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ENV/JM/MONO(2017)5/ANN

Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

31-Jan-2017

English - Or. English

**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE  
JOINT MEETING OF THE CHEMICALS COMMITTEE AND  
THE WORKING PARTY ON CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**ANNEX TO THE REPORT OF THE 6TH BIOPESTICIDES STEERING GROUP SEMINAR ON  
HAZARD AND RISK ASSESSMENT OF SECONDARY METABOLITES PRODUCED BY  
MICROBIAL PESTICIDES**

**Series on Pesticides  
No. 89**

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This document only contains Annex 4 of the report of the BPSG Seminar. Annex 4 includes slides of all presentations made during the seminar. The main part of the seminar report, as well as Annexes 1-3, is published under the reference ENV/JM/MONO(2017)5.

## ANNEX 4

### List of presentations

**6th BioPesticides Seminar on Hazard and Risk Assessment of Secondary Metabolites  
Produced by Microbial Pesticides  
18 May 2015, OECD, Paris, France**

<b>[PPT 1] Presentation on the OECD, the work of OECD BPSG and general introduction to the Seminar</b>	
<i>Jeroen Meeussen, BPSG Chair, European Commission</i>	4
<b>[PPT 2] State of play of the OECD project on secondary metabolites</b>	
<i>Jacqueline Scheepmaker (RIVM, Bilthoven; The Netherlands)</i>	16
<b>[PPT 3] Update of current activities in EFSA related to microbial pesticides</b>	
<i>Frédérique Istace (European Food Safety Authority, Parma; Italy)</i>	33
<b>[PPT 4] <i>Trichoderma</i> secondary metabolites: how to identify the main compound and mycotoxins</b>	
<i>Matteo Lorito (Università di Napoli Federico II, Napoli; Italy)</i>	47
<b>[PPT 5] Evaluation of relevant metabolites from microbial control agents: What do we need to know?</b>	
<i>Ingvar Sundh (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala; Sweden)</i>	62
<b>[PPT 6] Norine and Florine, bioinformatics tools to study beneficial and deleterious secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides</b>	
<i>Philippe Jacques (Université Lille, Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex; France)</i>	68
<b>[PPT 7] Experiences from industry in the EU in the risk assessment of secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides</b>	
<i>Rüdiger Hauschild (GAB Consulting GmbH, Lamstedt; Germany)</i>	84
<b>[PPT 8] Experiences from industry in the USA in the risk assessment of secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides</b>	
<i>Keith Pitts (Marrone Bio Innovations, Inc., Davis; USA) and Alison Hamer (TSGE Consulting Ltd. UK, representing Marrone Bio Innovations)</i>	96
<b>[PPT 9] Experiences from regulators in the EU in the risk assessment of secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides</b>	
<i>Bilgin Karaoglan (Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Dessau-Rosslau; Germany) and Adi Cornelese and Marloes Busschers (Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection products and Biocides (Ctgb), Wageningen; The Netherlands)</i>	106
<b>[PPT 10] Experiences from regulators in the USA in the risk assessment of secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides</b>	
<i>Shannon Borges (Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC; United States)</i>	123

**Presentation 1**

**Presentation on the OECD, the work of OECD BPSG and general introduction to the Seminar**

*Jeroen Meeussen, BPSG Chair, European Commission*




The slide features a blue background with a white diagonal line. On the left, there is a stylized logo consisting of two green chevrons pointing right, with a grey shadow effect. The main text is in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below the title, the date and location are listed, followed by the steering group name. The speaker's name and title are at the bottom left. The OECD logo and tagline are at the bottom right.

**SEMINAR ON “HAZARD AND RISK ASSESSMENT OF SECONDARY METABOLITES PRODUCED BY MICROBIAL PESTICIDES”**

18 May 2015, OECD, Paris  
*OECD BioPesticides Steering Group*

**Jeroen Meeussen**  
Chair of the OECD Biopesticides Steering Group

 **OECD**  
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES



- A few words about **OECD**.
- OECD Work on **(Bio)Pesticides**.
- Today's **seminar**: purpose, scope and structure.

## A few words about OECD

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OECD: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development



## OECD

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- Started after **World War II**;
- Transformed in **1961** into the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development with trans-Atlantic and then global reach;
- Today the OECD has **34 member countries**;
- **More than 70** developing and transition economies are engaged in working relationships with the OECD (Brazil, China and India).



## What is OECD?

- A forum in which governments work together to:
- Co-ordinate and harmonise **policies**;
  - Discuss issues of **mutual concern**;
  - Work together to respond to **international problems**.

A provider of **comparative statistics** and **economic** and **social data** with more than 250 publications per year.



## How do pesticides fit in all this?

One of the fields in which OECD is actively involved is the **sustainability of agriculture**.





## OECD - Working Group on Pesticides

The OECD work on **agricultural pesticides** aims to help member countries:

- improve the efficiency of **pesticide control**;
- share the work of **pesticide registration and re-registration**;
- minimise non-tariff **trade barriers**;
- **reduce risks** to human health and the environment.



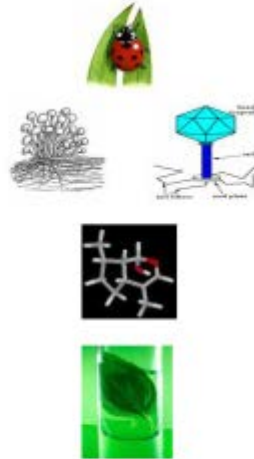
- The **BioPesticides Steering Group** (BPSG) was established by the WGP in 1999 to help member countries to **harmonise** the methods and approaches used to **assess biological pesticides**.





## Biological Pesticides:

- Macro-organisms
- Microbial biopesticides
- Semiochemicals
- Plant extracts/Botanicals



The first tasks of the BPSG consisted of:


- (i) reviewing regulatory **data requirements** for three categories of biopesticides; and
- (ii) developing **formats for dossiers and monographs** for microbials, and pheromones and other semio-chemicals.



## OECD-Publications (I)

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### Registration requirements:

- for **pheromones** (Series on Pesticides, No. 12, 2001);  **under revision**
- for **microbial pesticides** (Series on Pesticides, No. 18, 2003);
- for **invertebrate biocontrol agents/IBCA**s (Series on Pesticides, No. 21, 2004).

## OECD-BPSG

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The BPSG then decided to concentrate its efforts on **science issues** that remain as barriers to harmonisation and work-sharing.





## OECD-Publications (II)

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- Working Document on the **Evaluation of Microbials** for Pest Control (Series on Pesticides No. 43, 2008).

This document is essentially a set of examples/case studies aimed at helping the regulatory authorities to deal with these issues in the assessment of (microbial) biopesticides.



## OECD-Publications (III)

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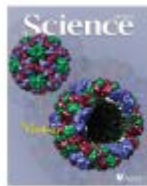
- Issue Paper on **Microbial Contaminant Limits** for Microbial Pest Control Products (Series on Pesticides No. 65, 2011);
- Guidance to the **Environmental Safety Evaluation** of Microbial Biocontrol Agents (Series on Pesticides No. 67, 2012).



## Workplan 2013-2016

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- Promote **communication** and **exchange of information** among regulatory authorities of participating countries.
- Organise **seminars** and **workshops** on topics of common interest.



## OECD-BPSG workshops

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- Workshop on the Regulation of Biopesticides: **Registration and Communication Issues**; 15-17 April 2008, EPA, Arlington, USA.
- Workshop on Microbial Pesticides: **Risk Assessment and Risk Management**; 17-19 June 2013, Saltsjöbaden, Sweden



## OECD-Seminars (I)

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- Report of Seminar on "**Identity and Characterisation of micro-organisms**", OECD Series on Pesticides No. 53, 2010);
- Report of Seminar on "**The fate in the environment of microbial control agents and their effect on non-target organisms**", OECD Series on Pesticides No. 64, 2011);



## OECD-Seminars (II)

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- Report of Seminar on "**Characterisation and Analyses of Botanicals for the use in Plant protection Products**", OECD Series on Pesticides No. 72, 2012);
- Report on Seminar on "**Trichoderma spp. for the use in Plant Protection Products: similarities and differences**" OECD Series on Pesticides No. 74, 2013).



## OECD-Seminars (III)

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- Report of Seminar on "**Application Techniques for Microbial Pest Control Products and Semiochemicals: Use Scenarios and Associated Risks**", in publication.



## Seminar on secondary metabolites

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Why was this topic selected?

This was one of the **main issues** discussed at the June 2013 OECD/KemI/EU Workshop on Microbial Pesticides with a clear **recommendation to develop a guidance document on secondary metabolites.**

## Seminar - Scope

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Discussion on:

- Microorganisms can potentially produce **a wide array of secondary metabolites under different conditions.**  
**What to assess?**
- **When** are metabolites **formed** (after application)?;
- **What** are **relevant** metabolites;
- **Stability** of the metabolite, and **potential (adverse) effects.**
- Microorganisms' **biology** is crucial,
- ....etc.

## Seminar - Structure

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Presentations on:

- **government, research** and **stakeholder** experience and perspectives,

followed by discussion after each set of presentations.

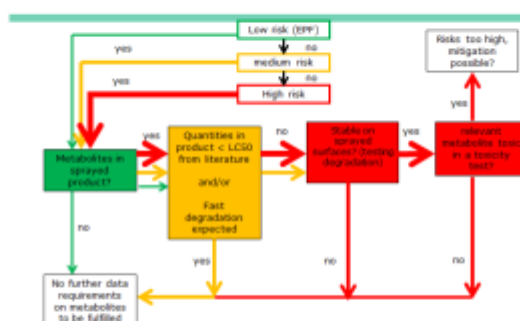


## Seminar - Results

With the focus on "hazard and risk assessment of secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides", the goals of this seminar are

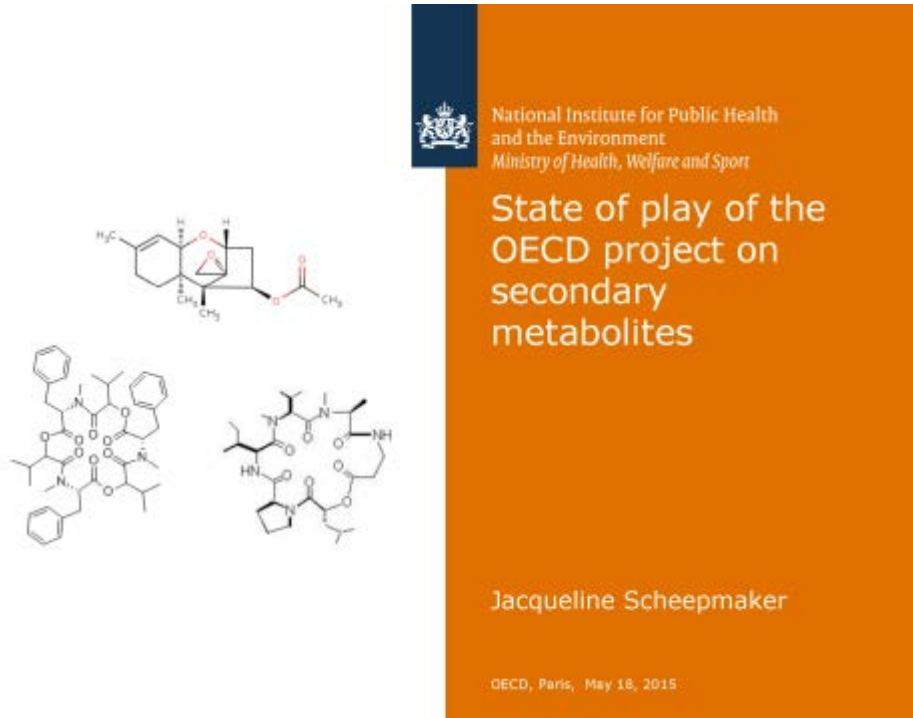
1. for participants to **share information** and to **promote a dialogue**, and
2. to initiate a process to make **recommendations** for improvements to the **draft OECD Guidance Document** on Hazard and Risk Assessment of Secondary Metabolites produced by Microbial Pesticides.

## Seminar on application techniques



I wish you an interesting and useful seminar!

**Presentation 2**  
**State of play of the OECD project on secondary metabolites**  
*Jacqueline Scheepmaker (RIVM, Bilthoven; The Netherlands)*



National Institute for Public Health and the Environment  
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

State of play of the OECD project on secondary metabolites

Jacqueline Scheepmaker

OECD, Paris, May 18, 2015

**Incentive of this project**

- This issue of secondary metabolites was recognized as a problem in the risk assessment of biological control agents by Biopesticide Steering Group
- Data gaps caused by secondary metabolites
  
- RAFBCA and REBECA have addressed this topic earlier



**Members of the Advisory Group**

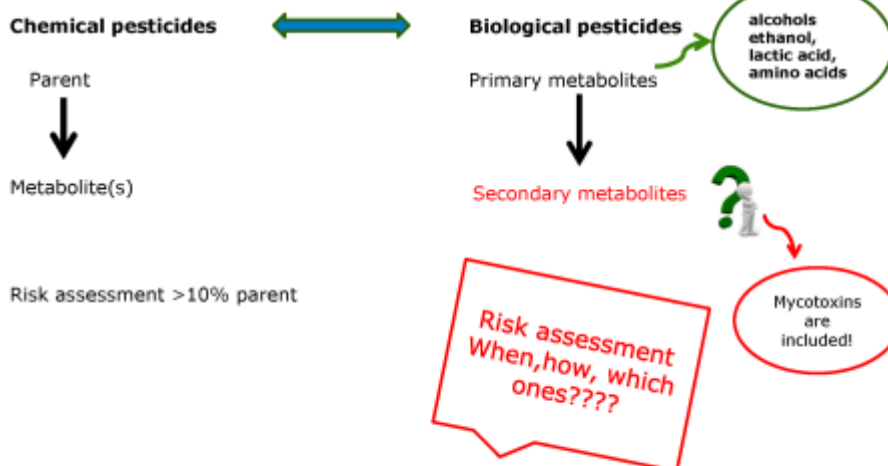
- Adi Cornelese (Ctgb, the Netherlands)
- Bilgin Karaoglan (UBA, Germany)
- Ruediger Hauschild (GAB Consulting, Germany)
- Flora Limache (Novozymes Biologicals FR S.A., France)
- Vera Ritz (BfR, Germany)
- Denis Rochon (PRMA, Health Canada, Canada)
- Chishio Sasaki (ACIS-FAMIC, Japan)

3

State of play of the OECD project on secondary metabolites |  
OECD, May 18, 2015

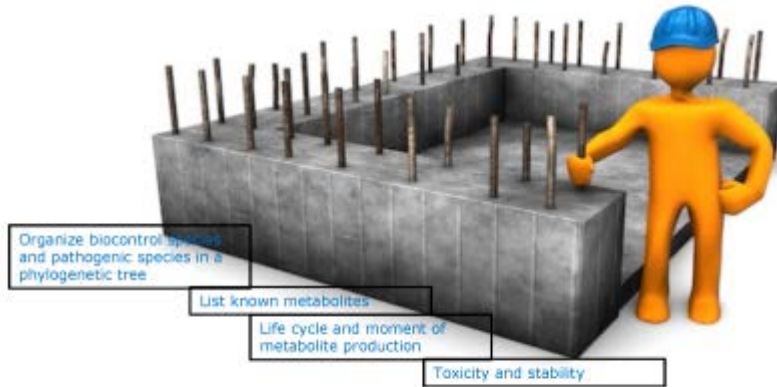


**Origin of data requirement**





## Contents of the project



## Literature included

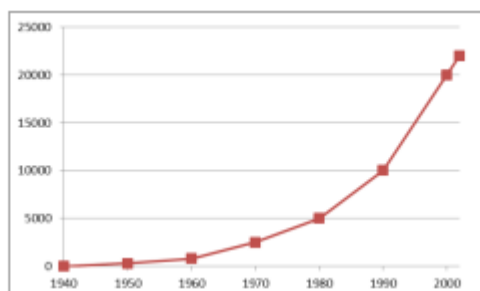
- EFSA report: Scientific support, literature review and data collection and analysis for risk assessment on microbial organisms used as active substance in plant protection products - Lot 1 Environmental
- Selected reviews on individual biocontrol genera/species
- Relevant references mentioned therein

### Published last month and not included:

- EFSA report: Literature search and data collection on RA for human health for microorganisms used as plant protection products risk characterisation



## Discovery of new bioactive secondary metabolites



Bérdy J. 2005. Bioactive microbial metabolites, A personal view. *J. Antibiot.* 58: 1-26.

7

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## Reviewed species

### First part of the project (2014):

Entomopathogenic fungal species

- *Metarhizium*, *Beauveria*, *Isaria*, *Paecilomyces*, *Verticillium lecanii*

### Second part of the project (2015):

*Trichoderma*,

*Pseudomonas*, *Bacillus*, *Burkholderia*, *Streptomyces*, *Serratia*

BUT: Considering the amount of literature, the data and information presented in the chapters cannot be exhaustive!!

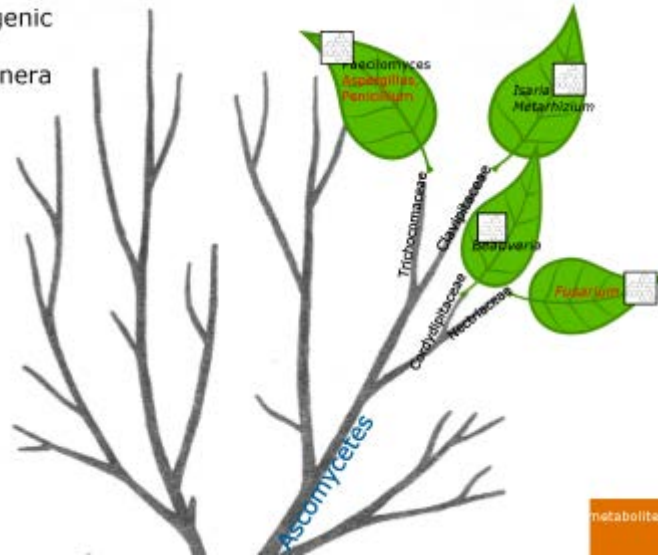
8

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Relatedness  
entomopathogenic  
fungi and  
pathogenic genera

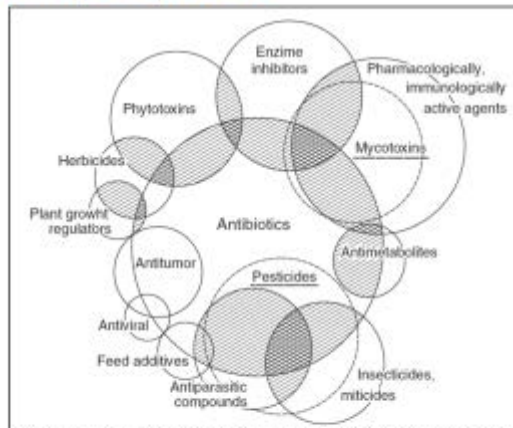


11

metabolites |



Metabolites in perspective



Bérdy J. 2012. Thoughts and facts about antibiotics: where we are now and where we are heading. The Journal of antibiotics. 65: 385-395.

12 State of play of the OECD project on secondary metabolites | OECD, May 18, 2015



List mycotoxins in Appendix of the guidance

PART of Table 2. List fungal genera producing mycotoxins

Genera	mycotoxin	Species
<b>Acremonium</b>	Crotochin	<i>Acremonium crotochinigenum</i>
<b>Alternaria</b>	Altenelic acid	<i>Alternaria alternata</i>
	Altemariol	<i>Alternaria alternata</i>
<b>Aspergillus</b>	Glilotoxin	<i>Alternaria</i> , <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> , <i>Penicillium</i>
	Aflatoxin	<i>Aspergillus flavus</i> , <i>A. parasiticus</i>
	Aflatrein	<i>Aspergillus flavus</i>
<b>Fusarium</b>	Beauvericin	<i>Fusarium moniliforme</i> , <i>F. equiseti</i> , <i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>F. culmorum</i> , <i>F. avenaceum</i> , <i>F. roseum</i> , and <i>F. nivale</i>
	Butenolide	<i>Fusarium moniliforme</i> , <i>F. equiseti</i> , <i>F. oxysporum</i> , <i>F. culmorum</i> , <i>F. avenaceum</i> , <i>F. roseum</i> , and <i>F. nivale</i>



## Mycotoxins also produced by biocontrol agents

Metabolite	On the list	Biocontrol agent
beauvericin	<i>Fusarium</i>	<i>Beauveria</i> , <i>Isaria</i> , <i>Paecilomyces</i>
gliotoxin	<i>Alternaria</i> , <i>Aspergillus</i> , <i>Penicillium</i>	<i>Gliocladium</i> , <i>Trichoderma</i>
trichodermin		<i>Trichoderma</i>
destruxin B	<i>Alternaria</i> , <i>Aspergillus</i>	<i>Metarhizium</i>



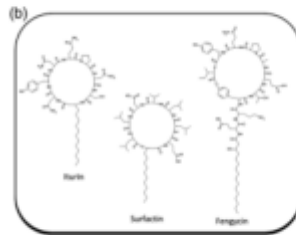
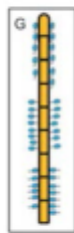
## Results

1. Overview phylogeny
- 2. Life cycle and moment of secondary metabolite production**
3. Toxicity
4. Stability



### Bacillus

- *Bacillus* closely associated with soil (pathogenic) fungi.
- *Bacillus* makes biofilms on the surface of fungi.
- In these biofilms iturins, surfactins and fengycins are produced
- The expression of genes to form secondary metabolites is under the control of quorum sensing



The hydrocarbon tail penetrates pathogen cell membranes, while the amino acid end stays in the soil solution. This action creates openings in cell membranes, inhibiting the growth of the pathogen

17

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OECD, May 18, 2015



### Statements

Metabolites that play a role in hyperparasitism or competitions for space or nutrients pose no hazards that need to be addressed.

