

# Role of *B. bassiana* on Plant Defence, Biocontrol and Insect Behaviour modification

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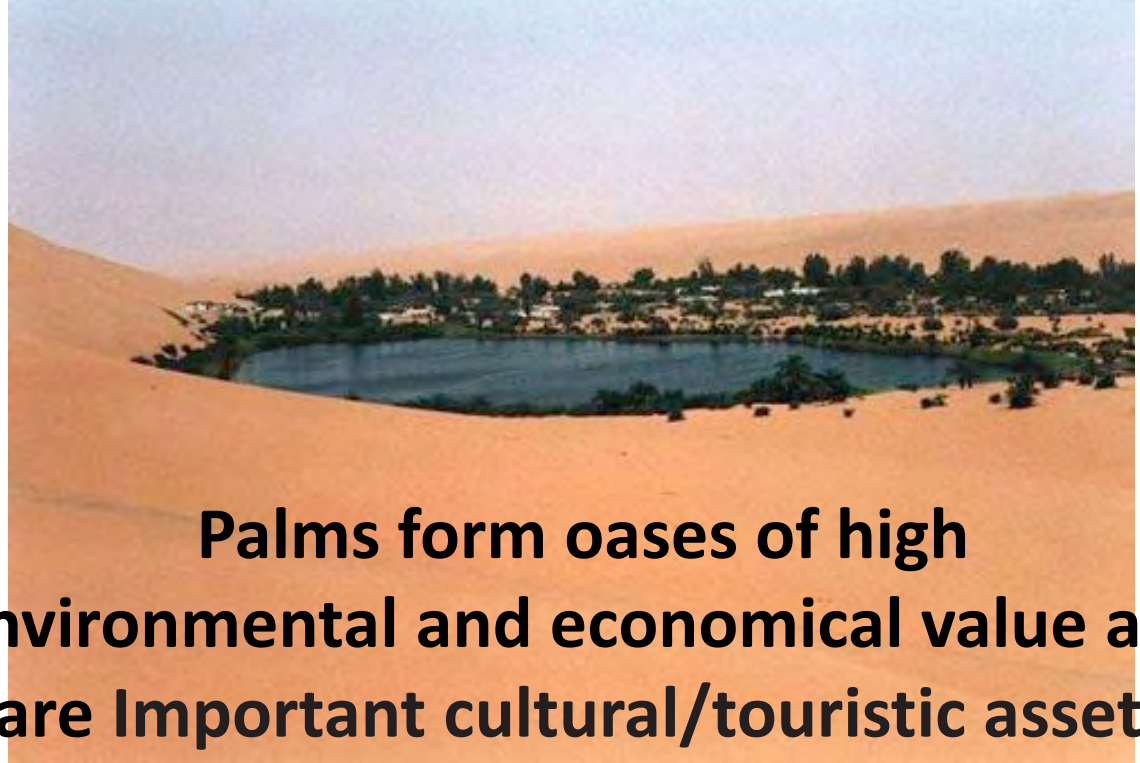
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<http://www.fungalinteractions.org/>



**Palms form oases of high environmental and economical value and are Important cultural/touristic assets**



RPW is major palm pest worldwide...



