebrate Pathology 58: 415-426.

St. Leger RJ, Staples RC, Roberts DW. 1993. Entomopathogenic isolates of Metarhizium anisopliae, Beauveria bassiana and Aspergillus flavus produce multiple extracellular chitinase isozymes. Journal of Invertebrate Pathology 61: 81-84.

Tang QY, Feng MG. 2007. DPS date processing system: experimental design, statistical analysis and data mining. Science Press.

Toledo AV, Lenicov AMMD, Lastra CCL. 2007. Pathogenicity of fungal isolates (Ascomycota: Hypocreales) against Peregrinus maidis, Delphacodes kuscheli (Hemiptera: Delphacidae), and Dalbulus maidis (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae), vectors of corn diseases. Mycopathology 163: 225-232.

Toledo AV, Giambelluca L, Lenicov AMMD, Lastra CCL. 2008. Pathogenic fungi of planthoppers associated with rice crops in
Argentina. *International Journal of Pest Management* 54: 163-168.

Toledo AV, Lenicov AMMD, Lastra CCL. 2010. Histopathology caused by the entomopathogenic fungi, *Beauveria bassiana* and *Metarhizium anisopliae*, in the adult planthopper, *Peregrinus maidis*, a Maize Virus Vector. *Journal of Insect Science* 10:35. Available online: [www.insectscience.org/10.35](http://www.insectscience.org/10.35)

Vandenberg JD, Sandvol LE, Jaronski ST, Jackson MA, Souza EJ, Halbert SE. 2001. Efficacy of fungi for control of Russian wheat aphid (Homoptera: Aphididae) in irrigated wheat. *Southwestern Entomology* 26: 73-85.

Zhang LW, Liu YJ, Yao J, Wang B, Huang B, Li ZZ, Fan MZ. 2011. Evaluation of *Beauveria bassiana* (Hyphomycetes) isolates as potential agents for control of *Dendroctonus valens*. *Insect Science* 18: 209-216.

Zimmermann G. 1982. Untersuchungen zur Wirkung von *Metarhizium anisopliae* (Metsch.) Sorok. auf Eier und Schlüpfende Eilarven von *Otiorchynchus sulcatus* F. (Col., Curculionidae). *Journal of Applied Entomology* 93: 476-482.