18

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## Results

1. Overview phylogeny
2. Life cycle and moment of SM production
- 3. Toxicity**
4. Stability

19

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## Toxicity tests

- Research goal of many toxicity tests is the identification of a link between a metabolite(s) and the suppression of a particular disease. To show fungicidal or antimicrobial properties.
- Tests with purified metabolite(s).
- Endpoints are hardly ever useful for a quantitative risk assessment!

PART OF Table 1: Toxicity data of Metabolite metabolites

Metabolite	Test organism	Endpoint	In vivo/ vitro	Test system	Level of effect	Ref.
<b>AQUATIC</b>						
Destruxin A	<i>Artemia salina</i>	LC50	In vivo	bioassay	2.92 µg/mL, 36 h 9.78 µg/mL, 24 h	[Favilla, 2006]
Destruxin A	<i>Daphnia magna</i>	LC50	In vivo		0.16 µg/mL, 36 h 0.20 µg/mL, 24 h	[Favilla, 2006]
Crude extract V245	<i>Daphnia magna</i>	LC50	In vitro	Wells in test plate	0.30 µg/mL, 24 h	[Skrobek et al., 2005]
Crude extract V275	<i>Daphnia magna</i>	LC50	In vitro	Wells in test plate	0.04 µg/mL, 48 h 0.06 µg/mL, 24 h	[Skrobek et al., 2005]
<b>TERRESTRIAL</b>						
<b>Mammals</b>						
Destruxin A	Mice	LD50	In vivo	intraperitoneally	1–1.35 mg/kg	[Kodama, 1961]
Destruxin B	Mice	LD50	In vivo	intraperitoneally	13.2–16.9 mg/kg	[Kodama, 1961]
<b>Insects</b>						
Destruxin A	Silkworm larvae	LC50	In vivo		0.015–0.030 mg/g, 24 h	[Kodama, 1961]

20

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## Results

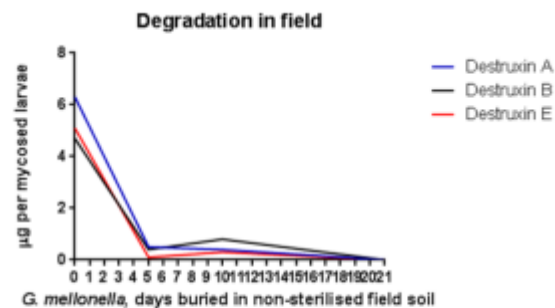
1. Overview phylogeny
2. Life cycle and moment of SM production
3. Toxicity
- 4. Stability**

21

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## Example stability



Levels of destruxins A, B and E by *Metarhizium anisopliae* V245 in *G. mellonella* cadavers measured in the field (modified from Skrobek et al. (2008))

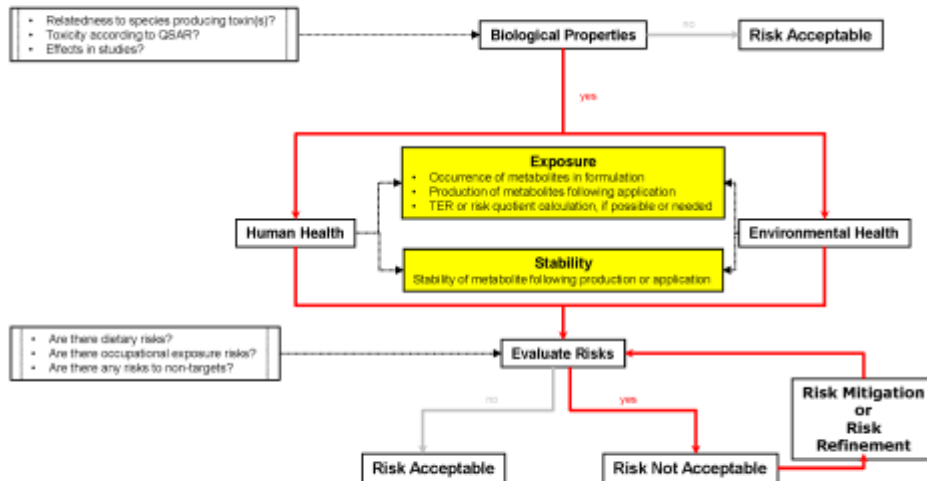
22

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## Draft Guidance

Simple construction, with independent elements





## Statement

Statement made in report of the OECD/KemI Workshop  
Sweden:

We must recall that the phytopathogenic microorganisms that we are aiming to control also produce secondary metabolites and toxins, which are tolerated at low levels in feed and food. We should not be more restrictive on a biological control agent than we are for the pathogenic microorganisms it controls.

25

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## Maximum levels in food/feed

MLs are set according to ALARA principle  
= As Low As Reasonably Achievable

- Aflatoxin (B<sub>1</sub>) : 2-12 µg/kg;
- Aflatoxin (sum of B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, G<sub>1</sub> and G<sub>2</sub>) : 4-15 µg/kg;
- Ochratoxin A : 2-80 µg/kg;
- Patulin : 10 -50 µg/kg;
- Deoxynivalenol : 500-1750 µg/kg;
- Zearalenone : 50-400 µg/kg;
- Fumonisin : 800-4000 µg/kg;
- Citrinin : 2000 µg/kg

**No Maximum Levels determined yet for most mycotoxins  
and none is produced by a biocontrol species**

- Organizations involved in setting MLs:
- CONTAM Panel EFSA (Contaminants in the Food Chain)
  - Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives
  - Scientific Committee on Food
  - US FDA

26

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## Quantities Beauvericin

<i>Fusarium:</i>	in plants up to	3400 mg/kg
<i>Paecilomyces fumosoroseus:</i>	in insects	1.6 mg/kg

27

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## Presentation Kersti Kustafsson, OECD seminar 2014

- Rather reasoning than further testing
- Analyse the exposure situation before further testing



Qualitative rather than  
quantitative risk assessment

28

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## Problems identified...

- Few toxicity and stability data available and difficult to find
- *In situ* testing of toxicity not possible
  - Secondary metabolite production depends on too many factors that cannot be controlled.
  - Impossible to develop a standardised test
- No ready-to-use lists available to compare toxicities



## Development draft guidance

• Comment round  
• Determine topics that should be improved  
• Further elaboration in subgroups?



**Secondary metabolites:**

A myriad of forms, activities, modes of action

A myriad of research performed

A myriad of solutions?

“What you need to do, you have to picture it as something easy. By doing that, it becomes easy”

Emile Coué, French psychologist  
1857-1926



## Acknowledgements

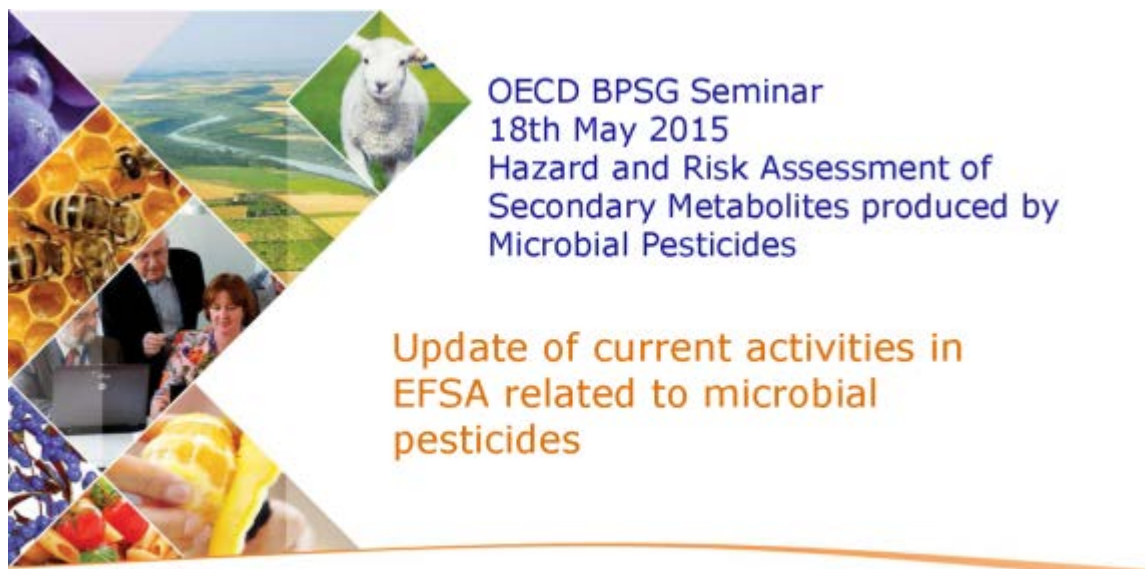
OECD to facilitate and finance this project

Everybody who gave support by reading and commenting on the chapters and draft guidance.

Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment of the Netherlands for giving additional financial support



**Presentation 3**  
**Update of current activities in EFSA related to microbial pesticides**  
*Frédérique Istace (European Food Safety Authority, Parma; Italy)*



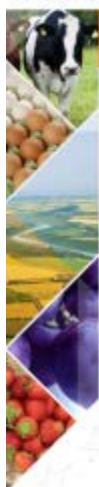
[www.efsa.europa.eu](http://www.efsa.europa.eu)



## BACKGROUND

- Currently, there are no specific EU Guidance Documents (GDs) available to ensure a robust and consistent risk assessment of microorganisms used as active substances in plant protection products (PPPs)
- Collection and evaluation of relevant information and characterisation of respective uncertainties is needed as preliminary step before developing future guidance
  - 2 calls were launched by EFSA
- Future development of guidance is under consideration by the Pesticide Steering Network (PSN)

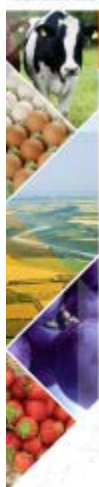
2



## RECENTLY PUBLISHED ON EFSA WEBSITE:

- External Scientific Reports: Literature review and data collection on microorganisms used in plant protection products
  - 1. Environmental Risk characterisation
  - 2. Risk assessment for human health
  
- 3. Scientific Opinion: Guidance on the assessment of the toxigenic potential of Bacillus species used in animal nutrition
  
- 4. Future activities

3



## 1. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK CHARACTERISATION

Published in December, 2013

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/supporing/doc/518e.pdf>



**EXTERNAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT**

**Scientific support, literature review and data collection and analysis for risk assessment on microbial organisms used as active substances in plant protection products – Lot 1 Environmental Risk characterisation<sup>1</sup>**

**Shalendra Mudgal<sup>2</sup>, Arianna De Toni<sup>3</sup>, Christel Tostini<sup>2</sup>, Heikki Hakkarinen<sup>2</sup>, David Chandler<sup>2</sup>**

(1) EEF Intelligence Services, 26-22 Villa Thorpes Park 79114

(2) Department of Agricultural Sciences, Loughborough University (Building C) and 7 (Building B), PO Box 27, 18004 University of Huddersfield, England

(3) Warwick Crop Centre, School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF

**ABSTRACT**

Microorganisms can be used as active substances as part of biological control, and therefore are referred to as Microbial Plant Control Agents (MPCAs). MPCAs which are authorised for use are listed in Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 in accordance with EU legislation. This report focused on authorised MPCAs and also those for which a decision on compliance has been taken in accordance with Article 6(1) of Directive 90/269/EEC. In this report we provide an extensive review of the scientific literature relevant for the production of the environmental details and risks posed by MPCAs based on knowledge on their effects on the environment. Key topics were investigated in detail, including MPCAs genetic stability and transfer, interactions with the system for disease vector quality control, fate and behaviour in the environment, ability to produce exotoxins and potential toxic effects on non target organisms, host specificity and potential effect on non target organisms such finally the opportunities of existing risk guidelines for risk assessment. The effects of biotic and abiotic factors on growth, survival and pathogenicity of MPCAs have also been reviewed, as well as the potential of transgenomes – or read vectors. Various species/strains/strains not used as MPCAs. A systematic literature search was run on 814 search queries and more than 2121 publications were retrieved which were considered relevant for the analysis. The distribution of the literature per topic was heterogeneous, ranging from 2 to 347, showing that there is a clear need of further research in particular areas, apart notably on the capacity of MPCAs to interfere with existing vector quality control systems. The current research was reported and classified into a detailed database which facilitated subsequent analysis. This report details the methods used in the study and presents the results in the form of an annexation, one for each of the topics mentioned above.

**KEY WORDS**

Microbial pesticides, plant protection products, environmental risk, sensitive biota/micro

<sup>1</sup> Question No EFSA-Q-2012-08206

Any enquiries related to this report should be addressed to [graham.groff@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:graham.groff@warwick.ac.uk)

Suggested citation: Mudgal S, De Toni A, Tostini C, Hakkarinen H, Chandler D, Scientific support, literature review and data collection and analysis for risk assessment on microbial organisms used as active substances in plant protection products – Lot 1 Environmental Risk characterisation. EFSA supporting publication 2013-01-01. 1168 pp. Available online: [www.efsa.europa.eu/en/support](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/support)

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4

## 1. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK CHARACTERISATION

### Topics: Risks and hazards linked to

- 1) genetic stability and transfer (99)
- 2) interference with the system for drinking water quality control (2)
- 3) fate and behaviour in the environment (462)
- 4) production of metabolites/toxins and potential toxic effect on non-target organisms (NTOs) (400)
- 5) host specificity range and potential effect on NTOs (418)
- 6) appropriateness of existing test guidelines for effect assessment on NTO (123)

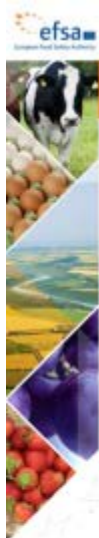
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## 1. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK CHARACTERISATION

### Results

- 1) Cases of gene acquisition from bacteria by conjugation and transformation, and transfers among fungal species have been reported
- 2) Microbials used as PPPs could potentially interfere with the system of quality control of drinking water
- 3) Most agro-ecosystems are heavily disturbed and do not represent a natural situation for assessment of background levels.  
Most of the studies addressing growth, survival and virulence have been carried out for only one set of environmental conditions.

6



## 1. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK CHARACTERISATION

### Results

#### 4) Toxin production:

Among bacteria, the major producers of bioactive compounds are

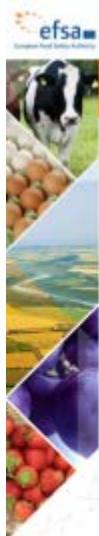
- Streptomyces species (7630)
- Bacillus species (860)
- Pseudomonas species (795)

Among fungi, the major producers of bioactive compounds are

- Trichoderma species
- Beauveria species

Non-target effects of secondary metabolites are still poorly studied and reported in the available literature

7



## 1. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK CHARACTERISATION

### Suggestions

For the future, a powerful tool could be sequencing the genomes of a wide range of strains of microorganisms used as PPPs, and conducting studies to identify the genetic basis for traits linked to risk assessment, including ecotoxicology, fate and behaviour in the environment, host range etc.



8

## RECENTLY PUBLISHED ON EFSA WEBSITE:

- External Scientific Reports: Literature review and data collection on microorganisms used in plant protection products
  - 1. Environmental Risk characterisation
  - 2. Risk assessment for human health
- 3. Scientific Opinion: Guidance on the assessment of the toxigenic potential of *Bacillus* species used in animal nutrition
- 4. Future activities

9

## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH

Published in April, 2015

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/801e.htm>

### EXTERNAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT

APR/2015: 23 April 2015

EN/2015/23 23 April 2015

#### Literature search and data collection on RA for human health for microorganisms used as plant protection products

Reference: OC/EFSA/PRAS/2013/02

#### Corporate authors

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<sup>1)</sup> AZT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH, Biomresources Unit  
<sup>2)</sup> AGES Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH

#### Abstract

A knowledge base of scientific and regulatory data relevant in the context of risk assessment of microbial plant protection products (MPPs) for human health was established, taking into consideration conditions 1 to 4 of Regulation (EU) 540/2012 that must be met before authorisation can be granted. We screened scientific publications and documents from governmental and institutional sources and extracted relevant information into a database, performed comparative genome analysis to explore similarities and differences of applying read-maps among PFP strains, and discussed the relative findings among a group of species in relevant fields. Relevance information on factors relevant for the evaluation of microbial PFP strains regarding pathogenicity, infectivity, and toxicity, information was collected on methods used to evaluate the PFP species' ability to persist and grow in host animals, to detect microbial DNA transfer, to target microbial compounds to potential targets, and to detect toxin production from PFP strains. Questions arising from the collected scientific and grey literature were how to address the specific biological properties of PFP strains and how to take into consideration realistic exposure scenarios and a natural background of environmental microorganisms in the risk assessment. Results from the present work imply that pathogenicity tests have to be considered as strain specific and that, hence, read-across comparison cannot be used. From a scientific point of view, it was highly recommended to provide whole genome sequencing data of PFP strains to allow their unambiguous identification, while other technological developments such as the use of metatranscriptomic data were seen as an option for future implementation. It is envisaged to further develop the key topics of the present work at a joint stakeholder workshop as the next step towards the preparation of a guidance document by the PFP panel on how to conduct the regulatory risk assessment for microbial pesticides.

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**Key words:** microorganisms, pesticides, risk assessment, human health, toxicity, read-across, DNA sequencing

**Question number:** EFSA-Q-2013-00412

**Correspondence:** [pesticides.ppr@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:pesticides.ppr@efsa.europa.eu)

[www.efsa.europa.eu/pesticides](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/pesticides)

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10

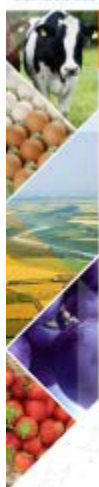


## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH

### Methodology

- The main body of the report was divided in three parts:
  1. Extensive literature search including a database and mini-reviews discussing the information assembled in the database
  2. Application of read-across for evaluating risk to human health, using the literature search for evaluating pathogenicity, infectivity and toxicity of closely related microorganisms using *bacillus* and *pseudomonas* as models
  3. The literature search and the read-across analyses were discussed among experts

11



## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH

### Results part 1 – Mini reviews

- **Minireview 1:** factors relevant for addressing pathogenicity of microorganisms used as PPPs
- **Minireview 2:** assessing potential colonisation behaviour and adverse effects of microorganisms used as PPPs
- **Minireview 3:** evaluating genetic stability of microorganisms used as PPPs
- **Minireview 4:** evaluating microbial PPPs regarding **toxin production and toxicity** of the produced metabolites/toxins
- **Minireview 5 to 10:** reviewing publications from EFSA, WHO/FAO, OECD, EC, non-EU regulatory authorities, research projects

12

## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH

### Results part 1: mini review 4

- Toxin production is described for bacterial species within the *Bacillus* and *Streptomyces* genus
- Secondary metabolites are described for fungal species including *Aureobasidium*, *Beauveria*, *Clonostachys* (*Gliocladium*), *Isaria* (*Paecilomyces*), *Metarhizium*, *Purpureocillium* (*Paecilomyces*), *Trichoderma*, *Yarrowia* (*Candida*)
- Methods for the identification and testing of toxic compounds are described

13

## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH

### Results part 2 – Exploring possibilities and limits of read across:

Using database (part 1) together with gene and genome information (from NCBI databases), comparative analyses are provided for the genetic determinants of pathogenicity from *Bacillus* and *Pseudomonas*

- Improve understanding of the genetic basis underlying pathogenicity traits
- Still lack of information about gene-function relationships especially in an environmental context, and complex physiological traits cannot be easily inferred from gene sequence data
- For the majority of environmental microorganisms, insufficient sequence information available to yield meaningful information regarding pathogenicity traits through comparative genome analysis

14



## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH

### Results part 3 - Recommendations

- Based on experts' discussions in workshops
- First topic related to data requirements for the risk assessment of microorganisms used as PPPs:
  - Key risk factors (regarding human health)
  - Determinants of pathogenicity/infectivity/toxicity
  - Data requirements that cannot be properly addressed based on the scientific evidence and for which further research efforts are needed
- Second topic related to the methodologies that are available to identify pathogenicity factors and determinants (including toxicity of metabolites)
  - ❖ Confirmatory tests should be requested because pathogenicity traits may differ from strain to strain
  - ❖ Possible tiered approach towards toxicology testing was discussed
  - ❖ Suggestions of using modern molecular methods: solid phylogenetic analysis and whole genome sequencing, metabolomics, genetic markers and quantitative PCR, LC-MS/MS data

15

## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH

### Conclusions

- Considering the biological properties of individual PPP strains when evaluating pathogenicity, infectivity, and toxicity
  - Unambiguous identification at the strain level is needed
    - Full genome sequence information should be provided (even though there are still major gaps of knowledge regarding gene-phenotype associations)
  - RA of microbial PPPs should be tailored according to the microorganisms's specific characteristics (e.g. phylogeny)
  - A catalogue of recommended test methods for pathogenicity, infectivity, and toxicity could be provided

16



## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH

### Conclusions

- How testing for potential adverse effects may relate to actual exposure
  - Guidance is needed on how tests should be designed, taking into consideration realistic exposure scenarios and a natural background of environmental microorganisms
- Addressing potential transfer of antibiotic resistance genes
  - Guidance is needed on how to specifically address testing for antibiotic resistance of PPP strains submitted for authorisation

17

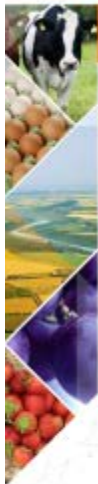


## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH

### Conclusions

- How to test for potential toxicity of microbial metabolites
  - Toxin production should be addressed at strain level
  - Virtually all microorganisms produce secondary metabolites
  - It is impossible that testing will account for the production of all possible secondary metabolites under all possible environmental conditions
  - It has to be verified that there are no toxic compounds persisting in the edible part of the crop that is being protected against pests
  - Starting point could be to test for all major known toxins (under various defined conditions), and to provide guidance regarding appropriate test methods tailored to specific (phylogenetic) groups of microorganisms

18



## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH

### Conclusions

- How to use previous knowledge and read across
  - Will depend on the quality and quantity of strain-specific data available
  - As a general rule, pathogenicity determinants must be regarded as strain specific
  - Applying read-across for inferring risks regarding pathogenicity, infectivity, and toxicity from known microorganisms to unknown ones will only provide probabilities
  - Read-across within species, genera, or families is not feasible.