# RPW can damage Date Palm Value



Tabarca Island



Denia



Albufereta



Cartagena



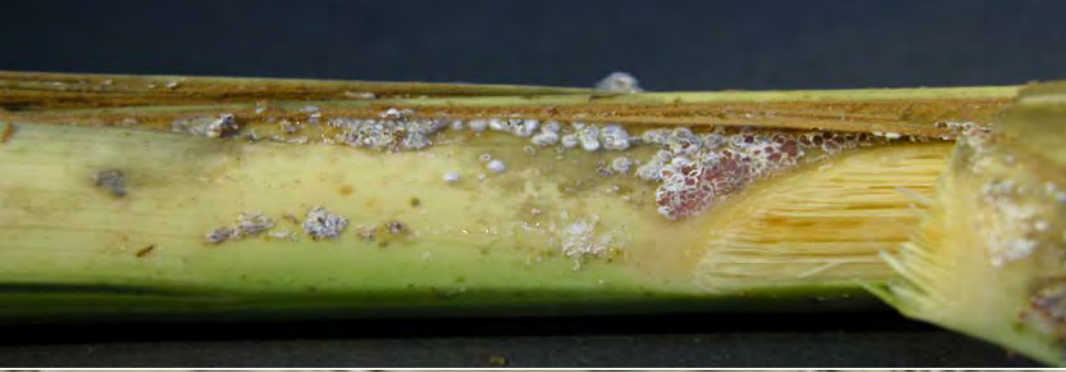
Córdoba



Sevilla

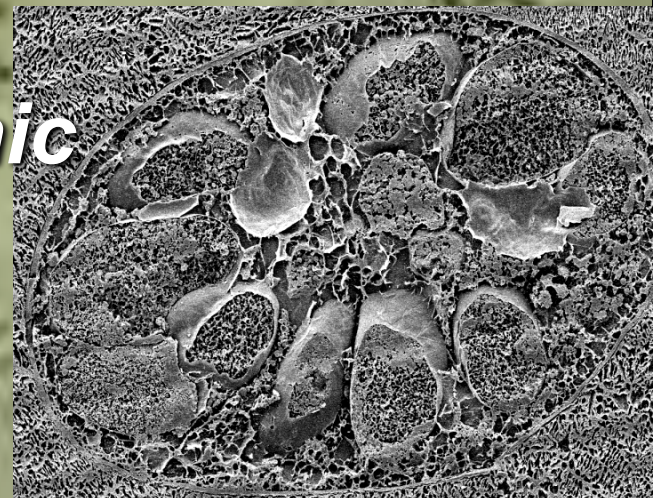


Granada



***Biocontrol: Entomopathogenic fungi***

10  $\mu$ m



# *B. bassiana*: most common Entomopathogenic Fungus in dry Ecosystems (SE Spain)

Aphids

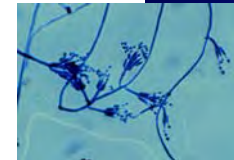
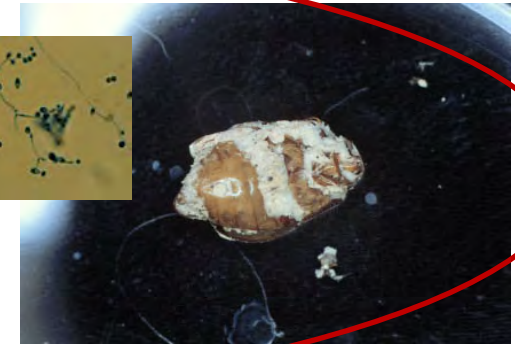
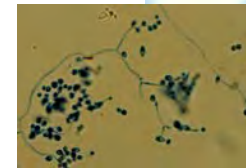
Entomophthorales  
(*Erynia neoaphidis*)



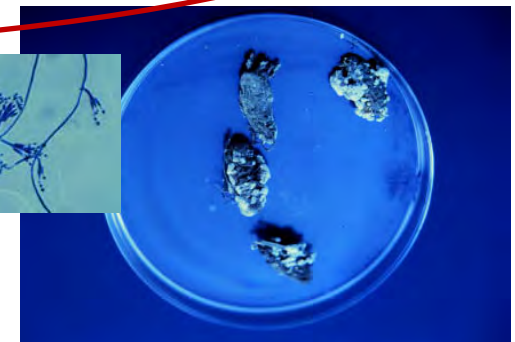
Mitosporic fungi

Coleopterans (*Beauveria bassiana*)

Thrips



Lepidopterans  
(*Paecilomyces farinosus*)