19



## 2. RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH

### Conclusions

- Proposed steps forward
  - Multiple stakeholder involvement is essential
  - Joint stakeholder workshop organised by the Pesticide Unit /PPR Panel to develop the key topics presented above, with experts from academia and industry and participants from regulatory bodies
  - This could provide the foundation for the preparation of a guidance document on how to conduct the regulatory risk assessments for microbial pesticides and how to characterise the respective uncertainties

20

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21

## 3. GUIDANCE ON BACILLUS SAFETY

Published in May, 2014

Main safety concern : capacity for toxin production potentially related to foodborne diseases

Objective: provide guidance on how to conduct the safety assessment of *Bacillus*-based products.

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/3665.htm>

### SCIENTIFIC OPINION

Guidance on the assessment of the toxigenic potential of *Bacillus* species used in animal nutrition<sup>1,2</sup>

EFSA Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP)<sup>1,2</sup>

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Parma, Italy

#### ABSTRACT

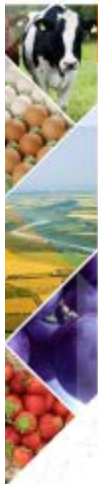
*Bacillus* species are used in animal production directly as microbial feed additives or in the course of other feed additives, mainly enzymes. The principal safety concern for consumers and, to a lesser extent, livestock, associated with *Bacillus* is its capacity for toxin production. However, the capacity for toxin production and the nature of the toxins produced is unevenly distributed over the genus, occurring frequently in some species and more rarely in others. In principle, the selection of strains belonging to the *B. cereus* sensu lato group for direct use in animal production is considered inadvisable. If, however, they are proposed then the full genome should be sequenced and a bioinformatic analysis needs to search for genes coding for enterotoxins and cereulide synthesis. If there is evidence of lethality, the non-functionalities of the genes (e.g. mutation, deletion) must be demonstrated. For other species, concerns appear to be restricted to the production of cerefins like lipopeptides, although the relation between the presence of these compounds and/or other toxic factors and the risk of illness in humans has not yet been established. In the absence of animal models shown to be able to distinguish hazardous from non-hazardous strains, the FEEDAP Panel relies on the use of *in vitro* cell-based methods to detect evidence of a cytotoxic effect. Such tests should be made with culture supernatants since the concentration of cells obtained in a broth culture would always exceed that found in animal feed products. If the strain proves to be cytotoxic it is not recommended for use.

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#### KEY WORDS

*Bacillus* species, enterotoxin production, enteric toxin, cereulide, cerefins-like lipopeptides

22

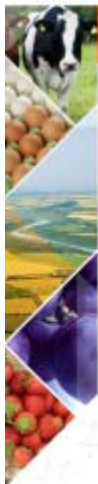


### 3. GUIDANCE ON BACILLUS SAFETY

#### Strategy

- For the assessment of *Bacillus* species other than *cereus*:
  - *in vitro* cell-based methods (cytotoxicity)
- For the assessment of species belonging to the *Bacillus cereus* group:
  - full genome (including chromosome and plasmids) should be sequenced and analysed to search for genes coding for enterotoxins and cereulide synthase
  - If there is evidence of homology, the non-functionality of the genes should be demonstrated

23



#### RECENTLY PUBLISHED ON EFSA WEBSITE:

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- 4. Future activities

24

## 4. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

### New call for proposals

- New approaches in identifying and characterizing microbiological and chemical hazards
  - A. Making use of molecular approaches to identify and characterise microbial foodborne pathogens, specifically using whole genome sequence analysis
  - B. Development and application of read across methodologies to the hazard assessment of chemicals in the food safety area
- Reference: GP/EFSA/AFSCO/2015/01 (30/04/2015)

25

## 4. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

### Request of the European Commission

- Concerning the risks for public health related to the presence of *Bacillus cereus* and other *Bacillus* spp, including *Bacillus thuringiensis* in foodstuffs
- Asking also for an update of the opinion of the BIOHAZ Panel on *Bacillus cereus* and other *Bacillus* spp in foodstuffs (EFSA Journal (2005) 175, 1-48)

26



Thank you for your attention !

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Pesticide Unit  
Regulated Products Directorate – EFSA  
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Presentation 4

*Trichoderma* secondary metabolites: how to identify the main compound and mycotoxins

Matteo Lorito (Università di Napoli Federico II, Napoli; Italy)

## Food security and safety depend on soil and plant microbiomes



**ASM study: “How Microbes can Feed the World” being used i.e. by USA government to define new agriculture policies**

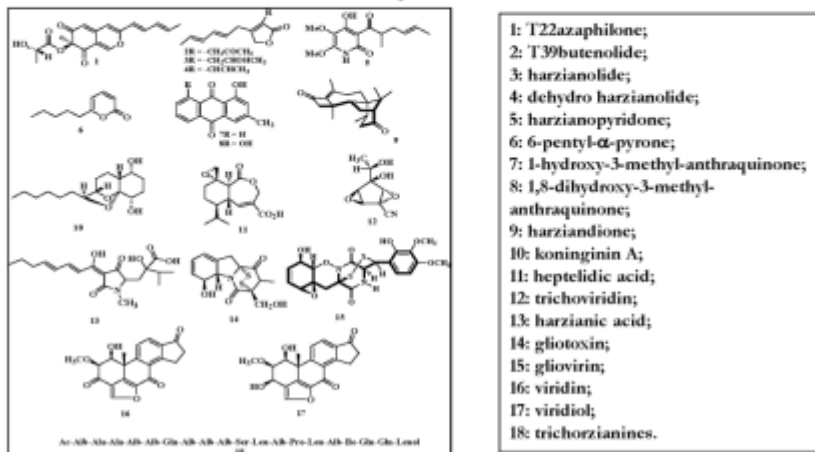
**Some *Trichodermas* are beneficial microbes that affect positively soil/leaf microbiomes**



## Trichoderma secondary metabolites (SMs)

About two hundred identified :

- **volatile antibiotics**, i.e. 6-pentyl- $\alpha$ -pyrone and most of the isocyanide derivatives;
- **water-soluble compounds**, i.e. heptelidic acid or koniginic acid;
- **water un-soluble compounds**, i.e. gliotoxin and trichorzianines;
- **peptaibols**, linear oligopeptides of 12-22 AA rich in  $\alpha$ -aminoisobutyric acid, N-acetylated at the N-terminus and containing an amino alcohol at the C-terminus.

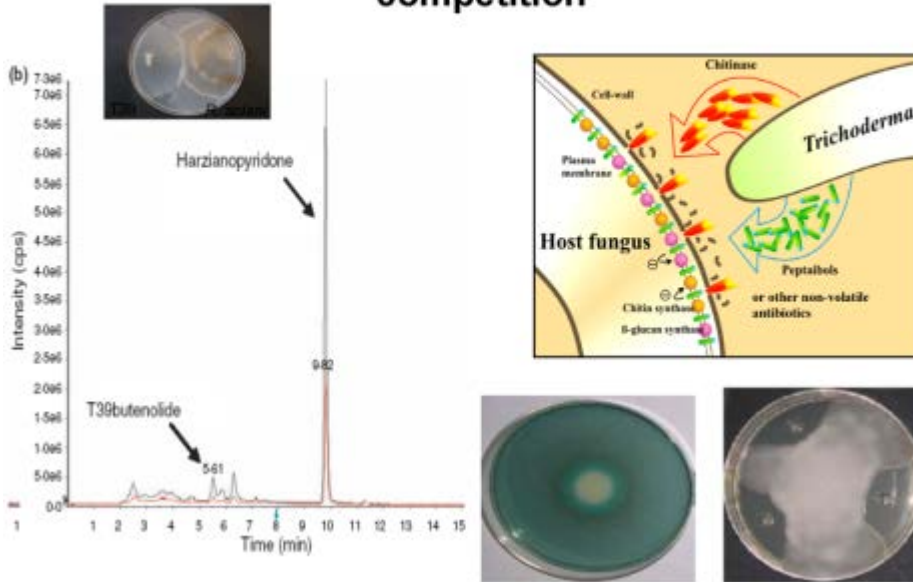


## Production of Trichoderma SMs

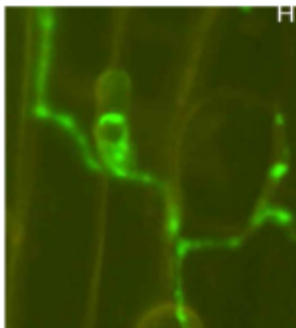
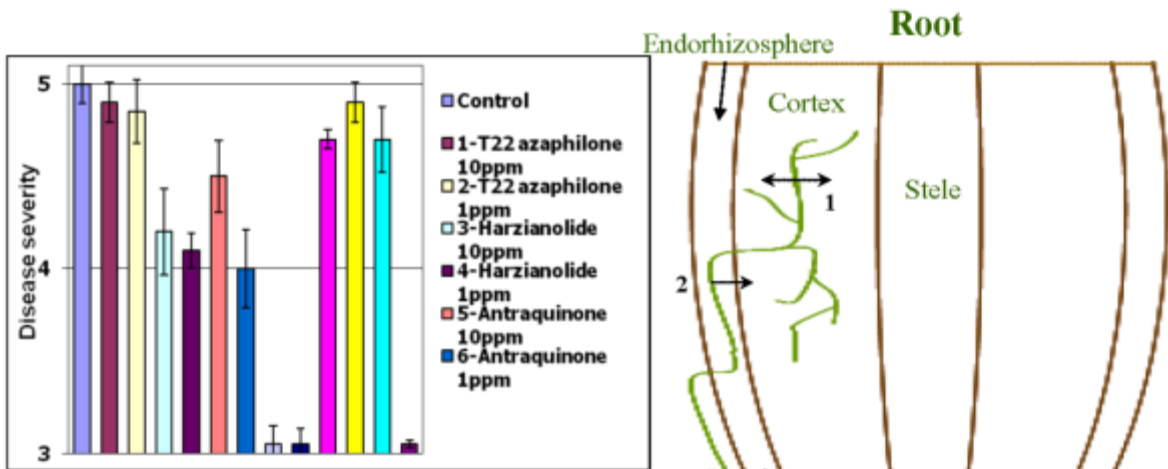
The quality and/or the quantity of SMs produced by *Trichoderma* depends on:

- the compound considered
- the species and the strain
- the microbiome composition or the presence of a host or of plant tissues
- the balance between elicited biosynthesis and biotransformation rate
- In vitro: the growth condition

### Trichoderma SMs in microbial parasitism and competition

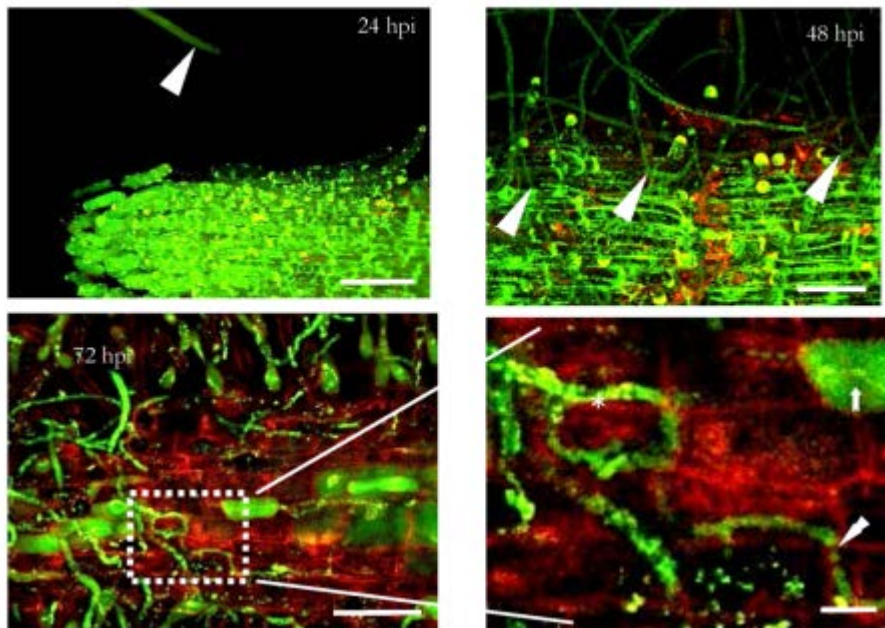


### Induction of disease resistance

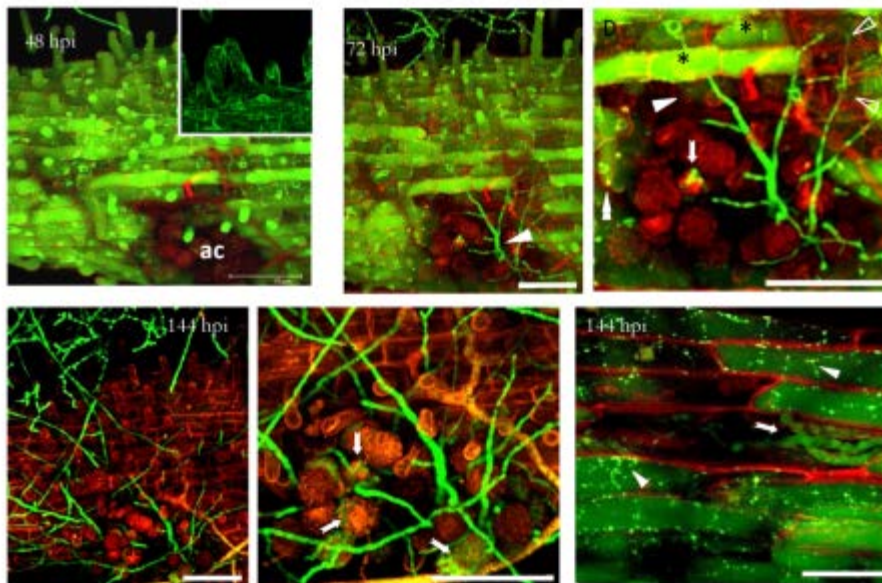


Potential sites of production of *Trichoderma* metabolites that can affect plant host metabolism. ● Metabolites produced within live cortical cells. ● Metabolites produced in the root surface and within dead cortical cells. ● Metabolites produced in the rhizosphere. ● Metabolites produced in soil organic matter, although in low amounts and possibly diffused, may still be adequate to function as signals for inducers of host defence against invading pathogens

**Effect of *T. atroviride* on *Medicago* root epidermis cells**

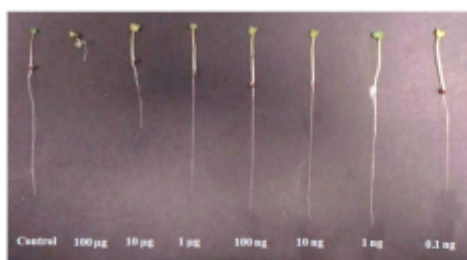


**Three-way interaction *Medicago*–*Glomus* –*Trichoderma* P1**



*T. atroviride* acted as an endophytic root colonizer causing cell death, but did not activate pre-penetration cell responses found for symbiotic and pathogenic interaction.

## Trichoderma SMs affect plant growth

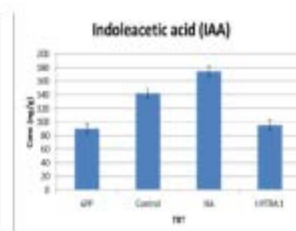
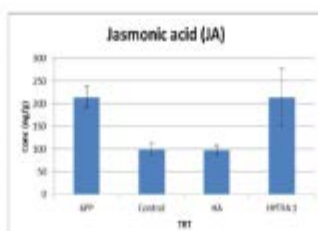
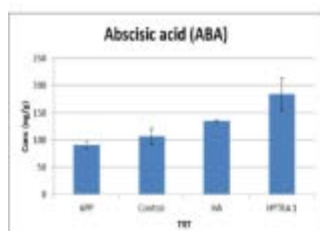
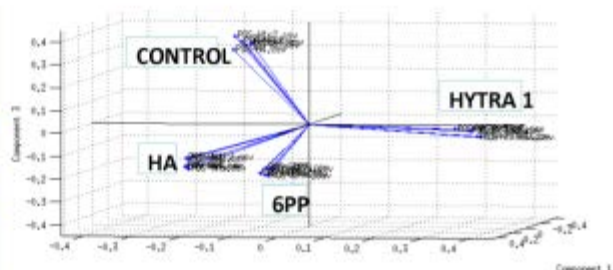


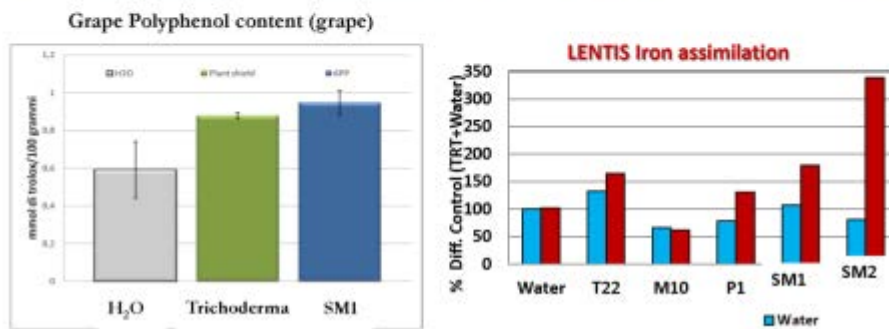
indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) or auxin analogues.

Siderophores - different families  
Produced under iron deficiency :  
coprogen (B) fusarinine C (aka fusigen) ferricrocin

- Pyrone 6-pentyl-2H-pyran-2-one (6PP)- *T. atroviride*, *T. viride*, *T. harzianum* and *T. koningii*
- koniginins A–E and G - complex pyranes - *T. koningii*, *T. harzianum*, *T. aureoviride*
- Viridiol - Steroidal antibiotic of the viridin series - *T. virens*
- Harzianopyridone , Harzianopyridone, Harzianic acid - Nitrogen heterocyclic compounds - *Trichoderma* spp.
- Cerinolactone - Lactones derivatives - *T. cerinum*
- Harzianolide and T39butenolide – Butenolides - *Trichoderma* spp.
- Trichocaranes A - D - *Trichoderma virens*
- Peptaibols

## Effects of Trichoderma SMs on Arabidopsis Metabolome

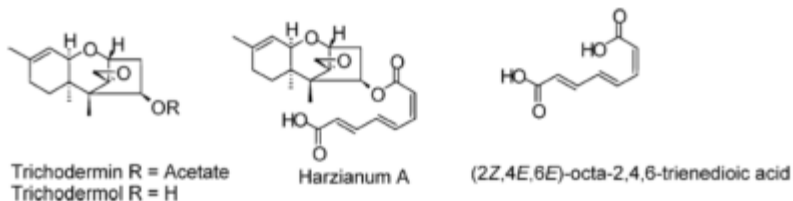




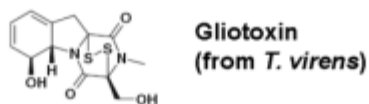
## Trichoderma toxins

Mycotoxins are secondary metabolites with adverse effects on humans and animals that result in illnesses and economic losses. Aflatoxins, ochratoxins, trichothecenes, zearalenone, fumonisins, tremorgenic toxins, and ergot alkaloids are the mycotoxins of greatest agro-economic importance.

Mycotoxins reported from *Trichoderma* include trichothecenes and gliotoxin.



Harzianum A made by esterification of trichodermol with octa-2Z,4E,6E-trienedioic acid



## *Trichoderma* mycotoxins (trichothecenes)

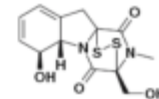
*Trichodermas typically used for biocontrol purposes do not produce trichothecenes (Nielsen et al., 2005)*

Table 2. Trichothecene Production from Selected *Trichoderma* Strains on Semisolid and Shaken Media, Incubated for 10 Days in Darkness

medium strain number	species	YES <sup>a</sup>		PDA		OA		PDliq		YESliq		RTliq	
		trc	harz A	trc	harz A	trc	harz A	trc	harz A	trc	harz A	trc	harz A
IBT 40841	<i>T. brevicompactum</i>	++ <sup>b</sup>	ND	+++	ND	++	ND	++++	ND	+++	ND	+++	ND
IBT 40840	<i>T. brevicompactum</i>	++	ND	+++	ND	++	ND	++++	ND	+++	ND	+++	ND
IBT 40839	<i>T. brevicompactum</i>	++	ND	+++	ND	++	ND	++++	ND	+++	ND	+++	ND
IBT 40838	<i>T. brevicompactum</i>	+	ND	+++	ND	++	ND	++++	ND	+++	ND	+++	ND
LEO ND8	<i>T. brevicompactum</i>	++	ND	+++	ND	++	ND	not performed		not performed		not performed	
IBT 40837	<i>T. brevicompactum</i>	+	+++	+	+++	ND	+++	ND	++++	ND	++++	ND	+++
IBT 40836	<i>T. brevicompactum</i>	ND	++++	ND	++++	+	+++	ND	++++	ND	++++	ND	+++
IBT 40842	<i>T. brevicompactum</i>	ND	+++	+	++++	ND	+++	ND	++++	ND	++++	ND	+++
ATCC 90237	<i>T. brevicompactum</i>	+	+++	+	+++	+	+++	ND	++++	ND	++++	ND	+++
IBT8866	<i>T. virdide</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
IBT8212	<i>T. virdide</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
IBT8850	<i>T. harzianum</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
IBT9153	<i>T. harzianum</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
IBT9134	<i>T. harzianum</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
IBT8965	<i>T. atroviride</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
IBT8964	<i>T. atroviride</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
IBT9155	<i>T. longibrachiatum</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
IBT9128	<i>T. longibrachiatum</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
IBT9135	<i>T. citrinoviride</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
IBT9149	<i>T. citrinoviride</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

<sup>a</sup> ND, not detected; YES, yeast extract sucrose agar; OA, oat meal agar; PDA, potato dextrose agar; YESliq, shaken yeast extract sucrose medium; PDliq, shaken potato dextrose medium; RTliq, shaken Raoult-Thom medium. <sup>b</sup> +, peak area of 5–100 counts; ++, peak area of 100–500 counts; +++, peak area of 500–3000 counts; +++++, peak area of 3000–30 000. The trichodermin peak area was determined from the *m/z* 293.18 (ESI<sup>+</sup>) and harzianum A from *m/z* 399.16 (ESI<sup>-</sup>).

## The case of the Gliotoxin



- A mycotoxin (epipolythiodioxopiperazine) antimicrobial but also immunosuppressive, apoptotic on mammals, inhibitory on the transcription factor NF-kappaB, capable of damage DNA.
- Involved in biocontrol, found in the substrate of BCA
- Does the toxin translocate through the plant and/or accumulates in edible portions? Thus, gliotoxin-producing BCAs pose a significant risk for animal and human health?

## We have demonstrated that:

- **concentration** in the soil after inundative application ranges from 0 to 0.3 micrograms/cm<sup>3</sup> (sandy, clay, peat, various pH)
- **secreted locally *in vitro*** during the replicative growth and **rapidly degraded *in vivo*** (very sensitive to oxidation and instable in aqueous solutions) - concentration is strongly reduced 1 week after application especially in neutral and alkaline soils

## Not transferred to edible parts

- Absorption reduced by suberin endodermis and exodermis of root cells because of relatively large MW
- soluble in DMSO, ethanol, methanol, DMF, but essentially insoluble in water
- is very toxic for the plant, inhibit growth and germination (inhibit cell development; branched-chain AA production, thiol-requiring enzyme activities, damage DNA by ROS, induces apoptosis)
- mass spectrometry-generated profile of strawberry, lettuce and potato treated with a gliotoxin-producer strain or a non-producer mutant is not different in terms of newly formed (or accumulated) molecules of non-plant origin

## Methods to identify the main *Trichoderma* SMs

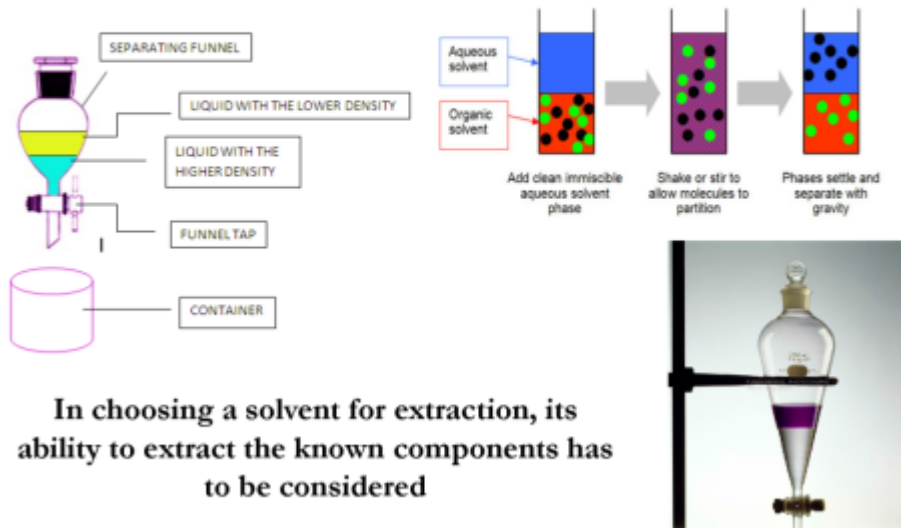
### IF THE BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE SM IS NOT KNOWN

- **determine the suitable bioassay both in vitro and in vivo to detect the biological activity: i.e. brine shrimp lethality test (*Artemia salina*); antibiotic; insecticidal; antiviral; cytotoxicity etc.**
- **obtain extracts in adequate amount from at least one rich and one poor medium, containing simple or complex C and N sources (usually static culture gives better yield)**
- **perform a bioassay-guided fractionation and test all fractions for biological activity**

## EXTRACTION

Separation of a substance from a matrix

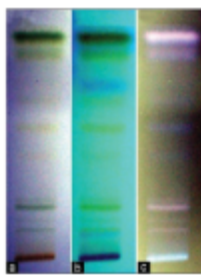
Liquid-liquid extraction, also known as solvent extraction and partitioning



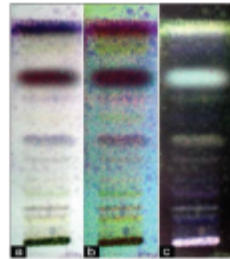
## ISOLATION (TLC)

•The separation to obtain a pure compound often requires several separation steps involving different chromatographic techniques.

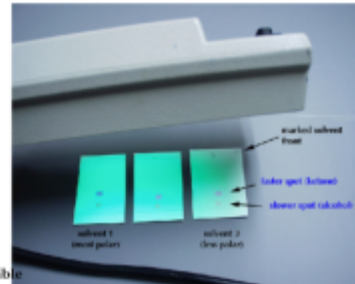
•**Thin layer chromatography (TLC)** the movement of the compounds to be separated is the result of the driving force of the mobile phase and the retarding action of the stationary phase. Silica gel is the most used layer material



a) Thin layer chromatography (TLC) of leaf ethanolic extract in visible light, (b) TLC of leaf ethanolic in UV-Long wavelength (254 nm), (c) TLC of leaf ethanolic extract in UV-short wavelength (365 nm)



a) TLC of leaf ethanolic extract in visible light after spraying with anisaldehyde-sulphuric acid reagent, (b) TLC of leaf ethanolic extract in UV-Long wavelength after spraying with anisaldehyde-sulphuric acid reagent, (c) TLC of leaf ethanolic extract in UV-short wavelength after spraying with anisaldehyde-sulphuric acid reagent

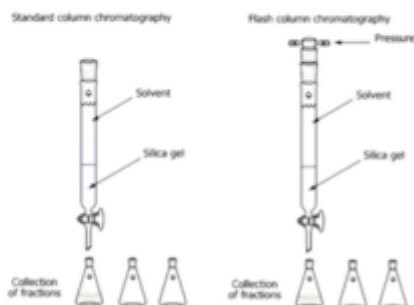
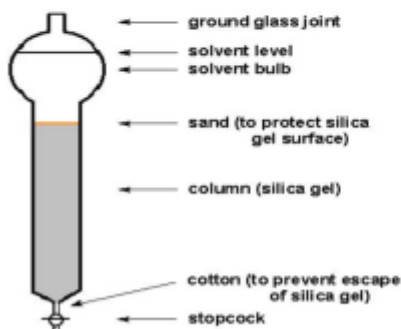


## ISOLATION (Chromatography)

### Column Chromatography

Samples at ratios of 1:10 to 1:300 can be used depending on the difficulty of separation of the components of the mixture. Silica of different particle size (10–200  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and porosity (50 nm) is mostly used

#### The Chromatography Column



## ISOLATION (VLC)

### Vacuum Liquid Chromatography

Flow of the solvent is maintained by vacuum. The column is prepared in a sintered glass funnel using TLC grade packing (aluminium oxide, silica gel, or reverse-phase supports). The sample is applied uniformly at the top of the support. Step gradient elution is used and the column can be allowed to run dry after collection of each fraction.

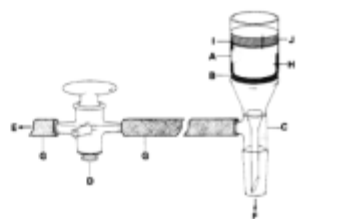


FIGURE 1. Laboratory vacuum apparatus  
 A—Sintered glass Buchner filter funnel with sintered disk (ASTM 30-20) and adapter with a 24/40 joint (C).  
 B—Thin-layer stopcock.  
 C—To vacuum (water aspirator, 15–25 mm Hg).  
 D—To avoid bottom flask or aspiratory funnel.  
 E—Rubber tubing.  
 I—Adsorbent (E. Merck, 60 grade).  
 J—Solvent, after absorption on support.

## ISOLATION (HPLC)

Preparative Pressure Liquid Chromatography  
HPLC High-Performance Liquid Chromatography



## CHARACTERIZATION (LC-MS and NMR)

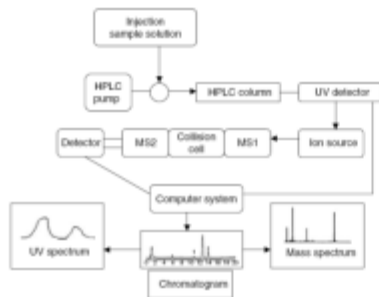


FIGURE 9.1 Diagrammatic representation of an HPLC-UV-MS/MS system.

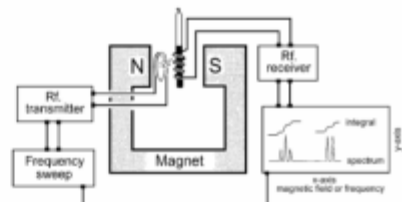


Figure 5.2 Schematic Representation of a CW NMR Spectrometer

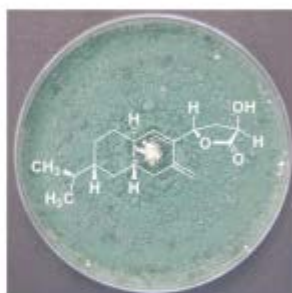
- **ULTRAVIOLET (UV) AND INFRARED (IR) SPECTROSCOPY**
- **MASS SPECTROMETRY**
- **NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE (NMR) SPECTROSCOPY**
- **<sup>13</sup>C NMR SPECTROSCOPY**
- **TWO DIMENSIONAL NMR**



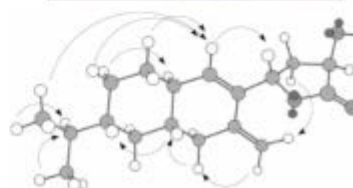
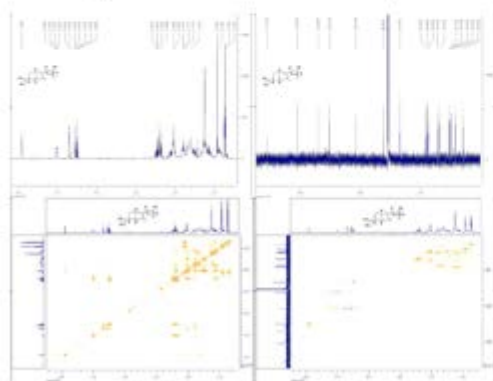
**Cerinolactone, a Hydroxy-Lactone Derivative from *Trichoderma cerinum***

Francesco Vitale,<sup>1,2</sup> Bahi Arzu Gironi,<sup>3</sup> Marco Nigro,<sup>1,2</sup> Pierluigi Manno,<sup>4</sup> Alessandro Piccoli,<sup>4</sup> Michela Russo,<sup>4</sup> Shenda Wu,<sup>1,2</sup> David Raouf Kazi,<sup>4</sup> Carlos Lopez Heredia,<sup>4</sup> and Marco Lotito<sup>1,2</sup>

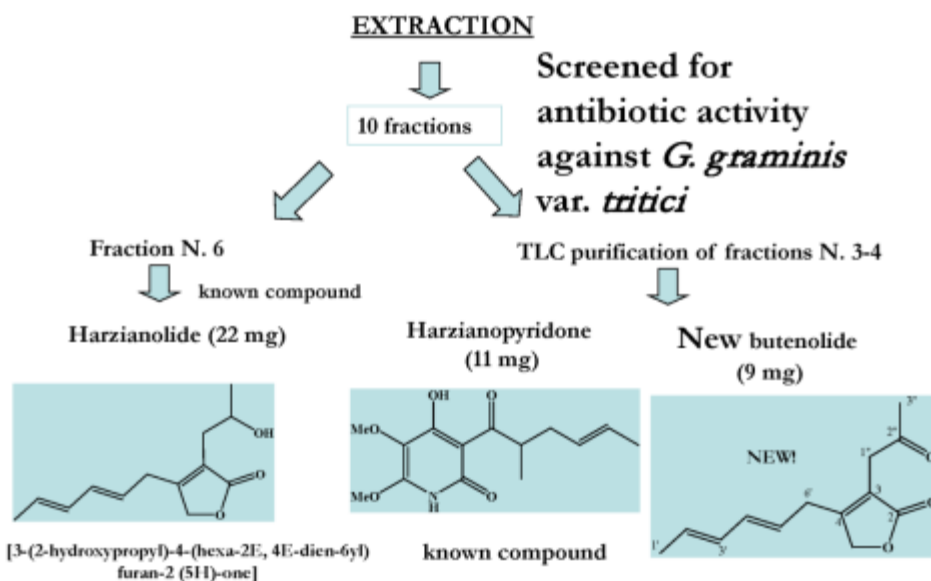
**Cerinolactone from *T. cerinum***



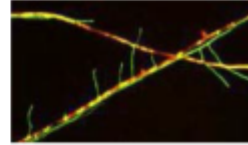
**The structure and absolute configuration determined by NMR**



**The most used *Trichoderma* strains produce only a few main SMs ( i.e. *T. harzianum* T39)**

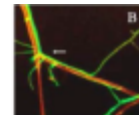


## Final considerations



- Even though many SMs are known, most used strains produce only a few main SMs (detectable in substrates)
- New strains properly characterized at secondary metabolite levels, and some species eventually avoided
- SMs may be present in the formulation, but technique such as pure spore isolation avoid the problem

## Final considerations



- Trichoderma* SMs make contact with plant cells in the interaction zone, but do not accumulate within the plant (also for endophytic) nor in the edible parts
- Accumulation to a detectable level in natural soil has not been reported so far, while at least in one case LC-MS demonstrates no accumulation nor translocation
- The risk of exposure at field level should be considered minimal or null. Natural soils may contain high level of *Trichoderma* !

Sheridan Woo  
Michelina Ruocco  
Francesco Vinale  
Rosaria Varlese  
Roberta Marra  
Stefania Lanzuise  
Nadia Lombardi  
Alberto Pascale  
Gelsomina Manganiello  
Roberta Panza  
Roberta Quarto  
Federica Lacatena  
Pasquale Lombardi  
Tonia Aliberti  
Luca Iovine  
David Stelitano  
Luigi De Vito  
Valeria Manzo  
Maria Alaia  
Matteo Lorito



UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES  
Department of Agricultural Sciences



CNR Institute  
*for Sustainable Plant Protection*



## Presentation 5

### Evaluation of relevant metabolites from microbial control agents: What do we need to know?

*Ingvar Sundh (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala; Sweden)*



### Evaluation of relevant metabolites from microbial control agents: What do we need to know?

**Ingvar Sundh**

Centre for Biological Control (CBC), SLU

(Department of Microbiology, SLU)

*OECD/BPSG seminar on Secondary Metabolites of Microbial Pesticides, 18 May 2015*

[www.slu.se/cbc](http://www.slu.se/cbc)



### Contents of presentation

1. Secondary metabolites from microorganisms:
  - Numbers and compounds
  - Functions in ecosystems
  - In medicine and biotechnology
  - Degradation in ecosystems
2. Their relation to "relevant" metabolites/degradation products of chemicals
3. Human vs. environmental hazards and risks
  - Exposure a key
4. Conclusions and recommendations

Focus on EU regulation

[www.slu.se/cbc](http://www.slu.se/cbc)



## 1. Secondary metabolites of microorganisms (I)

- Produced in all major groups, and particularly fungi and actinobacteria
- Various bioactives, including e.g. antibiotics, signalling molecules, specialised lipids, and toxins
- Critical role for ecological fitness and in competitive interactions!
- Source of new antibiotics for human and veterinarian use

### Example 1

Number (modelled) of antimicrobial compounds produced by genus *Streptomyces* (actinobacteria) is in the order of 100 000

[Watwe et al. 2001; Archives of Microbiology 176, 386-390].

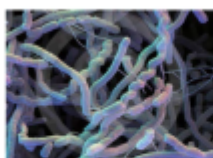


Photo: [www.scharfphoto.com](http://www.scharfphoto.com)

[www.slu.se/cbc](http://www.slu.se/cbc)



## Secondary metabolites of microorganisms (II)

### Example 2

- Three strains  $N_2$ -fixing root nodule genus *Frankia* (actinobacteria):
    - 65 secondary metabolite biosynthetic gene clusters
    - 25 secondary metabolite structures predicted
    - Secondary metabolic activity expressed in lab cultures
- [Udway et al. 2011; Applied and Environmental Microbiology 77, 3617-3625]

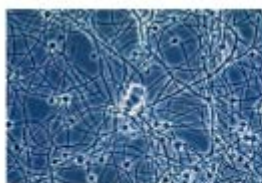


Photo: [www.mokkka.hu/drupal/](http://www.mokkka.hu/drupal/)

*Frankia* nodules on alder roots



Photo: [www.biolib.cz/](http://www.biolib.cz/)

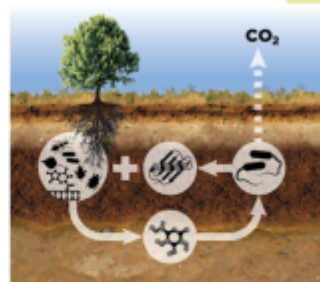
[www.slu.se/cbc](http://www.slu.se/cbc)



## Secondary metabolites of microorganisms (III)

### Biodegradation of microbial metabolites in ecosystems

- Recycling: Production new microbial biomass balanced by loss processes
- Secreted compounds and dead microbial organic matter
  - enter the pool of "microbial detritus"
  - contribute to new production of organic matter/humus
  - substrates for heterotrophic organisms in the detrital degrader/consumer food web
- Very high background of organic matter/substances from other organisms
- Degradation/mineralisation pathways for secondary metabolites are present!



Graphics: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, US

[www.slu.se/cbc](http://www.slu.se/cbc)



## 2. Relation to "relevant" metabolites/degradation products of chemicals (I)

Concept/term "relevant metabolite" originates from chemical pesticides

Data requirements (DR) and uniform principles (UP) microorganisms:

- 'Relevant metabolites (i.e. if expected to be of concern to human health and/or the environment)....' (DR 1.4.2)  
1107/2009: 'A metabolite is deemed relevant if there is a reason to assume that it has intrinsic properties comparable to *the parent substance*....'
- 'Methods to determine and quantify residues (viable or non-viable) of:
  - the active micro-organism(s)
  - relevant metabolites (especially toxins)' (DR 4.2)  
on and/or in crop, food and feedstuffs, animals and humans, soil, water and in air where relevant.
- Fate and behaviour environment (UP 2.7): 'An assessment shall be made of the fate and behaviour of *any known relevant metabolite* that is produced by the microorganism. ....for each environmental compartment...'

[www.slu.se/cbc](http://www.slu.se/cbc)



## Relation to “relevant” metabolites/degradation products of chemicals (II)

- The “relevance” of a metabolite/degradation product of a chemical determined by comparing its toxicity to that of the parent substance
- But can this concept be transferred in a meaningful way to the fact that microorganisms produce secondary metabolites?!

Main concern is not whether a microbe produces (relevant) secondary metabolites, but whether it produces *ANY* toxic compounds of *potential concern*.

[www.slu.se/cbc](http://www.slu.se/cbc)



## 3. Human vs. environmental hazards and risks (I)

### Human exposure is a concern

- Human safety critical: If toxins produced, can humans (producers, handlers, users, bystanders) be exposed at levels of concern?
- Human exposure should be evaluated in relation to “background” exposure to the same or similar compounds (and to live microbes).  
But what is the usual load/exposure?  
More research needed!
- Critical question: How much attention to production of *unknown* vs. *known* (for the microbial group/species) toxins?  
How much effort is needed to look for unknowns in well described genera/species?

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## Human vs. environmental hazards and risks (II)

### Exposure to toxins of non-target organisms in the environment?

- Environmental safety critical?? Specific toxins with known effects on e.g. other mammals? But can exposure reach levels of concern?
- Environmental exposure should be evaluated in relation to "background" exposure to the same or similar compounds (and to live microbes). But what is the usual load/exposure? Is more research needed?!
- As a rule, particularly microbes and plants produce secondary metabolites. But they are recycled in the detrital food-web.

[www.slu.se/cbc](http://www.slu.se/cbc)

Photo: <http://vetamix.net/>



## 4. Conclusions and recommendations (I)

- The concept of "relevant metabolite" is highly unsuitable for safety assessment of microbial control agents. Avoid term?
- With respect to potential toxin production in microbial control agents, main concern is likely human, rather than environmental, risk.
- Exposure is a key, but determining *total* exposure including "background" is a big challenge!
- Environmental safety: Secondary metabolites enter detritus and are degraded, thus highly unlikely to poison the environment!

[www.slu.se/cbc](http://www.slu.se/cbc)



## Conclusions and recommendations (II)

- Knowledge and framework for generating more appropriate toxicity evaluations of microbial control agents is in place. E.g. *recent systematic reviews of EFSA*.
- Updated data requirements/guidance for assessment of toxin production in microbial control agents are urgently needed.
- The low risk concept of Regulation 1107/2009 quite suitable for microbes.



[www.slu.se/cbc](http://www.slu.se/cbc)



## Acknowledgements to CBC:

*Centre for Biological Control*

Special grant to SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

- Bacteria for biological control
- Fungi for biological control
- Insects and arachnids for biological control
- Formulation and stabilisation
- Safety and regulatory issues

Mainly research but also information and extension services.