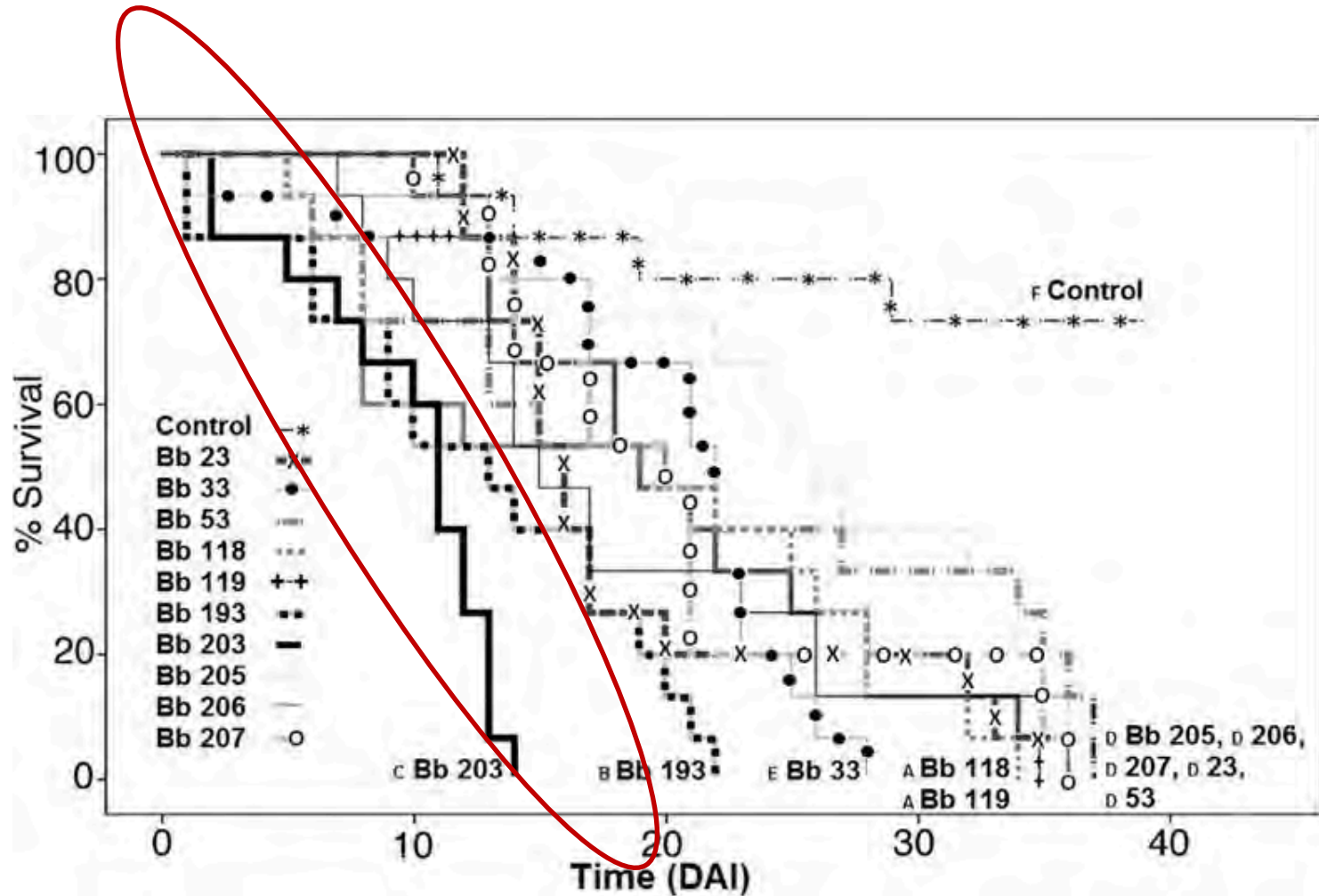
*B. bassiana* infects RPW under natural conditions



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# Bb 203 is the most pathogenic strain to RPW





*Bb 203* can be dry formulated and applied to target RPW in the field





*B. bassiana* dry conidia are captured by RPW cuticle



SE

WD10.6mm 20.0kV x250 200um



*B. bassiana* dry conidia  
germinate, adhere...

SE

WD10.7mm 20.0kV x3.5k 10um

... and penetrate RPW cuticle



Güerri-Agulló et al. (2010)

SE

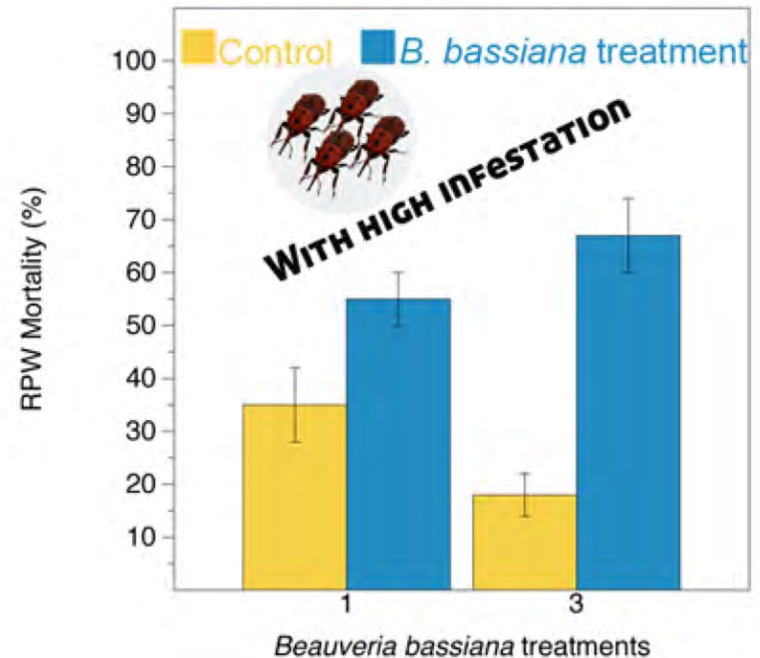
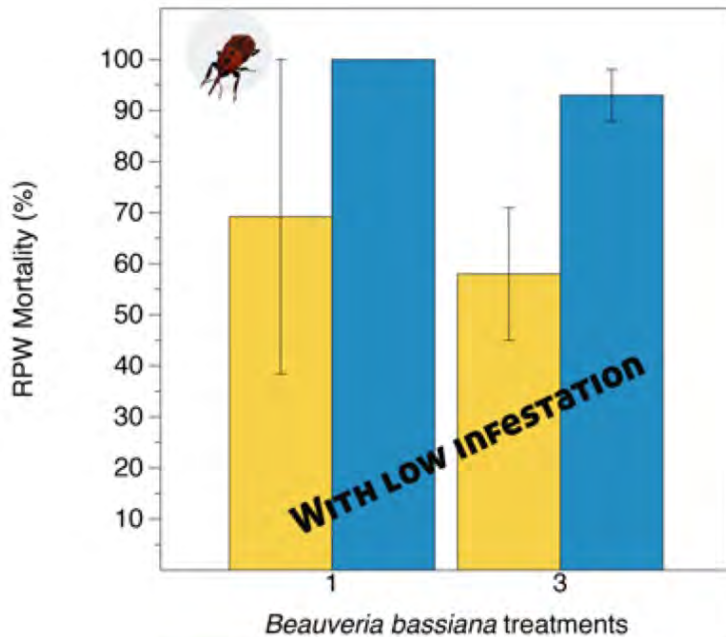
WD11.5mm 20.0kV x2.0k 20um