Homepage: [www.slu.se/cbc](http://www.slu.se/cbc)

**Presentation 6**

**Norine and Florine, bioinformatics tools to study beneficial and deleterious secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides**

*Philippe Jacques (Université Lille, Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex; France)*

**Norine and Florine, bioinformatics tools to study beneficial and deleterious secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides**

Philippe Jacques, Maude Pupin and Valérie Leclère

The 6th BioPesticides Steering Group

Seminar on “Hazard and Risk Assessment of Secondary Metabolites produced by Microbial Pesticides”

Monday 18 May 2015

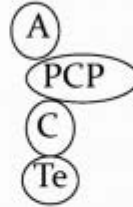
Charles Violette ProBioGEM Philippe Jacques CRISTAL Université de Lille

**NonRibosomal Peptide Synthesis**

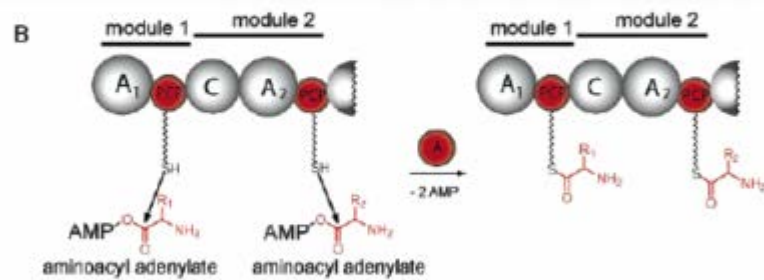
- Multienzymatic proteins called NonRibosomal Peptide Synthetases (NRPS) working like assembly lines
- NRPS can be divided into modules
- Each module is responsible for the incorporation of one monomer
- Each module is subdivided into domains with one enzyme activity per domain
- In most of cases, order of modules determines order of amino acid residues in the peptide

## Main domains

- Adenylation domain
- Peptidyl Carrier Protein
- Condensation domain
- Thioesterase domain

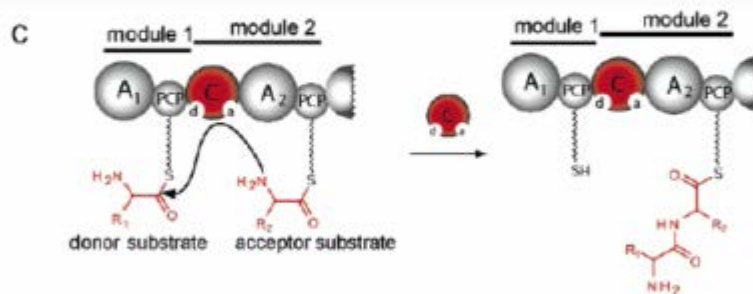


## Peptidyl carrier protein (PCP)



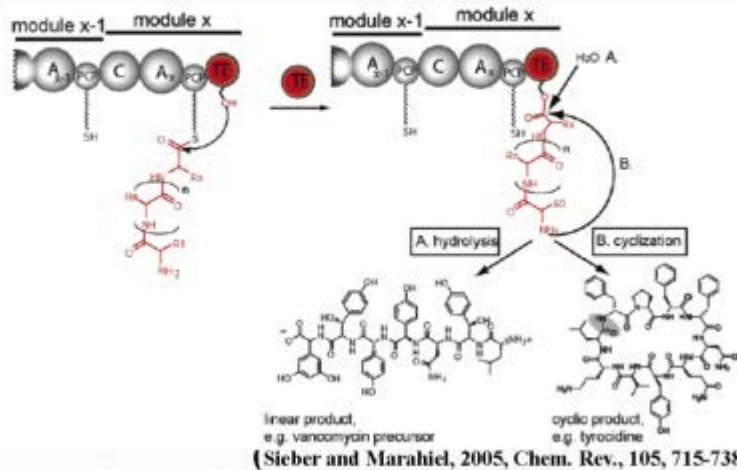
(Sieber and Marahiel, 2005, Chem. Rev., 105, 715-738)

## Condensation domain

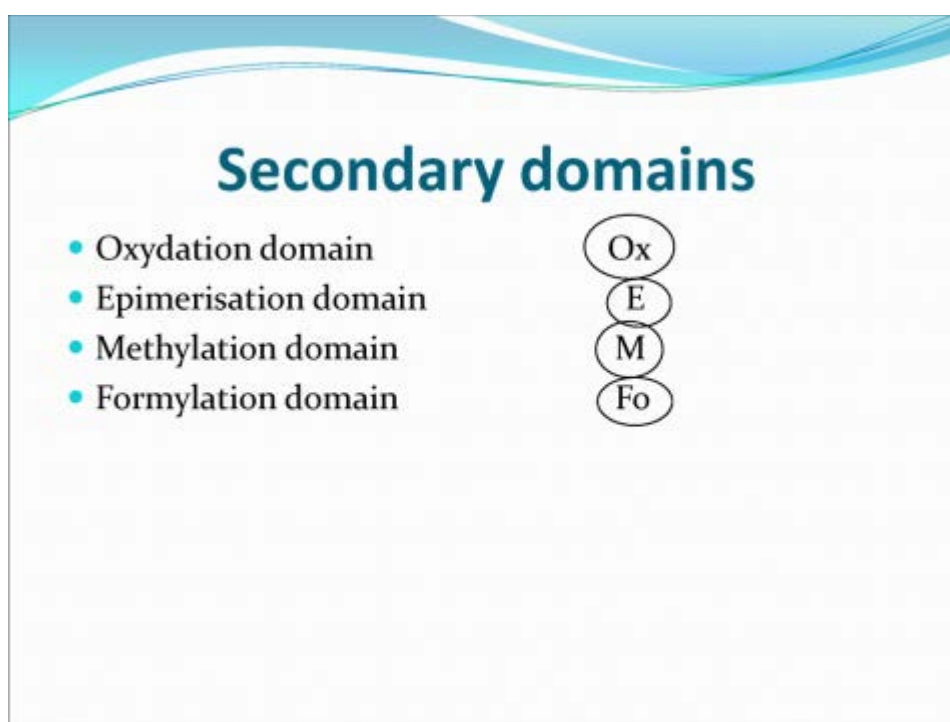
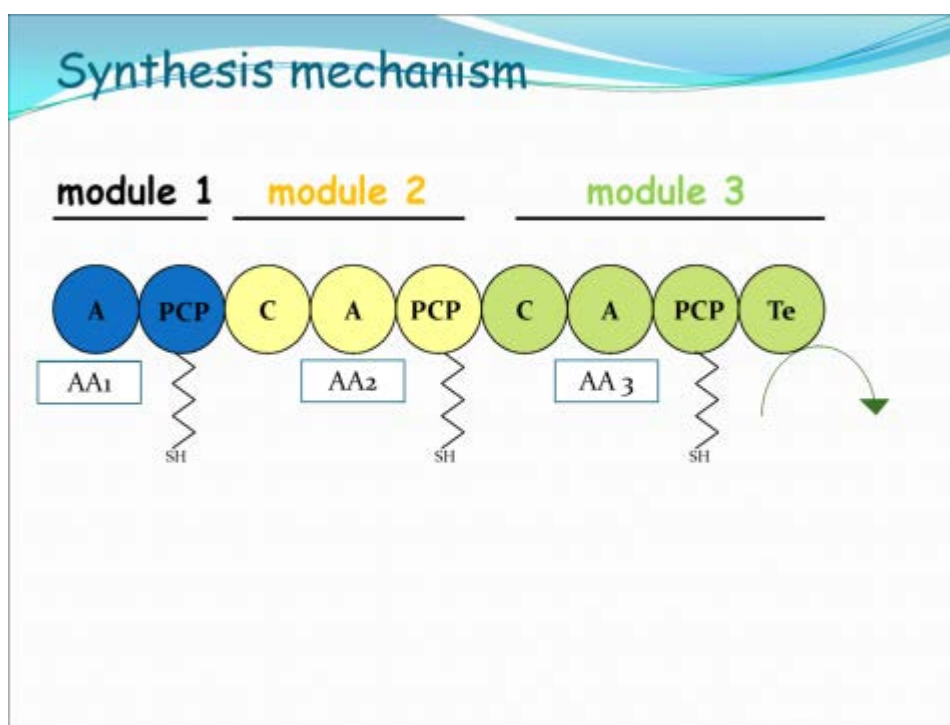


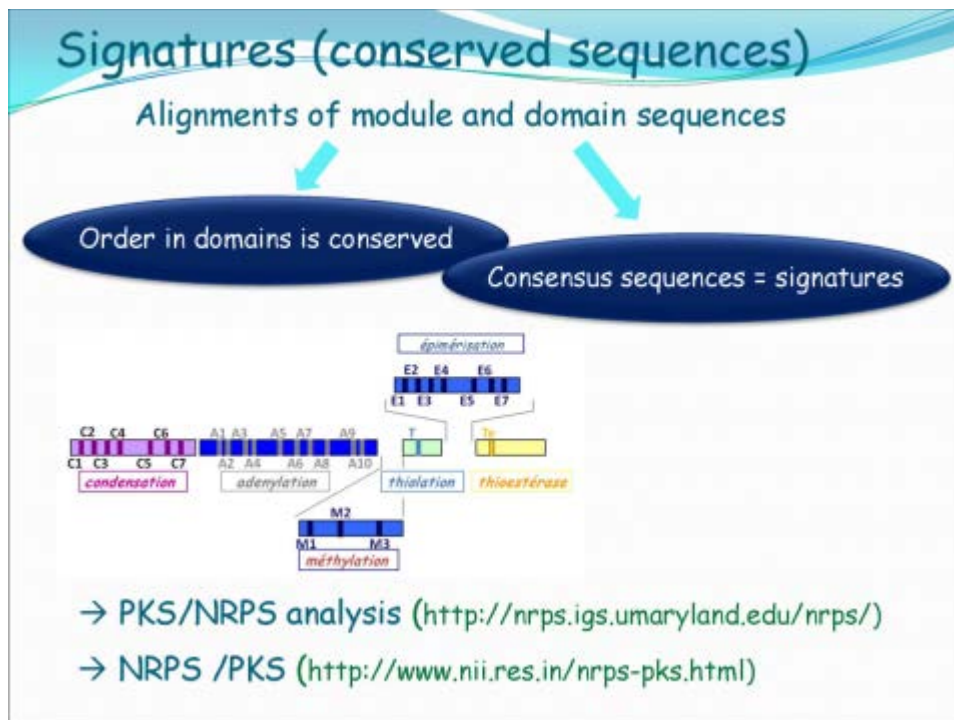
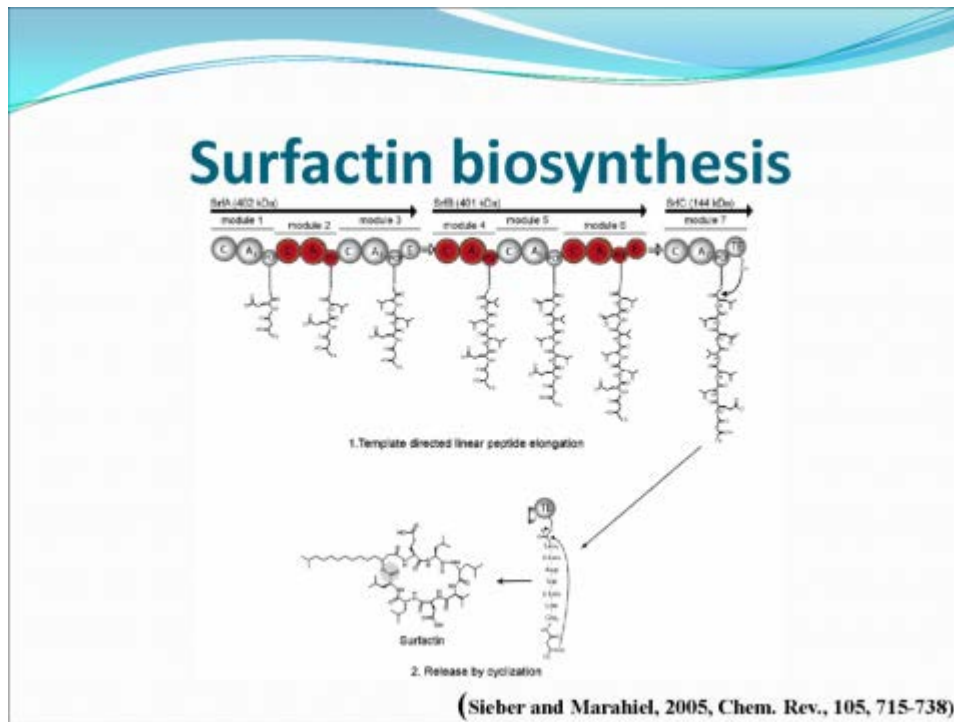
(Sieber and Marahiel, 2005, Chem. Rev., 105, 715-738)

## Thioesterase domain



(Sieber and Marahiel, 2005, Chem. Rev., 105, 715-738)





## Specificity of synthetases

Module 1

↓

AA1

Module 2

↓

AA2

Module 3

↓

AA3

Specificity ↔ Adenylation domain

- ❖ Code Stachelhaus = NRPS code
- ❖ Software for prediction :
  - PKS/NRPS analysis (<http://nrps.igs.umaryland.edu/nrps/>)
  - NRPS /PKS (<http://www.nii.res.in/nrps-pks.html>)
  - NRPSpredictor2 (<http://nrps.informatik.uni-tuebingen.de/Controller?cmd=SubmitJob> )

## NORINE database <http://bioinfo.lifl.fr/norine/>

**Norine**

home general search structure search resources help submit/modify

cyclosporin A

**Peptide**

- **NCBI ID:** 5090013
- **family:** cyclosporin
- **synonym(s):** cyclosporin, ciclosporin, ciclosporine
- **activity:** antibiotic ; immunomodulating
- **class:** peptide
- **formula:** C<sub>352</sub>H<sub>612</sub>N<sub>10</sub>O<sub>84</sub>
- **molecular weight:** 1202.912 g/mol
- **comment:** Cyclosporin is the primary tool used to prevent rejection following solid organ and bone marrow transplantation. It was first isolated as anti-fungal compound.

**entry information**

- **status:** curated
- **last modification date:** 2009-09-23
- **Author:** Teyssie, P.H. (1983)22 CNRS(ANTS)-INSM, France, INSERM (UPRES EA 3028 UMR), France.
- **view all entry history**

**Structure**

- **type:** cyclic
- **number of monomers:** 11
- **monomeric composition:**

D-Ala-NMe-Leu-NMe-Leu-NMe-Val-NMe-Ile-NMe-Ile-NMe-Gly-NMe-Leu-Val-Ser-Ile-Val

• **linear representation:** [D-Ala-NMe-Leu-NMe-Leu-NMe-Val-NMe-Ile-NMe-Ile-NMe-Gly-NMe-Leu-Val-Ser-Ile-Val-NMe-Leu-NMe]

• **graph representation:** D-Ala-NMe-Leu-NMe-Leu-NMe-Val-NMe-Ile-NMe-Ile-NMe-Gly-NMe-Leu-Val-Ser-Ile-Val-NMe-Leu-NMe


• **visualization**

View

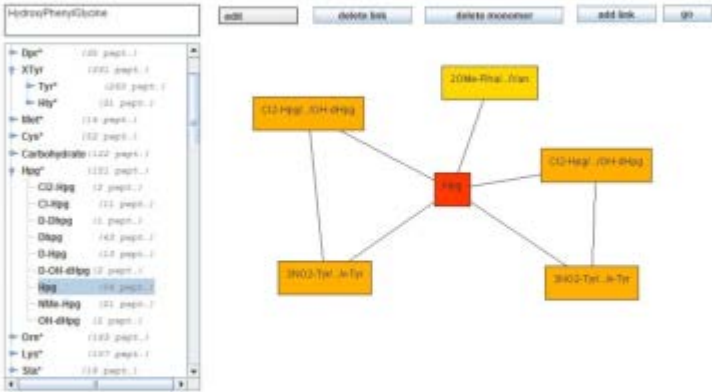
Visualization

Save
SaveAsText
ClassifyNodes
Redraw

Caboche *et al.*, 2008 (NAR); 2009 (BMC Struct. Biol.); 2010 (J. Bact)

**NORINE database** <http://bioinfo.lifl.fr/norine/> 


Structure Editor → Easy drawing (biologists!!)



→ Identical peptide (even other name or producing organism)  
 → Peptide containing identical pattern

**Statistics → biodiversity**

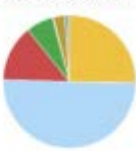
**Structures**



**Cycle**

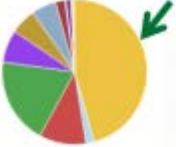
partial cyclic: 239 (26.6 %)	linear: 290 (29.0 %)
other: 71 (6.3 %)	cyclic: 441 (39.3 %)
branched: 3 (0.4 %)	double cyclic: 26 (2.3 %)

**Categories**



lipopeptide: 284 (25.3 %)	peptide: 342 (30.1 %)
peptidolipid: 135 (12.8 %)	chromopeptide: 75 (6.7 %)
glycopeptide: 2 (0.2 %)	glycopeptide group I: 21 (2.8 %)
glycopeptide group II: 12 (1.1 %)	surfactant: 63 (5.8 %)

**Activities**



**Antibiotic**

antibiotic: 512 (45.6 %)	immunomodulating: 20 (1.8 %)
unknown: 117 (10.4 %)	toxin: 216 (19.3 %)
siderophore: 62 (7.3 %)	surfactant: 63 (5.8 %)
antitumor: 63 (5.6 %)	protease inhibitor: 23 (2.0 %)
antiatherogenic: 2 (0.2 %)	antithrombotic: 12 (1.1 %)
antiinflammatory: 8 (0.7 %)	calmodulin antagonist: 1 (0.0 %)

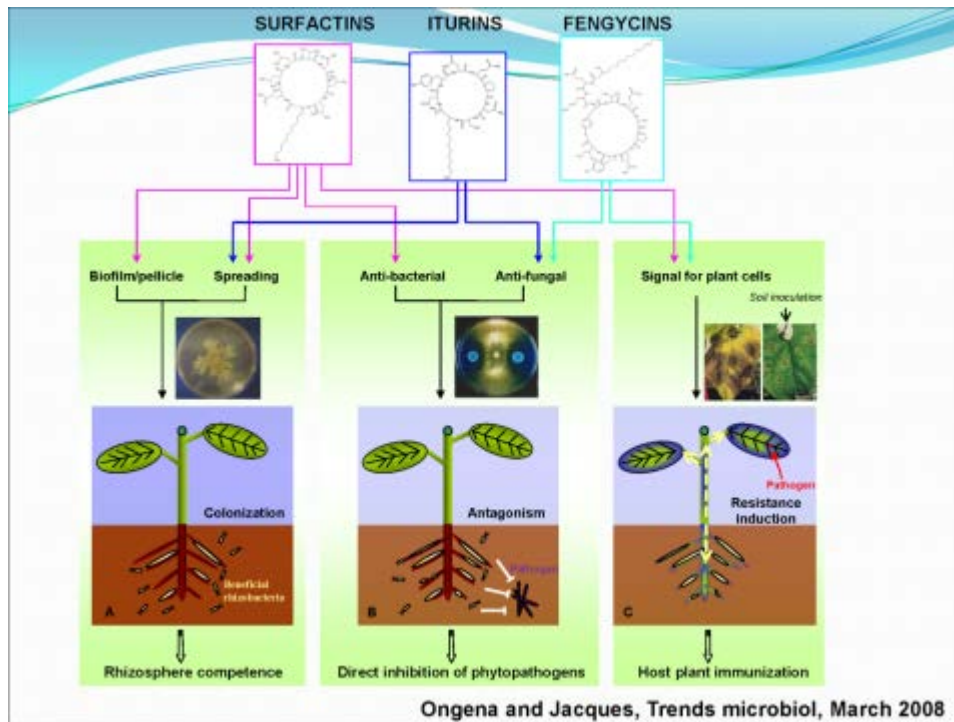
15

## Use of Norine to detect NRPs produced by biocontrol agents

- *Bacillus*
  - 155 different NonRibosomal Peptides (NRPs)
  - 20 families
- *Pseudomonas*
  - 140 different NonRibosomal Peptides (NRPs)
  - 17 families
- *Trichoderma*
  - 72 different NonRibosomal Peptides (NRPs)
  - 9 families

## Main properties

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| • Siderophore                | • Bacillibactin  |
| • Immunomodulatory compounds | • Fengycin, edeine   |
| • Biosurfactant              | • Surfactin, lichenysin, fengycin, iturin  |
| • Toxin                      | • Cereulide  |
| • Antimicrobial compounds    | • Bacilysin, bacitracin, edeine, fengycin, gramicidin, gratisin, iturin, polymyxin, tyrocidine |



- ## Main properties
- Siderophores
  - Immunomodulatory compounds
  - Biosurfactant
  - Toxin
  - Antimicrobial compounds
  - Bacillibactin
  - Fengycin, edeine
  - Surfactin, lichenysin, fengycin, iturin
  - Cereulide
  - Bacilysin, bacitracin, edeine, fengycin, gramicidine, **gratisin**, iturin, polymixine, tyrocidine



## Structure comparison

**Gratisin**  
Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn – Val – D Tyr – Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn – Val – D Tyr

**Tyrocidin**  
Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn – Val – Tyr - Gln - Asp- D Phe - Phe

**Gramicidin**  
Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn – Val – Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn - Val

## Structure comparison

**Gratisin**  
Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn – Val – D Tyr – Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn – Val – D Tyr