*B. bassiana* infects all RPW stages under field conditions

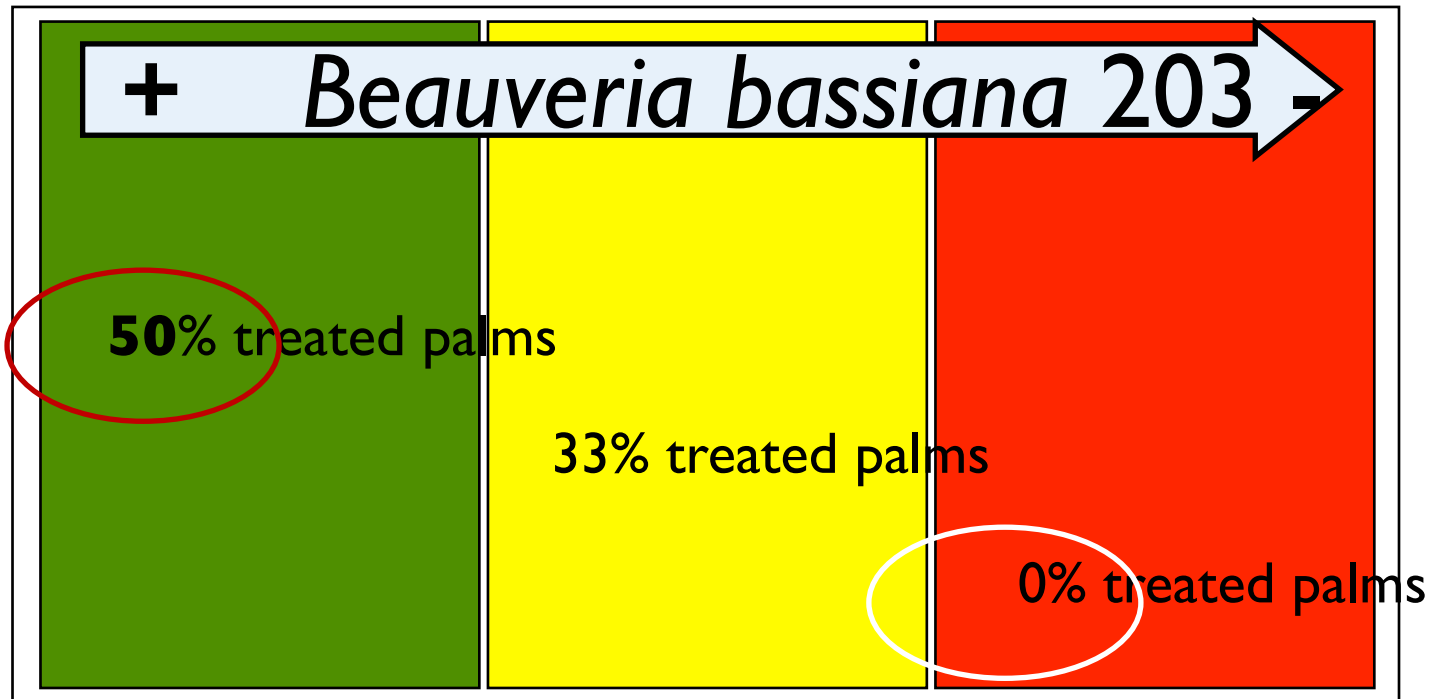


# Bb203 increases RPW mortality in the Field (canary palm trial)



## *B. bassiana* persists in the field

Canary palm  
trial.  
Data collected  
12 months after  
last Bb 203  
treatment