**Tyrocidin**  
Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn – Val – Tyr - Gln - Asp- D Phe - Phe

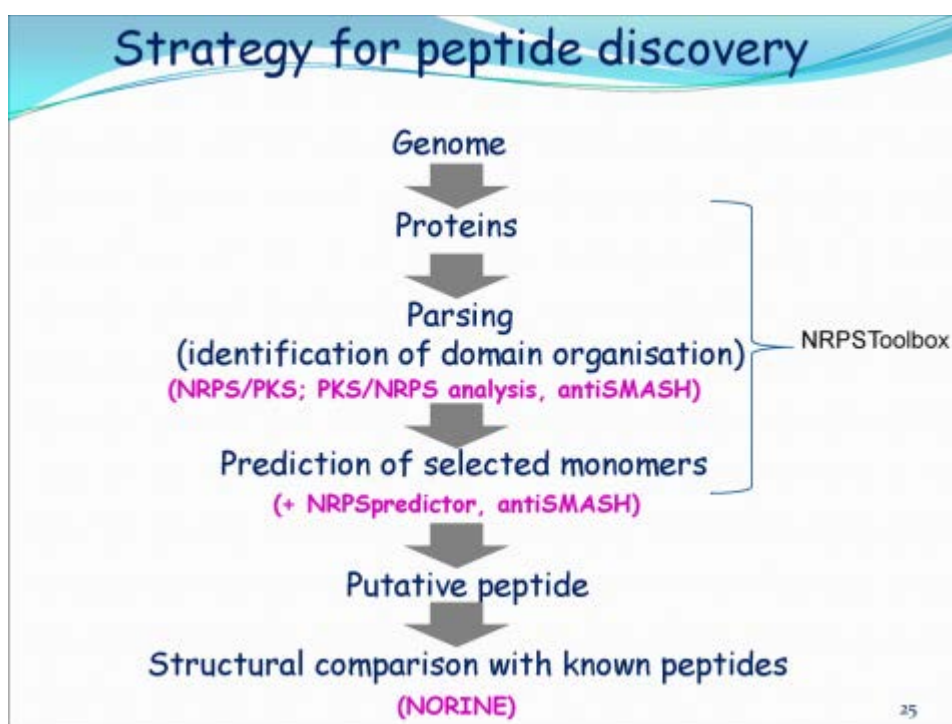
**Gramicidin**  
Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn – Val – Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn - Val

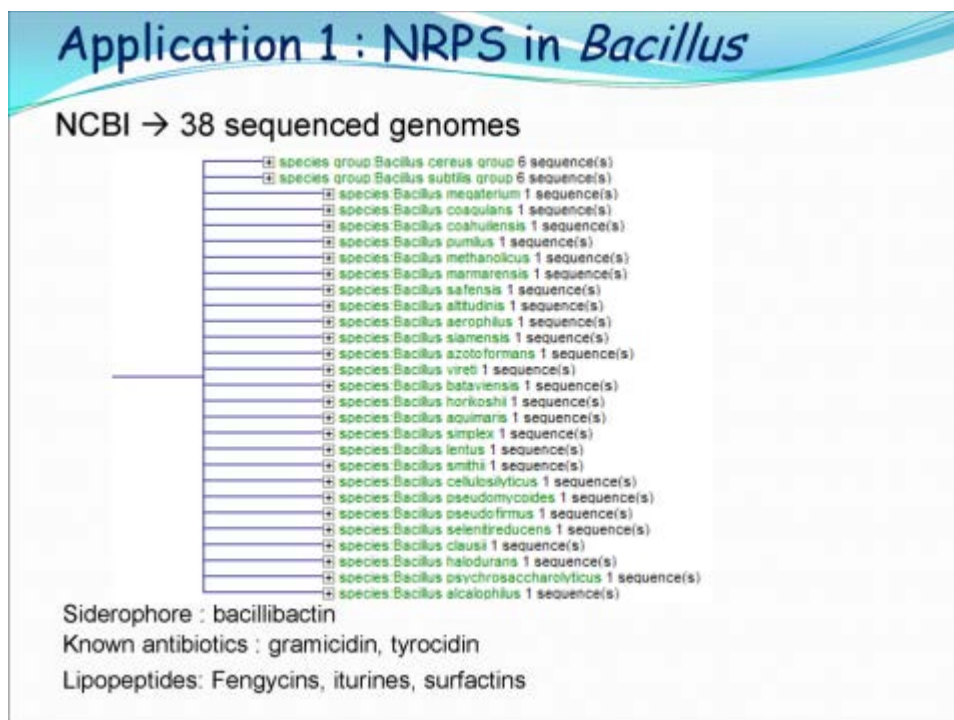
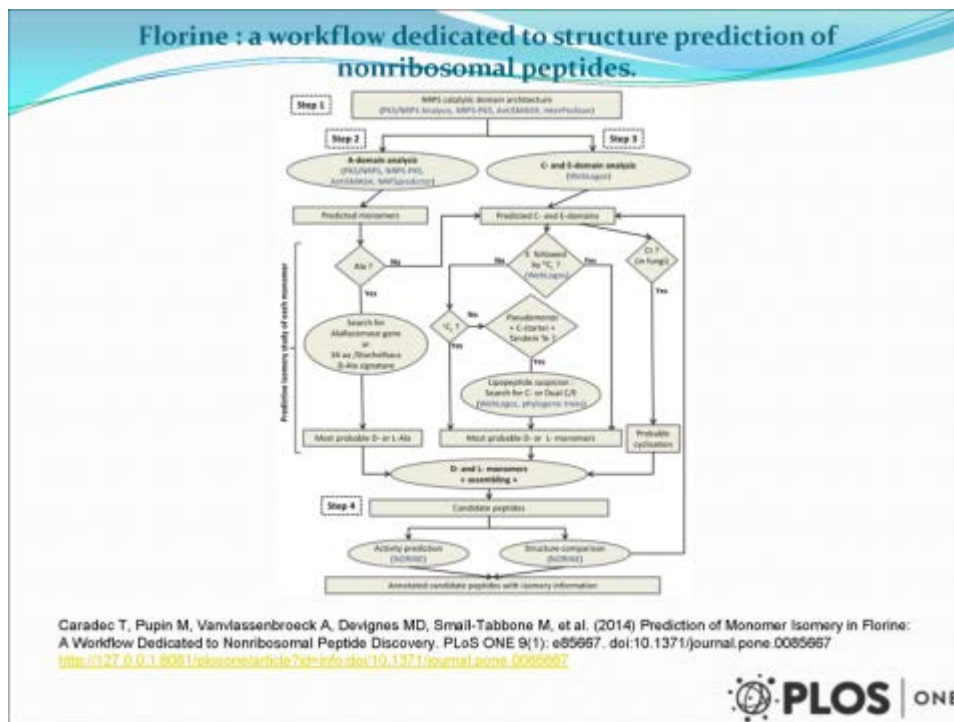
## Structure comparison

**Gratisin**  
**Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn – Val – D Tyr – Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn – Val – D Tyr**

**Tyrocidin**  
**Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn – Val – Tyr - Gln - Asp- D Phe - Phe**

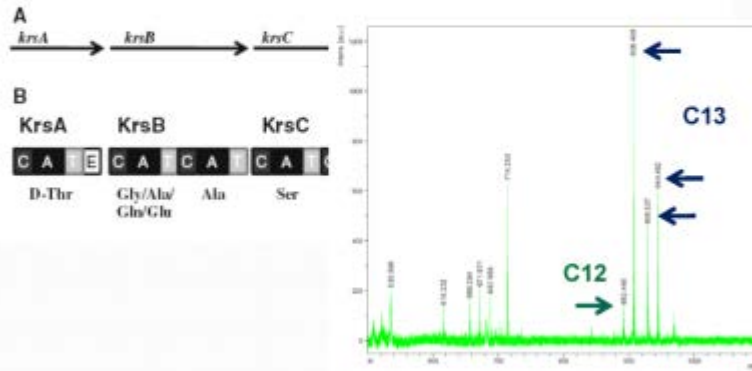
**Gramicidin**  
**Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn – Val – Pro – D Phe – Leu – Orn - Val**





## Application 1 : NRPS in *Bacillus*

❖ Identification of the complete operon of kurstakin



❖ Lipopeptide → spreading

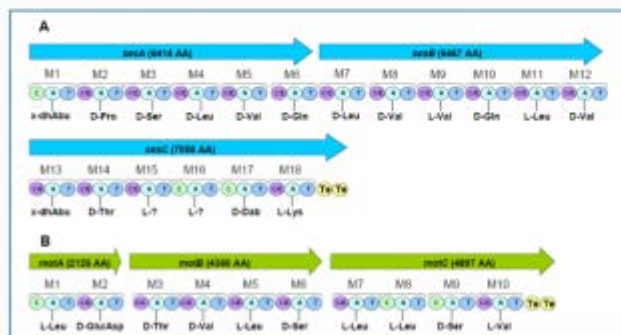
Abderrahmani *et al.*, 2011 *Appl. Microbiol. Biotechnol.*

## Application 2 : NRPS in *Pseudomonas*

❖ Overview on genomic data from NCBI → identification of pyoverdin variants and LP

❖ Identification of 2 strains producing lipopeptides : *CMR12a*, *P. cichori* (collaboration with the University of Ghent and the University of Liege)

Genomes sequenced ➡ Identification lipopeptide synthetases



Pauwelyn *et al.*, *MPMI*, 2013; D'Aes *et al.*, *Mol. Microbiol.*, 2014

## Application 2 : CLPs in *Pseudomonas*

Norine tools → CLP1 is a new variant of tolaasin

	MW	FA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
CLP1	2029	C8:0-OH(3)-	dhAbu-	Pro-	Ser-	Leu-	Val-	Gln-	Leu-	Val-	Val-	Gln-	Leu-	Val-	dhAbu-	aThr-	Ile-	Hse	Dab	Lys
Tolaasin I	1987	C8:0-OH(3)-	dhAbu-	Pro-	Ser-	Leu-	Val-	Ser-	Leu-	Val-	Val-	Gln-	Leu-	Val-	dhAbu-	aThr-	Ile-	Hse	Dab	Lys

	MW	FA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
CLP1	2029	C8:0-OH(3)-	dhAbu-	Pro-	Ser-	Leu-	Val-	Gln-	Leu-	Val-	Val-	Gln-	Leu-	Val-	dhAbu-	aThr-	Ile-	Hse	Dab	Lys
Tolaasin I	1987	C8:0-OH(3)-	dhAbu-	Pro-	Ser-	Leu-	Val-	Ser-	Leu-	Val-	Val-	Gln-	Leu-	Val-	dhAbu-	aThr-	Ile-	Hse	Dab	Lys

Norine tools → CLP2 B is a new variant of orfamide

D'Aes et al., Mol. Microbiol., 2014

## Application 3 : antifungal molecule produced by *Burkholderia*

24 genomes explored → *B. ambifaria* AMMD potentially producing a complex NRP

**Burkholderia ambifaria**  
Pathogenic in cystic fibrosis patients

Lineage: Bacteria[2778]; Proteobacteria[1161]; Betaproteobacteria[166]; Burkholderiales[115]; Burkholderiaceae[42]; Burkholderia[28]; Burkholderia species complex[2]; Burkholderia ambifaria[1]

**Burkholderia**. An important bacterial genus containing species of ecological, biotechnological, and present great versatility to adapt to diverse environments, and are capable of degrading pollutants nitrogen. Several Burkholderia species show potential [Musa...](#)

**Organism Overview** See also: [Genome list](#) [Plasmid list](#)

Sub-species tree

Highest level of Assembly

Chromosomes

Scaffolds or contigs

Total

**Project Data**

Resource Name	Number of Links
<b>SEQUENCE DATA</b>	
Nucleotide	4
Protein Sequences	6612
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	
PubMed	1

Genome assemblies, organelles and plasmids

Name	RefSeq	GenBank
Chromosome 1	NC_000330.1	CP000440.1
Chromosome 2	NC_000331.1	CP000441.1
Chromosome 3	NC_000332.1	CP000442.1
Plasmid Plasmid1	NC_000385.1	CP000443.1

**Related GenBank Project**

PRJNA13430 Burkholderia ambifaria AMMD

## Application 3 : antifungal molecule produced by *Burkholderia*

The diagram illustrates the genetic organization of a DNA fragment from *Burkholderia*. The sequence includes genes Bomb\_6470 to Bomb\_6477. A specific peptide sequence is predicted from this region: Val/Leu/Ile-(Xyl)?-FA-Ser-D-Trp-D-Ser/Arg-Gly-Asn-D-Ser. This peptide is identified as belonging to the Occidiofungin family and is associated with antifungal activity. A petri dish image shows a red spot on a yellow agar, likely representing the antifungal activity of the peptide.

## Take home messages

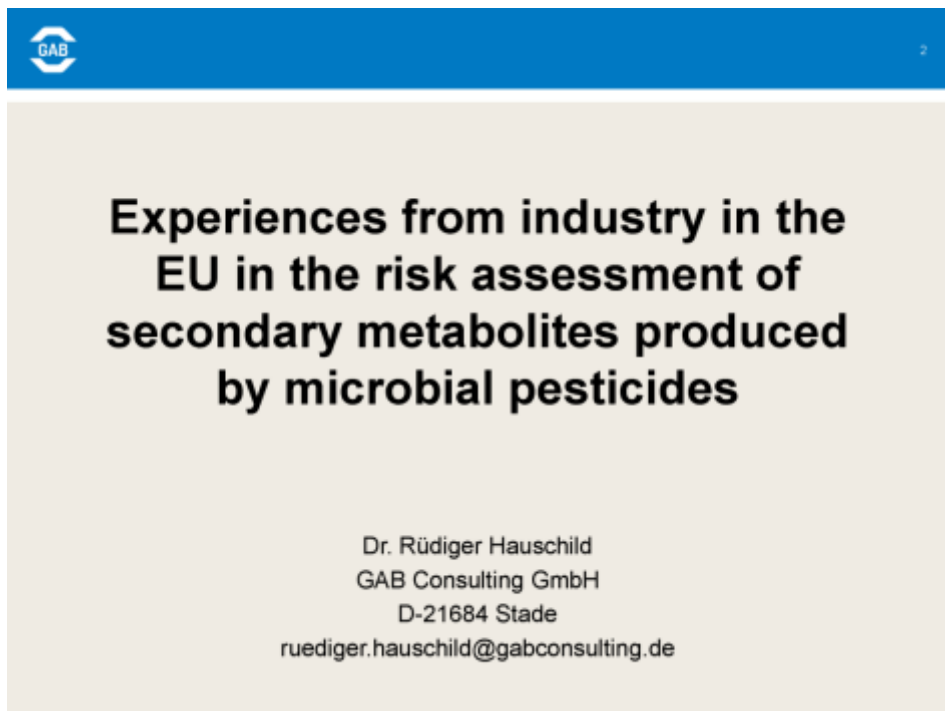
- You can easily access to bioinformatics tools to discover new NRPs from sequence data
- Complete predictions still need expert analysis
- Predictions are no more than predictions → results have to be confirmed by further experiments (structural analysis)

**VERY USEFUL** → Focus on what you are expecting  
 → time saving

**Presentation 7**

**Experiences from industry in the EU in the risk assessment of secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides**

*Rüdiger Hauschild (GAB Consulting GmbH, Lamstedt; Germany)*





## **Microbial metabolites in the EU Evaluation**

**Data requirements**

**Addressing data requirements**

**Additional requests**

**Interpretation of requirements**

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting GmbH



## **Regulatory Framework**

### **Data requirements in the EU:**

**Commission Regulations (EU) No  
283/2013 and 284/2013**

Lists of data required for active substances and products

- Part A: Chemicals including plant extracts and semiochemicals
- Part B: Microorganisms (e.g. bacteria, fungi, protozoa), and viruses

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting GmbH

GAB 5

## Experience with data requirements

Data requirements are justified to exclude negative effects on humans, non-target organisms or the environment

Differences exist in the interpretation of data requirements

Which requirements need to be addressed by strain-specific studies and which can be covered using published literature?

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting

GAB 6



Data requirements

Microbial metabolites



## Data requirements: Metabolites

### Secondary metabolites

- Discussion of possible metabolites from published literature
- Potential for accumulation and exposure
- Determination of "relevant" metabolites in the product
- Determination of production capacity for the particular strain

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting GmbH



## Data requirements: Metabolites

### Metabolites with unacceptable effects on human health and/or the environment need to be described:

- Properties (nature, structure, stability, cellular localization)
- Role in mode of action
- Biosynthesis (external conditions, physiology of regulation)
- Effects on humans, animals or other non-target-organisms

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting GmbH



## Data requirements: Metabolites and Analytical Methods

- (Validated) methods for identification and quantification of “relevant” metabolites

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting GmbH



## Data requirements: Metabolites

**Data on microbial Metabolites are further required in the following sections:**

- Human Health
- Residues
- Fate and behaviour in the environment
- Effects on non-target organisms

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting GmbH



## Addressing Data Requirements on microbial metabolites: Sources of Information

### “Well known species”

- Search open literature for metabolites which are described for the species and the genus
- Identify which metabolites might be harmful for humans or other non-target organisms
- If such metabolites occur, determine whether the strain can produce them
  - Genetics: presence of genes involved in their biosynthesis
  - Biochemistry: Identification and quantification of metabolites in the product
- Appropriate toxicology and ecotoxicology studies will reveal effects of metabolites
- Assessment of risk through metabolites

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting GmbH



## Addressing Data Requirements on microbial metabolites: Sources of Information

### “New species”

- No or very little information available in the literature
- Consider information from development experiments on mode of action
- Appropriate testing of the product using standard test species
- If toxicity through metabolites is detected, chemical characterization of these metabolites
- Identification and quantification of metabolites in the product
- Assessment of risk through metabolites

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting GmbH



## Data Requirements on microbial metabolites: Responses from evaluators (selected)

The approach is widely accepted

Request for additional data:

1. Validation of methods for metabolite determination
2. Toxicological data to define the toxicological profile of toxins/secondary metabolites
3. Identification and quantification of toxins/secondary metabolites formed on plants or in soil

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting GmbH



## Data Requirements on microbial metabolites: Additional data requests (selected)

1. Validation of methods for metabolite determination  
In most cases feasible, sometimes difficult to perform within the given timeline or if no analytical standards are available
2. Toxicological data to define the toxicological profile of toxins/secondary metabolites  
Feasible from published literature, at least for major metabolite groups

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting GmbH



6

## Data Requirements on microbial metabolites: Additional data requests (selected)

### 3. Identification and quantification of toxins/secondary metabolites formed on plants or in soil

Technically and economically not feasible and not justified!

Metabolite production depends on

- Substrate
- Presence of the target organism
- Physiological parameters and host plant
- Abiotic factors

Potential unknown toxins/secondary metabolites cannot be detected  
by biochemical means

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting GmbH



7

## Data Requirements on microbial metabolites: Additional data requests (selected)

“Identification and quantification of  
toxins/secondary metabolites formed on plants or  
in soil” **is not justified** if the biology of the  
microorganism is considered:

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting GmbH



## Biology of Microbial Metabolites

Possible properties of microbial metabolites:

- inhibitory to fungi
- inhibitory to bacteria
- toxic to insects
- induction of resistance in plants (SAR/ISR)
- toxic to non-target organisms

Metabolites can be involved in the mode of action

- alone
- in combination with other mechanisms

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting



## Biology of Microbial Metabolites

Ecological functions of microbial metabolites:

- facilitation of attachment to surfaces
- inhibition of competitors (fungistasis)
- inactivation of hosts (parasitism)

Production and secretion of metabolites:

- losses in energy and nutrients
- production in nutrient rich media *in vitro*
- produced during exponential growth

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19

## Assessment of Microbial Metabolites

**Synthesis** of microbial metabolites after application of the product:

- metabolites can only be produced if substrate is available
- some metabolites need to be synthesized as they are part of the mode of action
- mainly produced during the interaction of the BCA with its host

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting



20

## Assessment of Microbial Metabolites

**Accumulation** of microbial metabolites after application of the product :

- Can only occur if substrate is abundant
- in the absence of organisms degrading these metabolites
- exponential growth rarely occurs under environmental conditions
- accumulation may occur in infested host insects
- accumulation in soil was never demonstrated

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting



## Assessment of Microbial Metabolites

**Accumulation** of microbial metabolites independently from Biocontrol

- Through Plant pathogens (*Fusarium*, *Microdochium*)
- Through storage pathogens (*Aspergillus*, *Chaetomium*, *Clostridium*, etc.) under condition where these are favoured
- By entomopathogens (*Lecanicillium*, *Verticillium*, *Isaria*, *Beauveria* etc.)

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting



## Assessment of Microbial Metabolites

Under which conditions do microbial metabolites represent a risk to humans, non-target organisms or the environment?

1. metabolites are toxic
2. metabolites are contained in the product
3. metabolites are produced and accumulated after product application
4. accumulation occurs at sites that are exposed to non-target organisms

Only in case points 1 and (2 or 3+4) are fulfilled, further analysis is required

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting



23

## Experiences with data requirements Summary

### Assessment of Microbial Metabolites

Most microorganisms used in biocontrol are well known

Some metabolites are synthesized as part of the mode of action

Metabolites can be contained in the product

Synthesis occurs often during interaction with the host

Accumulation of microbial metabolites with harmful effects on non-target organisms in the environment is unlikely to occur and was never observed

Evaluation can be based on product data and published literature

Dr. Rüdiger Hauschild, GAB Consulting



24



Many thanks!

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## Presentation 8

### Experiences from industry in the USA in the risk assessment of secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides

Keith Pitts (Marrone Bio Innovations, Inc., Davis; USA) and Alison Hamer (TSGE Consulting Ltd. UK, representing Marrone Bio Innovations)



#### OECD: The 6<sup>th</sup> Biopesticides Steering Group

#### Seminar on "Hazard and Risk Assessment of Secondary Metabolites"

#### Experiences from industry in the USA in the risk assessment of secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides

May 18, 2015  
Paris, France



#### Safe Harbor Statement



#### Forward-Looking Statements

This presentation may include forward-looking statements. These statements reflect the current views of the Company's senior management with respect to future events and financial performance. These statements include forward-looking statements with respect to the Company's business and industry in general, including statements regarding potential market size of Company products, anticipated product launches, target geographic markets, factors for the barriers to entry into the market, and strategies for growth. Statements that include the words "expect," "intend," "plan," "believe," "project," "forecast," "estimate," "may," "should," "anticipate" and similar statements of a future or forward-looking nature identify forward-looking statements for purposes of the federal securities laws or otherwise. Forward-looking statements address matters that involve risks and uncertainties such as the timing of and costs associated with the launch of products, the difficulty in predicting the timing or outcome of product research and development efforts and regulatory approvals. Accordingly, there are or will be important factors that could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those indicated in these statements. The statements made herein speak only as of the date of this presentation.