	% Healthy Palms		
Bb203 treated	75	62	-
Non-treated	60	56	38

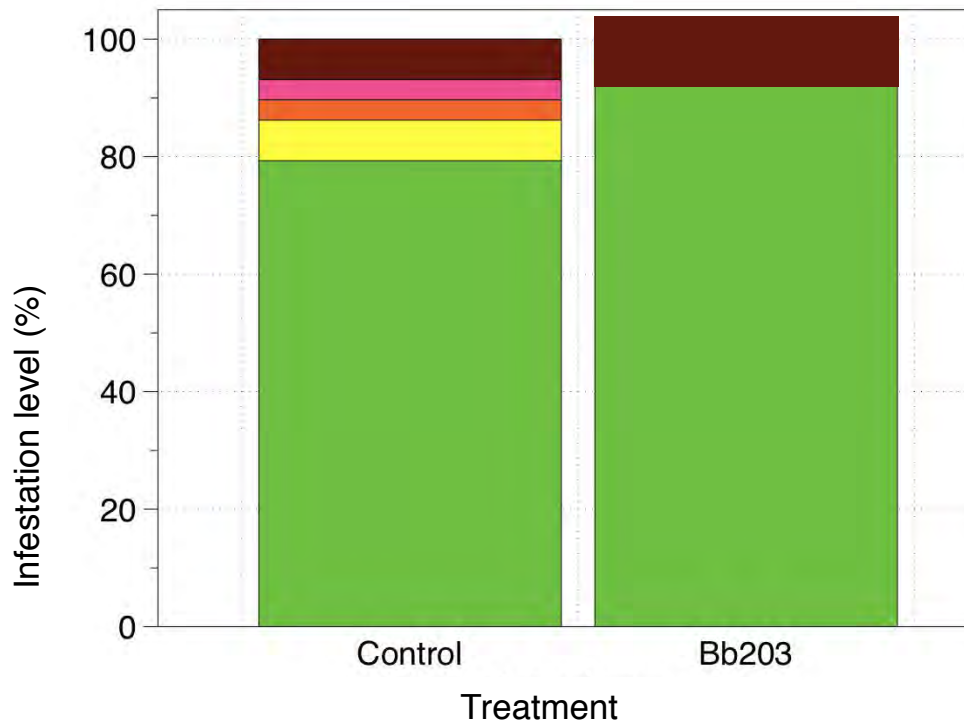


# Bb203 reduces RPW palm infestation in the Field (date palm trial)

Healthy palms

77%

97%



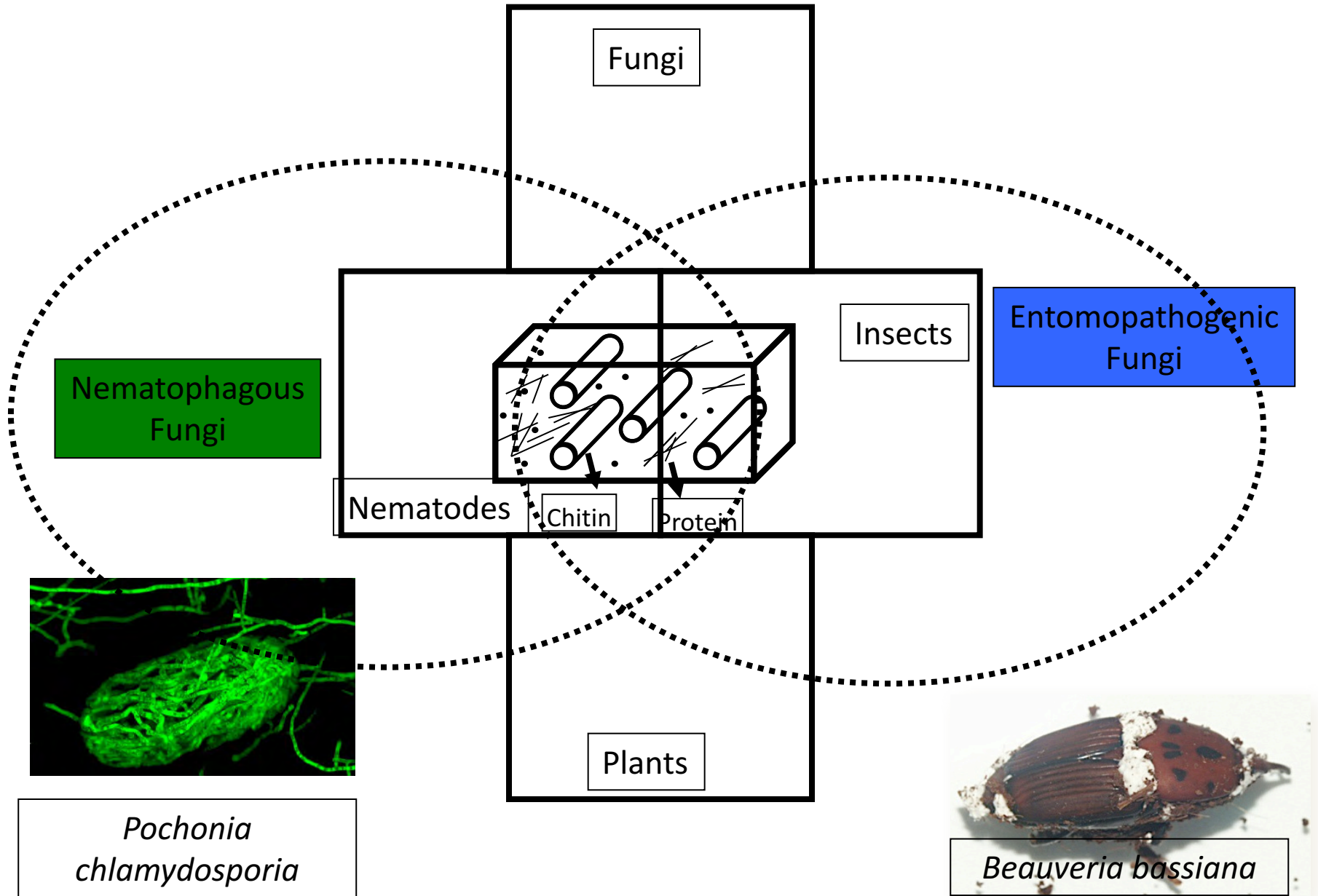
## Visual Damage Scale in Date Palm Trees



- DAMAGE SCALE ACCORDING TO SYMPTOMS IN LEAVES**
- Level 1: No visual symptoms of infestation
  - Level 2: Cuts in leaves (a), orifices lined up caused by larvae inside the palm tree, exudations on the crown zone (b)
  - Level 3: Leaves broken by the rachis (g), leaves broken by the base (i), both because of the presence of cocoons. Presence of cocoons and sawdust on the upper part of the stipe (h)
  - Level 4: Palm tree without leaves on the upper part of the plant (l)
  - Level 5: Palm tree with dried leaves (n) o without them (o)
- DAMAGE SCALE ACCORDING TO SYMPTOMS IN THE LOWER PART OF THE PLANT**
- Level 1: No visual symptoms of infestation
  - Level 2: Sawdust on the lower part of stipe (c) and on the aerial roots (e). Exudation of sap on the stipe (d) and on aerial roots (f). Absence of cocoons
  - Level 3: Damaged and with cocoons on the lower part of the stipe. Dried shoots (j) that can be easily pulled out with fermented smell (k)
  - Level 4: Part of the stipe severely damaged by the attack (m). Stability is endangered.
  - Level 5: Dead palm tree, it can topple due to the attack (p).