## Marrone Bio Innovations Overview

### Company Highlights

- Incorporated in June 2006
- **4** commercially available products, **2** additional approved & **1** submitted for EPA registration
- Library of 18,000+ proprietary microorganisms screened against multiple targets
- Wholly-owned, operational fermentation facility in Bangor, MI
- Commercial sales in North America, LATAM, parts of ME&A; early in our long term growth curve
- Listed on NASDAQ as MBII August 2, 2013; Follow-on June 6, 2014

### Marquee Partners / Distributors



### Robust Pipeline

- Pipeline products: nematicides, herbicides, fungicide and biostimulants
- Many more earlier stage candidates across all categories
- 40 allowed patents globally, 15 U.S. issued patents; 232 pending patent applications globally, 32 are pending in the U.S
- USDA NOP-OMRI compliant formulations

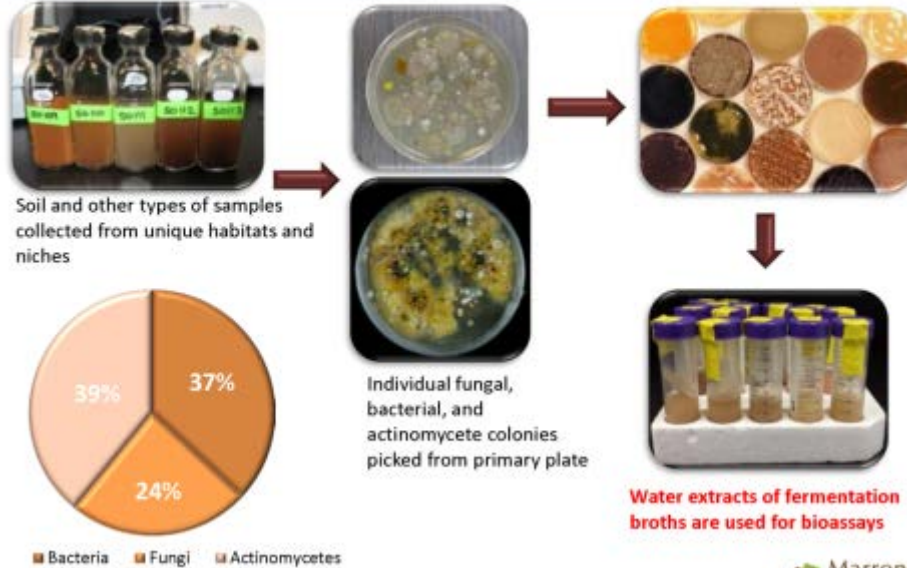
### Commercial Products Today



Page 3



## Discovery: Sourcing and Isolation of Microorganisms

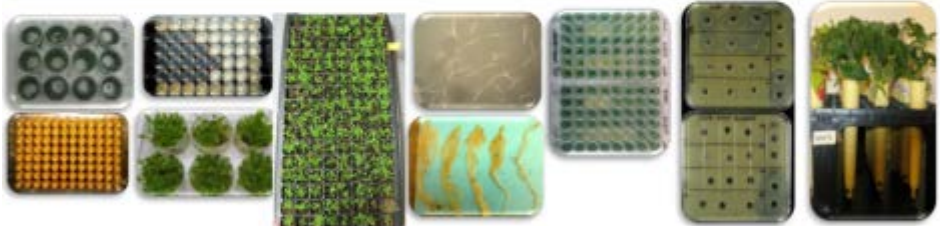


Page 4



## Primary Screen Testing

Insecticide	Fungicide	Herbicide	Nematicide	Algaecide	Bactericide	Biostimulants
Lygus Beet armyworm Corn rootworm	Botrytis cinerea Phytophthora capsici	Crabgrass Lettuce	Meloidogyne spp.	Chlamydomonas reinhardtii	Xanthomonas campestris Pseudomonas syringae	Tomatoes, Corn, Radish, Soy & Others



Page 5



## Discovery and Characterization

### Isolation

*Samples from around the world from areas of high biodiversity are collected and cultured.*



### Fermentation

*Purity is confirmed and water extracts of fermentation broths are prepared for bioassays.*



### Biological Testing

*Biological testing against weeds, insects, plant pathogens, nematodes, algae, and for growth promotion.*



### Natural Product & Analytical Chemistry

*Identify pesticidal compounds; Eliminate harmful species/strains/metabolites; Develop analytical assays for mfg QC.*



Page 6



## MBI Commercial Products-USA

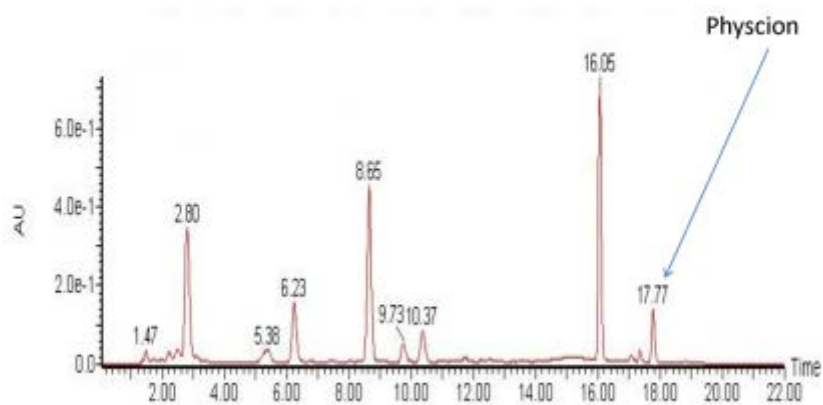


Product	Active	Uses	Registration Date	Enforcement Method	Notes
Grandevo	<i>Chromobacterium subsugae</i>	F, O, H&G	August 26, 2011 & May 1, 2012	Cabbage Looper Bioassay	Pending in EU, Canada, Mexico and Brazil
Zequanox	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens (protegens)</i>	Water	March 9, 2012	Zebra/Quagga Mussel Bioassay	Registered in Canada; Pending in EU
Opportune	<i>Streptomyces acidiscabies</i>	F, O, H&G	April 26, 2012	Thaxtomin A HPLC	Registered in Canada (non-food)
Venerate	<i>Burkholderia rinojensis</i>	F, O, H&G	February 28, 2014	Beet Armyworm Bioassay	Pending in Canada, Mexico and Brazil

Page 7



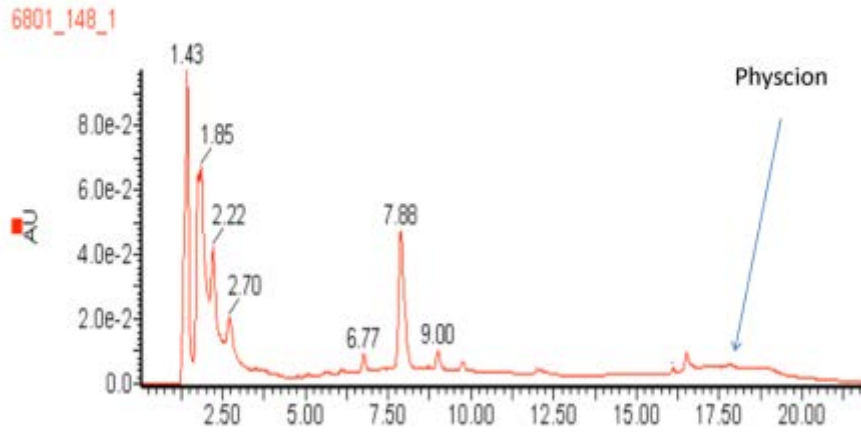
## *R. sachalinensis* extract



Page 8



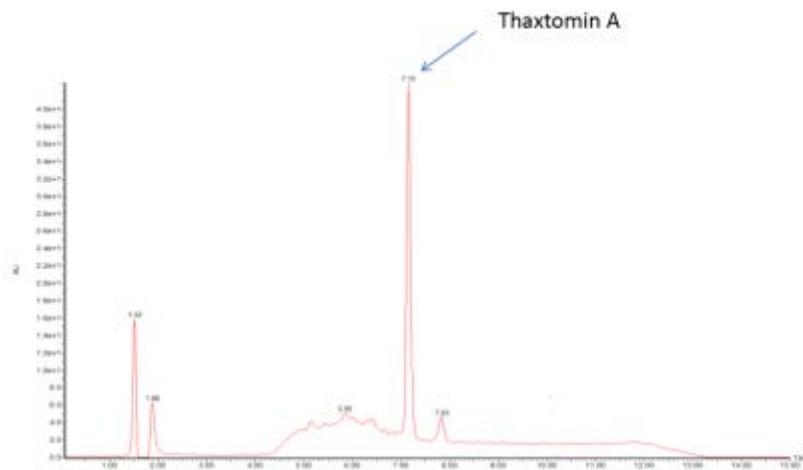
*Rheum rhabarbarum* (Rhubarb) extract



Page 9



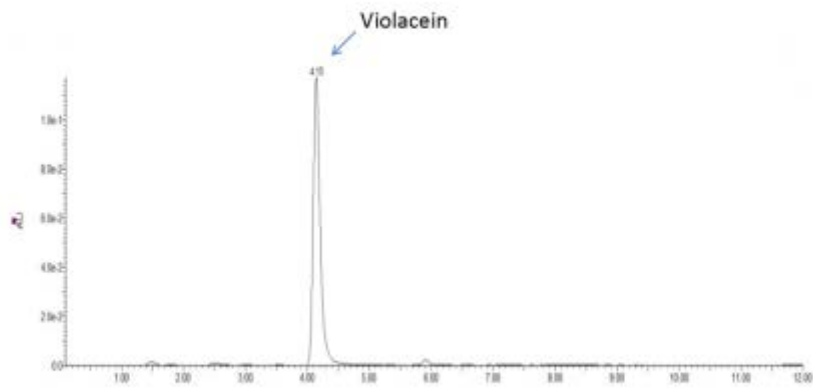
*Streptomyces acidiscabies*



Page 10



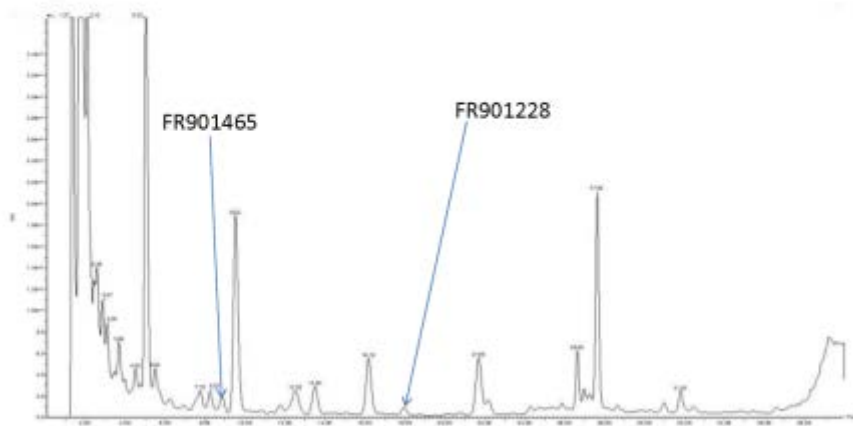
*Chromobacterium subtsugae*



Page 11

1e-5  
min

*Burkholderia* sp. Strain A396



Page 12

Marrone  
Bio Innovations

## MBI-005 (Opportune)-Path to Registration in North America

MBI-005 TGAi non-viable <i>Streptomyces acidiscabies</i> strain RL-110 <sup>T</sup>	
870.1100	Acute Oral
870.1200	Acute Dermal
870.1300	Acute Inhalation
870.2400	Primary Eye
870.2500	Dermal Irritation
870.2600	Skin Sensitization (Buehler)
885.3200	Acute Intravenous Toxicity and Pathogenicity
885.3050	Acute Oral Toxicity and Pathogenicity
885.3150	Acute Pulmonary Toxicity and Pathogenicity
885.3400	Hypersensitivity Incidents
885.3500	Cell Culture
885.4100	Avian Toxicity and Pathogenicity
885.4150	Wild Mammal Toxicity and Pathogenicity
885.4280	Estuarine/Marine Organism Toxicity and Pathogenicity
885.4050	Avian Oral Toxicity, Tier 1
885.4200	Freshwater Fish, Tier 1
885.4240	Freshwater Aquatic Invertebrate (Daphnia), Tier 1
885.4240	Freshwater Aquatic Invertebrate (Hyalella), Tier 1
885.4340	Ladybird Beetle
885.4340	Green Lacewing
885.4340	Parasitic Wasp
885.4380	Honeybee, Tier 1
885.4300	Non-target Terrestrial Plant Studies, Tier 1
885.4300	Non-target Aquatic Plant Studies, Tier 1
850.4550	Cyanobacteria, 96-hour

- EPA Registered April 26, 2012, Unconditional
- Non-viable *Streptomyces acidiscabies* strain RL-110<sup>T</sup> cells and spent fermentation media, 17% TGAi
- EPA Reg. No. 84059-11 TGAi; 84059-12 EP
- Enforcement method: HPLC Thaxtomim A
- Exempt from Requirement of a Tolerance
- Agricultural, Ornamental and Home Uses
- ❖ EPA Guidance on killed microbial viability
- PMRA Registered February 7, 2014
- PMRA-Ames study; 90-day study
- Non-food Ornamental and Home Uses Only
- PMRA Reg. No. 31165 (TGAi) and 31505 (EP)

## MBI-203: Path to Registration in USA-Round One, 2011

MBI-203 TGAi and EP <i>Chromobacterium subtsugae</i> strain PRAAA-1 <sup>T</sup>			
870.1100	Acute Oral	885.4240	Freshwater Aquatic Invertebrate (Daphnia), Tier 1
870.1200	Acute Dermal	885.4240	Freshwater Aquatic Invertebrate (Hyalella), Tier 1
870.1300	Acute Inhalation	885.4340	Ladybird Beetle
870.2400	Primary Eye	885.4340	Green Lacewing
870.2500	Dermal Irritation	885.4340	Parasitic Wasp
870.2600	Skin Sensitization (Buehler)	885.4380	Honeybee, Tier 1
885.3200	Acute Intravenous Toxicity and Pathogenicity	885.4340	Honeybee Larval Study
885.3050	Acute Oral Toxicity and Pathogenicity	885.4300	Non-target Terrestrial Plant Studies, Vegetative Vigor, Tier 1
885.3150	Acute Pulmonary Toxicity and Pathogenicity	885.4300	Non-target Terrestrial Plant Studies, Seedling Emergence, Tier 1
885.3400	Hypersensitivity Incidents	<b>MBI-203 Registration Information</b>	
885.3500	Cell Culture	EPA Registered August 26, 2011 Unconditional <i>Chromobacterium subtsugae</i> strain PRAAA-1 <sup>T</sup> cells and spent fermentation media, 30% TGAi	
885.4100	Avian Toxicity and Pathogenicity	EPA Reg. No. 84059-9 (TGAi)	
885.4150	Wild Mammal Toxicity and Pathogenicity	EPA Reg. No. 84059-10 (EP)	
885.4280	Estuarine/Marine Organism Toxicity and Pathogenicity	Enforcement-Efficacy method: Cabbage Looper Killing Units	
885.4050	Avian Oral Toxicity, Tier 1	Exempt from Requirement of a Tolerance	
885.4200	Freshwater Fish, Tier 1	Agricultural, Ornamental and Home Uses	

## MBI-203: Path to Registration in USA-Round Two, 2012+

MBI-203 DF (GRANDEVOI)-35% <i>Chromobacterium subtsugae</i> strain P9AAA-1 <sup>T</sup>			
870.1350	Acute Oral	OECD 471	Reverse mutation in five histidine-requiring strains of <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> using a trout and plate methodology
870.1250	Acute Dermal	OECD 473	Induction of chromosomal aberrations in cultured human peripheral blood lymphocytes
870.1350	Acute Inhalation	OECD 475	Mutation at the <i>hprt</i> locus of mouse lymphoma L5178Y cells (MLA) using the Microtiter fluctuation technique
870.2400	Primary Eye	OPPTS 835.3140	Biodegradability- Sealed vessel CO <sub>2</sub> evolution test
870.2500	Dermal Irritation	OEPP/EPPO 170 (4), 2010 OPPTS 850.3040	Determination of side effects after application of <i>Chromobacterium subtsugae</i> strain P9AAA-1 <sup>T</sup> (Grandevo <sup>TM</sup> /MBI-203 DF2) on honeybees ( <i>Apis mellifera</i> L.) in buckwheat sp. in a semi-field study in North Carolina, USA 2012
OECD 213 & 214	Honeybee Acute Oral and Contact Study	Other	
OECD 222	Effects on Reproduction and Growth on Earthworms	PMRA	30-day Oral and Prenatal Development Studies
OPPTS 885.4300	A 96-hour Toxicity Test with Cyanobacteria	EU	Modeling the dynamics of secondary metabolite formation in the environment; background levels
OECD 201	Algal Growth Inhibition Assay		
OECD 202	Acute toxicity to Daphnia		
OECD 203	Acute toxicity to Rainbow trout		
OPPTS 885.4340	Acute Toxicity to beneficial insects: <i>Typhlodromus pyri</i>		
OPPTS 885.4340	Acute Toxicity to beneficial insects: <i>Aphidius rhopalosiphii</i>		
			EPA Registered: May 1, 2012 Unconditional <i>Chromobacterium subtsugae</i> strain P9AAA-1 <sup>T</sup> cells and spent fermentation media, 30% TGA1 EPA Reg. No. 84059-17 Spray dried/inactivated <i>Chromobacterium subtsugae</i> Enforcement method: Cabbage Looper Killing Units Exempt from Requirement of a Tolerance Agricultural, Ornamental and Home Uses Currently pending: Mexico, Canada, Brazil and EU

Page 15



## Development of dossier for the EU – MBI-203

### Literature search and review

- Literature search conducted to support EPA submission in 2009
- For EU submission we updated the search to EFSA Guidance – extensive further work in 2014
- Valuable review papers had been published (2010, 2011) regarding the secondary metabolite ‘marker compound’ violacein
- We could use a significant published data set on bacterial species producing the substance to satisfy the data requirements
- How useful was new search to US EPA process?
  - Literature review alone not required unless tied to a discussion about a certain data requirement
  - Specific guideline-by-guideline rationales that discuss relevant published literature references are needed

Page 16



## Dossier features for the EU – MBI-203



- Proposal for active substance definition
  - The active substance is comprised of bacterial cells and naturally occurring substances of biological origin that form a characteristic chromatographic profile when analysed by HPLC
- Extensive metabolite research and characterisation work conducted
- Detailed fractionation/bioassay work was done to elucidate mode of action of fermentate components
- Marker compound violacein occurs at very low levels <0.1% in the active substance

Page 17

Marrone  
Bio Innovations

## Dossier features for the EU – MBI-203



- Relevance of test material
  - We demonstrate commercially relevant test material in each phase of GLP toxicology and ecotoxicology studies
  - Transparent presentation of meticulous QA data on batches
  - Studies exposed test system to secondary metabolite at relevant levels
- Robust genotoxicity package
  - Suite of three negative studies
  - Data point 5.2.3  
“Genotoxicity of cellular micro-organisms will be studied after breaking of the cells, wherever possible. Justification should be provided on the method of sample preparation used”.  
Various methods for cell breaking were tested to meet this requirement
- Storage stability study includes analysis for secondary metabolite in parallel with confirmation of retention of activity by bioassay

Page 18

Marrone  
Bio Innovations

## Lessons Learned to Date



MY LESSONS LEARNED TO DATE	
Opportunities	Challenges
Regulatory agencies have been collaborative in adapting regulatory paradigm to accommodate novel products;	While exciting, innovation can be challenging and frustrating; <i>metabolites have always been present in biopesticides</i> ; over-regulation can (1) stifle move to lower risk tools, (2) stifle innovation, (3) push industry to look for loopholes
Microbial-botanical hybrid appears to be emerging framework—identity, MOA and pathogenicity addressed with microbial underpinning; botanical guidance for mammalian and NTO testing;	Shortage of clear guidance; still a tendency to apply synthetic chemical criteria/protocols in many instances, though not always applicable or appropriate;
Killed microbe allows access to markets where non-native microbes have been of concern, e.g. Brazil, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand;	Mode of action and product identification still remain significant challenges, e.g. lack of CFUs;
Review and approval timelines shorten with each review; both MBI and regulatory agencies are learning and implementing based on growing experience.	New area of innovation; expertise still developing—patience, reason and flexibility is essential for all parties. We'll only learn by doing.