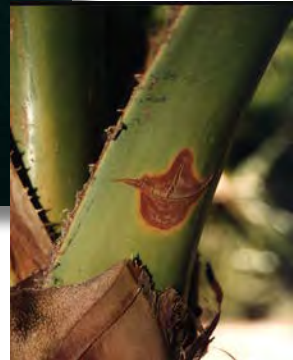
# *B. bassiana* displays a Multitrophic behaviour



*Bb*



*Pv*



*B. bassiana* (*Bb*) can inhibit fungal pathogens of palms (*Pv*)



***B. bassiana* is a Palm Endophyte**

# *B. bassiana* is a date palm root endophyte



G Model  
BIAM417 1-5

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F.M. Mahmoud et al. / Rev Iberoam Micol. 2016;xxx(x):xxx-xxx

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**Table 2**  
Data summary and classification of endophytic fungi colonizing roots of date palms in three dunes of SE Spain into operational taxonomic units (OTUs) and morphological taxa.

OTU/taxon	Identification methods	Gen Bank accession numbers of sequenced isolate/site sampling	Closest related species (NCBI and BLASTn) Query coverage and identity (%)	Classification and closest related taxa	Number of isolates per sampling site			
					S. Juan	El C.	C.	Sum
OTU 1	Morphological and molecular	KP006352, KP006351, KP006350, KP006348 (San Juan) KP006349, KP006356, KP006357, KP006355 (Guadamar) KP006353, KP006354 (El Carabassi)	<i>Clonostachys rosea</i> (KJ158182.1) 574/568 (99%)	A, S, Hypocreales <i>Clonostachys</i> sp.	52	18	9	79
OTU 2	Morphological and molecular	KP006338, KP006339, KP006337, KP006336, KP006340, KP006335 (Guadamar)	<i>Fusarium equiseti</i> (JG836180.1) 553/553 (100%)	A, S, Hypocreales <i>Fusarium</i> sp.	0	0	11	11
OTU 3	Morphological and molecular	KP006342, KP006341, KP006334, KP006343 (San Juan) KP006333 (El Carabassi)	<i>Fusarium solani</i> (KC254048.1) 589/589 (100%)	A, S, Hypocreales <i>Fusarium</i> sp.	10	1	0	11
OTU 4	Morphological and molecular	KP006332, KP006331 (El Carabassi)	<i>Penicillium commune</i> (KC008933.1) 593/593 (100%)	A, E, Eurotiales <i>Penicillium</i> sp.	0	6	0	6
OTU 5	Morphological and molecular	KP006346 (Guadamar), KP006328 (El Carabassi)	<i>Aspergillus tubingensis</i> (EF62157.1) 607/607 (100%)	A, E, Eurotiales <i>Aspergillus</i> sp.	0	1	1	2