### Thank You

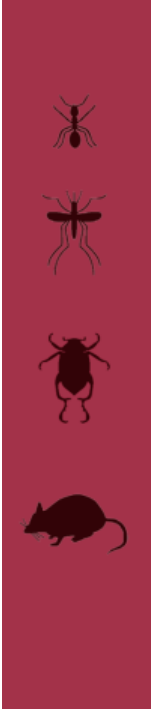
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### Presentation 9

## Experiences from regulators in the EU in the risk assessment of secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides


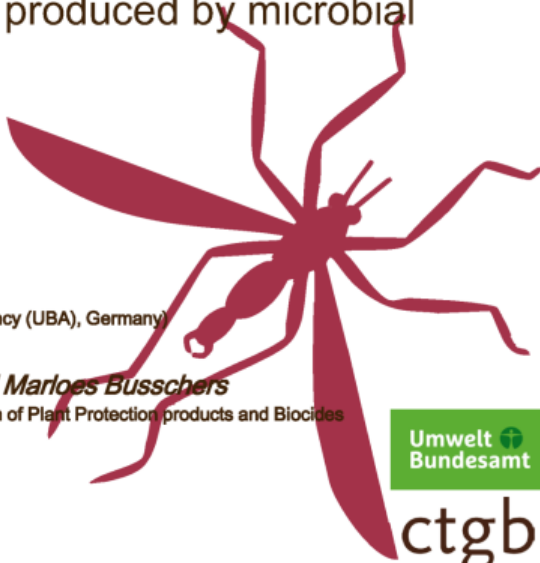
*Bilgin Karaoglan (Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Dessau-Rosslau; Germany) and Adi Cornelese and Marloes Busschers (Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection products and Biocides (Ctgb), Wageningen; The Netherlands)*



Experiences from regulators in the EU  
in the risk assessment of secondary  
metabolites produced by microbial  
pesticides


Joint presentation:  
**Bilgin Karaoglan**  
(Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Germany)

**Adi Cornelese and Marloes Busschers**  
(Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection products and Biocides (Ctgb), the Netherlands)




ctgb

18th May 2015



**EU**

- 28 MS and EFSA
- Experience of MS differs
- Chemical vs microbial a.s. evaluation



ctgb

## Reservations or doubts in EU MS and EFSA



- M.o. are living organisms
- M.o. can produce many metabolites
- Metabolites can be relevant toxins
- Dependent on strain, (environmental) conditions and target organism
- Present in formulation or involved in MoA/produces upon infection
- Only minimal amount of study data
- Strict interpretation of data requirements and decision making criteria

ctgb

## Problems in the discussion



- Impossible to address all possible metabolites:
  - Differ from lab – field
  - Differ from field to field (environmental condition, target organism)
  - How to identify/quantify?
  - How to prove non-existence?
- What level of evidence is needed?
- Needle in hay stack

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## Definition

### Relevant metabolite

if expected to be of concern to human health and/or the environment

- If plant protection action is known to be due to the **residual effect** of toxin/metabolite, or
  - if **significant residues** of toxins/metabolites are to be expected not related to the effect of the active substance
- > Chemical dossier for toxin/metabolite must be submitted

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## Pragmatic interpretation

Level of evidence needed

- Biology and MoA
  - Information literature on (related) species/strain
  - (Eco)tox study results
  - External, not e.g. endotoxin of Bt
- 
- Relevant metabolites?
  - Exposure/risk

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## 546/2011 Uniform principles

### B. Evaluation

Micro-organisms may produce a range of different metabolites (e.g. bacterial toxins or mycotoxins) many of which may have toxicological significance, and one or more of which may be involved in the mode of action of the plant protection product. The characterisation and identification of relevant metabolites must be assessed and the toxicity of these metabolites must be addressed.

Information on production and/or relevance of metabolites may be deduced from:

- (a) toxicity studies;
- (b) biological properties of the micro-organism;
- (c) relationship to known plant, animal or human pathogens;
- (d) mode of action;
- (e) analytical methods.

On the basis of this information, metabolites may be considered as possibly being relevant. Therefore potential exposure to these metabolites must be assessed, in order to decide on their relevance.

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## Secondary metabolites

### - Production process:

>If present in the product than only in liquid fermentation.

>Range and quantities depend on culture medium

### - **Leading** in mode of action and produced upon infection

- ✓ If present in fermentation it may be identified and quantified, however range and quantities depend on culture medium
- ✓ Secondary metabolites involved in MoA cannot be easily identified nor quantified

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## Environmental risk assessment

Data requirements and the corresponding risk assessment needs to be fulfilled if **all** the following conditions are met:

- Relevant metabolite stable outside m.o.
- Toxic effect of metabolite is independent of presence of m.o.
- Relevant metabolite is expected to occur in environment in concentrations considerably higher than under natural conditions

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## Environmental assessment

- Secondary metabolites that are part of natural metabolic systems are expected to degrade rapidly
- all conditions, as described in data requirements, are not likely to occur at the same time

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## Examples of EU review



- *Bacillus pumilus* QST 2808



- *Streptomyces lydicus* strain WYEC 108

- *Metarhizium anisopliae* var. *anisopliae*



✓ dossier content on metabolites

✓ result EU review



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## *Bacillus pumilus* QST 2808



- HPLC analysis of the fermentation broth was performed to prioritise potential active ingredients by comparing against a list of known compounds (various metabolites, potential toxins).



- The whole fermentation product plus any substances produced by the strain have been evaluated in the technical and end-use product toxicity testing schemes.



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## Datagaps

- data to address the possible production of toxins/secondary metabolites (other than those produced by *Bacillus Cereus*); sections identity, (eco)tox and residues
- demonstrate that, under the conditions of use, any toxins/secondary metabolites produced by *Bacillus pumilus* QST 2808 will not occur in the environment in concentrations higher than under natural conditions

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## *Streptomyces lydicus* strain WYEC 108

- Chemical components measured in fermentation broth.
- Known metabolites addressed in the dossier for human exposure. Extensive data search was done
- Research showed no mammalian toxins or active metabolites or degradation products of toxicological significance are known to be produced by *S. lydicus* strain WYEC 108.
- hydroxamate siderophores (plant growth enhancing), chitinase (plant enzyme) and some other enzymes.

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## Datagaps



- strain specific evidence to prove the inability of the microorganism to produce toxins/secondary metabolites of concern.
- data on toxin/secondary metabolites production for the sections tox and residues
- Satisfactory information to demonstrate that, under the conditions of use, any toxins/secondary metabolites produced by *Streptomyces lydicus* WYEC108 will not occur in the environmental compartments in concentrations considerably higher than under natural conditions.

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## *Metharhizium anisopliae* var. *anisopliae*



- EPF, subject of the RAFBCA project. Large dataset available. One workpackage focussed on metabolites.
- Identification and quantification in cultures by using external standards of cytochalasin (A, B, C, D, E, H, and J) and destruxins (A, B, CHL, and E diol).
- Information on potential swainsonine production
- Crude extracts and several purified toxins of different strains of *M. anisopliae* var. *anisopliae* were tested in two Ames tests and a Vitotox assay and gave negative results .

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- Metabolites destruxins A, B and E were analysed in plant material after soil/foliar application, in soil including drainage water, and in insect cadavers.
- In insects only destruxin A,B and E
- stability and persistence of destruxins A, B and E was assessed under various environmental conditions.

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## Datagaps

- the production of toxins cannot be excluded and therefore the risk assessment cannot be finalised for humans.
- As the issue of toxins is not fully addressed the consumer risk assessment remains open.
- To assess the production and the fate and behaviour of any relevant metabolite in the environment. Information on the fate of destruxins is in the dossier however, a datagap is set for groundwater.

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## RMS approach



- adequate literature research
- Biology and MoA
- Tested in tox batches?
- Metabolites involved in MoA?
- Potential for toxicological relevance?
- Measurement of potentially relevant metabolites in fermentation product ?
- Significant amount in product and/or environment?

If addressed properly in dossier, risk assessment can be completed

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### DE RMS for several MPCAs with secondary metabolite production ability:

MPCA	Product / Type	old (List 4) / new (NAS) Substance	EFSA Conclusion
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> QST 713	Serenade WP	NAS (Annex I Renewal)	Review Report (2006); (EFSA Conclusion not available)
<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> D747 *	CX 9030 (WG)	NAS	EFSA Journal 2014;12(4):3624
<i>Beauveria bassiana</i> ATTC 74040	Naturalis-L (OD)	List 4	EFSA Journal 2013;11(1):3031
<i>Beauveria bassiana</i> GHA	BotaniGard 22 WP	List 4	EFSA Journal 2013;11(1):3031

\* strain D747 formerly assigned to the species *B. subtilis*


Abbreviations: MPCA= Microbial Pest Control Agent; NAS = New Active Substance



### Representative uses

MPCA	Application methods / use	Target organism(s)	Function
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> QST 713	Foliar spray; apple/pear (field)	Fire blight, apple scab	Fungicide
<i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> D747	Foliar spray; table/wine grapes (field)	<i>Botrytis cinerea</i>	Fungicide
<i>Beauveria bassiana</i> ATTC 74040	Spray; tomatoes (greenhouse/field)	Whiteflies	Insecticide
<i>Beauveria bassiana</i> GHA	Spray; ornamentals, tomatoes, cucumbers (greenhouse/indoor)	Sucking insects	Insecticide

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### Example: *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* D 747

[DAR information – fate/ecotox-part]

Ability to produce different kinds of metabolites with antibiotic or antifungal activities:

- lipopeptides such as **iturins** and **surfactins**,
- exo-enzymes such as **amylase** and **chitinase** contributing to the decay of organic matter
- serine proteases such as **subtilisin**

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**Example: *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* D 747**  
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- lipopeptides such as **iturins** and **surfactins**,
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- serine proteases such as **subtilisin**

→ Written procedure: Request for additional information during EU peer review:

Indoleacetic acid	<p>Available data suggest (see Addendum to DAR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accumulation unlikely</li> <li>• Low exposure to NTO</li> <li>• No Amylosin (Doc J)</li> </ul>
Surfactin	
Iturins	
Polyketides	
Amylosin	

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**Example: *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* D 747**  
[DAR information – fate/ecotox-part]


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- serine proteases such as **subtilisin**

→ Written procedure: Request for additional information during EU peer review:

Indoleacetic acid	<p>For example: Iturin levels strongly decreased within the first 3 days post-treatment in the field, despite the presence of significant <i>Bacillus</i> populations.</p> <p>→ production of antifungal compounds locally restricted and for a relatively short period of a few days.</p> <p>Crane et al. 2013: Phytopathology 103(2): 146-155</p>
Surfactin	
Iturins	
Polyketides	
Amylosin	


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**Example: *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* D 747**  
[EU List of endpoint – fate/ecotox-part]

Conclusions from EU List of Endpoint:  
metabolites **surfactin** and **iturin** and the serine proteinase **subtilisin** are not contained in the formulated product at amounts needed to contribute to activity but formed transiently after application during interaction with the pathogen


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**Example: *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* D 747**  
[data gaps – fate/ecotox-part]

Data gaps in the EU Review (EFSA Conclusion):  
As only very limited data on the production of secondary metabolites/toxins (that just relates to environmental compartment of leaf surfaces) were available  
→ environmental (including groundwater) exposure & risk assessment for non-target organisms could not be finalised

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**Example: *Beauveria bassiana* ATTC 74040 / GHA**  
 [DAR information – fate/ecotox-part]

Ability to produce several metabolites within the genus *Beauveria*

Four different groups:

1. Low molecular weight compounds: **oxalic acid**
2. Non-peptide pigments: **oosporein, bassianin, and tenellin**
3. Cyclodepsipeptides: **beauvericin, bassianolides, beauveriolides, and beauverolides**
4. High molecular weight proteins: **bassiacridin**

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**Example: *Beauveria bassiana* ATTC 74040 / GHA**  
 [DAR information – fate/ecotox-part]

Question for all entomopathogenic fungi (EPF):  
**Are there any risks from consumption of mycosed insects ?**

•Uncertainties were noted in the EU Peer Review on EPFs concerning the risk for insectivorous birds from consumption of infected insects in field applications (see PRAPeR M4 report:

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**Example: *Beauveria bassiana* ATTC 74040 / GHA**  
[DAR information – fate/ecotox-part]

Question for all entomopathogenic fungi (EPF):  
**Are there any risks from consumption of mycosed insects ?**

- Uncertainties were noted in the EU Peer Review on EPFs concerning the risk for insectivorous birds from consumption of infected insects in field applications (see PRAPeR M4 report)
- However, there is discrepancy between estimated/theoretical risk (TER values <1, see DAR Vol 3. B.9) based on a NOEC for a purified metabolite and study findings based on feeding studies (birds fed on mycosed insects)

*"Except in few cases in which insects were advanced in fungal sporulation, the birds fed readily on infected insects and showed no detectable signs of subsequent avoidance, or ill health, implying that potential mycotoxins were not problematic."* (Johnson et al. 2002: J. Toxicol. Environ. Health A 65:2145–2162.)

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**Example: *Beauveria bassiana* ATTC 74040 / GHA**  
[DAR information – fate/ecotox-part]

Question for all entomopathogenic fungi (EPF):  
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- Uncertainties were noted in the EU Peer Review on EPFs concerning the risk for insectivorous birds from consumption of infected insects in field applications (see PRAPeR M4 report)
- However, there is discrepancy between estimated/theoretical risk (TER values <1, see DAR Vol 3. B.9) based on a NOEC for a purified metabolite and study findings based on feeding studies (birds fed on mycosed insects)

Available open literature information based on three different feeding studies suggest that adverse effects are unlikely to occur in vertebrates (birds, mammals, reptiles):

- Johnson et al. 2002: J. Toxicol. Environ. Health A 65:2145–2162.
- Smits et al. 1999: J. Wildl. Dis. 35(2): 194-203
- Peveling and Demba 2003: Environ. Toxicol. Chem. 22(7): 1437-1447

Note: Metabolite production might depend on the infected host species!  
However, testing every potential target species is not feasible.

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**Example: *Beauveria bassiana* ATTC 74040 / GHA**  
[data gap – fate/ecotox-part]

Data gaps in the EU Review:

It is noted that a data gap was identified in relation to the **formation of secondary metabolites/toxins, such as beauvericin**, in the treated crops and in relevant environmental compartments after application of the product. Pending on the outcome of these data gaps, the potential risk of these secondary metabolites/toxins to non-target organisms has to be addressed

EFSA Conclusion on *M. anisopliae* (all EPFs?): Several data gaps have been identified to assess the risk for insectivorous birds and mammals consuming infected insects including the risk posed by the toxins formed in the insect.

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**General questions:**  
[EU review]

EFSA Conclusion: [...] it is not clear if such metabolites might fulfil the criteria according to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 namely:

- the relevant metabolite is stable outside the microorganism;
- a toxic effect of the relevant metabolite is independent of the presence of the microorganism;
- the relevant metabolite is expected to occur in the environment in concentrations considerably higher than under natural conditions.

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**General questions:**  
[EU review]

EFSA Conclusion: [...] it is not clear if such metabolites might fulfil the criteria according to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 namely:

- the relevant metabolite is stable outside the microorganism;  
→ it seems "stable outside.." is interpreted as a synonymous of exogenous metabolite  
→ Half time values needed?
- a toxic effect of the relevant metabolite is independent of the presence of the microorganism;
- the relevant metabolite is expected to occur in the environment in concentrations considerably higher than under natural conditions.  
→ occurrence is often locally restricted, (if metabolite is involved in MoA)  
→ reliable data needed; short-term increase expected for reasons of efficacy

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**Summary and conclusive remarks**

- Data gaps (production/potential risks) identified for MPCAs in the EU-peer review
- Criteria for relevant metabolites not very precise
- EPFs: Uncertainties were noted in the EU Peer Review concerning the risk for insectivorous birds from consumption of infected insects in field applications  
➢ However, there is discrepancy between estimated (theoretical risk) based on TER calculations LD50s for purified and study findings based on feeding studies with mycosed insects (see e.g. Johnson et al. 2002; ...)
- Some risk assessment approaches/regulatory triggers designed or chemicals are not appropriate / not applicable for MPCAs (e.g. 0.1 µg/L trigger for Groundwater contamination based on FOCUS GW models; many input parameters would be needed; "worst-case" default values not reasonable)
- Strain specific ecotoxicological data may address risks from metabolites, however, conditions for metabolite production should be taken into account
- Therefore, the following aspects should be better taken into account:
  - environmental conditions (abiotic/biotic factors) affecting metabolite production
  - competitiveness of the mBCA under field conditions
  - population dynamics of the MBCA and reversible transitions between (metabolically) active and dormant microbial states

BPSG-Seminar 2015 34

**Presentation 10**

**Experiences from regulators in the USA in the risk assessment of secondary metabolites produced by microbial pesticides**

*Shannon Borges (Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC; United States)*

Experience from Regulators in the USA in the Risk Assessment of  
Secondary Metabolites Produced by Microbial Pesticides:  
U.S. EPA Regulatory Perspective



May 18, 2015  
6<sup>th</sup> Biopesticides Steering Group Seminar  
Paris, France

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Shannon Borges  
Lead Biologist  
Microbial Pesticides Branch  
Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division  
Office of Pesticide Programs

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## Secondary Metabolites of Microbial Pesticides

- Microbial pesticide defined in U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR § 158.2100
- Secondary metabolite not officially defined
- Concern for risk assessment is on those compounds that might be toxic or hazardous; may be more appropriate to think in terms of toxin or hazardous compound produced by the microbe (see OCSP guideline 885.0001)

## Secondary Metabolites and Risk Assessment

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- Hazard primarily considered in risk assessment
- Identification and description of known toxic compounds is required; emphasis is on testing to identify effects
- Data to indicate potential problems related to toxic compounds included in:
  - Product Analysis
  - Toxicology testing (mammals)
  - Nontarget organism testing



## Product Analysis

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- Data requirements in 40 CFR § 158.2120
- Product Identity (885.1300) – Description of microbial pesticide.
  - Must include description of properties with known or potential hazard
  - Describe mode of action if known
- Discussion of Formation of Unintentional Ingredients (885.1300)
  - Must describe formation of substances other than the microbial agent and intentionally added ingredients
  - Also, toxic or sensitizing compounds known or suspected to be present

## Hazard Testing

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- Emphasis is on effects testing for the risk assessment
- Tiered testing system
- Tier I toxicity/pathogenicity testing believed to be sufficiently designed to detect acute toxicity of toxic components of microbial pest control agents
- If effects are observed in Tier I tests, then testing is done at higher tiers or using guidelines developed for chemical pesticides to refine hazard

## Hazard Testing – Mammalian Toxicology


---

### Tier I Toxicology Testing (40 CFR § 158.2140)

- Studies to evaluate toxicity and pathogenicity of microbial pesticide:
  - Acute oral toxicity/pathogenicity (885.3050)
  - Acute pulmonary toxicity/pathogenicity (885.3150)
  - Acute injection toxicity/pathogenicity (885.3200)
- Studies to evaluate toxicity of chemical components of microbial pesticide:
  - Acute oral toxicity (870.1100)
  - Acute dermal toxicity (870.1200)
  - Acute inhalation toxicity (870.1300)
  - Primary eye irritation (870.2400)
  - Primary dermal irritation (870.2500)
  - Reporting of hypersensitivity incidents (885.3400)


## Hazard Testing – Mammalian Toxicology

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- Toxic effects observed (in the absence of pathogenicity and infectivity) in Tier I trigger the need for Tier II acute oral testing with the toxic component
  - If a full evaluation is needed, additional testing can be done employing other guidelines more specific to toxicity testing with chemical compounds (OCSPP series 870 guidelines)
  - Unusual that this level of testing occurs
- 

## Testing to Determine Exposure - Mammals


---

- Residue testing according to 40 CFR § 158.2130 is required when:
    - The results of testing indicate the potential to cause adverse human health effects or the product characterization indicates that the microbial pesticide has a significant potential to produce a mammalian toxin, and
    - The use pattern is such that residues may be present in or on food or feed crops
- 

## Hazard Testing – Nontarget Organisms


---

### Tier I toxicity/pathogenicity with nontargets (40 CFR § 158.2150)

- Avian oral toxicity (885.4050)
  - Avian inhalation toxicity/pathogenicity (885.4100)
  - Wild mammal toxicity/pathogenicity (885.4150)
  - Freshwater fish toxicity/pathogenicity (885.4200)
  - Freshwater invertebrate toxicity/pathogenicity (885.4240)
  - Estuarine/Marine fish and invertebrate testing (885.4280)
  - Nontarget plant testing (885.4300)
  - Nontarget insect testing (885.4340)
  - Honeybee testing (885.4380)
- 


## Hazard Testing – Nontarget Organisms

---

- If toxic effects are observed at Tier I, testing may advance to Tier II to characterize exposure
  - Subchronic testing may be appropriate, which may alleviate the need for Tier II testing
  - Higher tiers (Tiers III and IV) are more appropriate for investigating pathogenic effects. If toxicity is still a concern with testing at lower tiers, testing with other guidelines is more appropriate (OCSPP series 850 guidelines)
  - Unusual that this level of testing occurs
- 


## Toxicity Concerns – How Are They Usually Handled?

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- Limit exposure
    - Testing may indicate safe levels; batch level testing may be required
    - Testing on indicator organisms (e.g., *Bt* tolerance exemption)
    - Limit application methods or timing (e.g., *Myrothecium verrucaria*)
    - Limit uses (e.g., non-food only)
  - May determine that the pesticide is more appropriately registered as a conventional pesticide
- 


## Emerging Regulatory Issues

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- Role of manufacturing process
    - Importance of establishing equivalence
    - May require bridging studies
  - Microbial pesticides not identified to species level
  - “Killed” microbials and appropriate testing
  - At what point are microbial toxins better handled as conventional pesticides
- 

## Links

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- U.S. Code of Regulations  
[www.ecfr.gov](http://www.ecfr.gov)
  - OCSPM Microbial Testing Guidelines  
[www.epa.gov/ocspp/pubs/frs/publications/Test\\_Guidelines/series885.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ocspp/pubs/frs/publications/Test_Guidelines/series885.htm)
  - OCSPM Health Effects Test Guidelines (conventionals)  
[www.epa.gov/ocspp/pubs/frs/publications/Test\\_Guidelines/series870.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ocspp/pubs/frs/publications/Test_Guidelines/series870.htm)
  - OCSPM Ecological Effects Test Guidelines (conventionals)  
[www.epa.gov/ocspp/pubs/frs/publications/Test\\_Guidelines/series850.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ocspp/pubs/frs/publications/Test_Guidelines/series850.htm)
  - EPA Label Review Manual  
[www2.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/label-review-manual](http://www2.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/label-review-manual)
- 

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Questions?