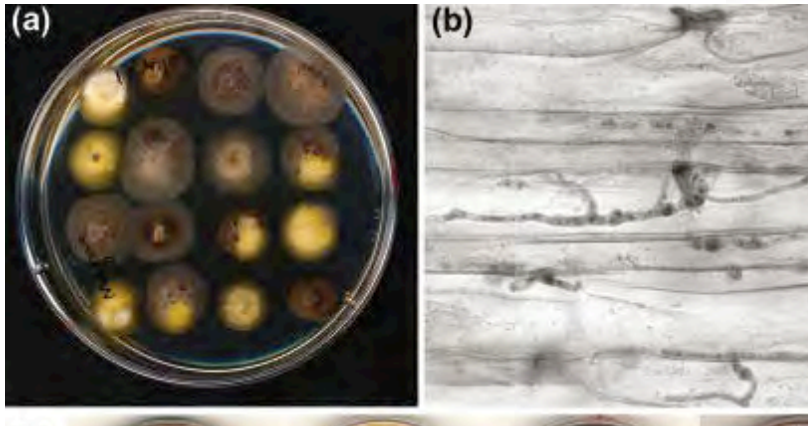
OTU 6	Morphological and molecular	KP006359 (San Juan) KP006358 (El Carabassi)	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i> (AJ560666.1) 576/576 (100%)	A, S, Hypocreales <i>Beauveria bassiana</i>	4	1	0	5
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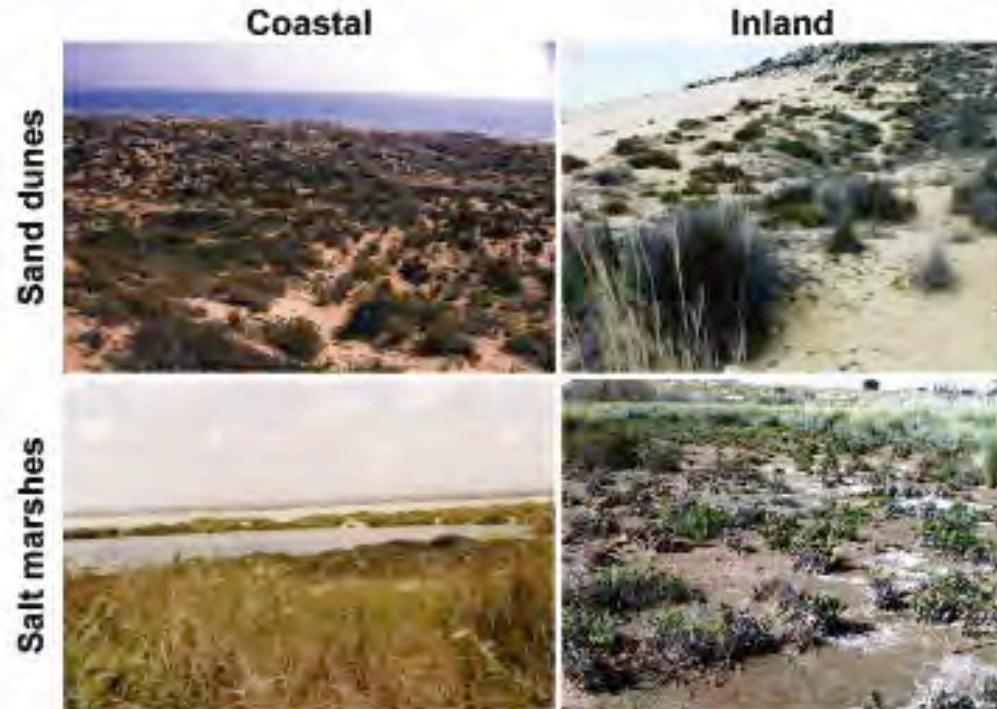
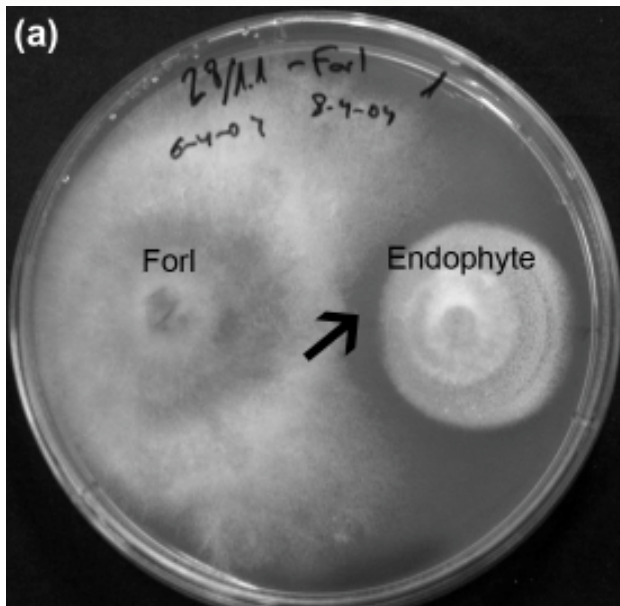
OTU 9	Morphological and molecular	KP006361 (El Carabassi)	(AY622894) 289/346 (86%) <i>Phoma</i> sp. <i>Phoma</i> sp. (AY622894) 159/162 (98%)	A, S, Diaporthales <i>Phoma</i> sp.	0	1	0	1
OTU 10	Morphological and molecular	KP006366 (El Carabassi)	<i>Caryospora casticola</i> (EU382299.1) 239/244 (98%)	A, D, Pleosporales <i>Pleosporales</i> sp.	0	2	0	2
OTU 11	Morphological and molecular	KP006367 (El Carabassi)	<i>Nyctelia radialis</i> (AF220968.1) 551/545 (98%)	A, S, Hypocreales <i>Nyctelia</i> sp.	0	9	0	9
OTU 12	Morphological and molecular	KP006369 (San Juan)	<i>Clonostachys</i> sp. (AJ880438.1) 131/142 (92%)	A, S, Hypocreales <i>Hypocreales</i> sp.	28	0	0	28
OTU 13	Morphological and molecular	KP006347 (San Juan)	<i>Aspergillus sclerotiarum</i> (KC478510.1) 629/626 (99%)	A, E, Eurotiales <i>Aspergillus</i> sp.	3	0	0	3
OTU 14	Morphological and molecular	KP006360 (San Juan)	<i>Phoma</i> sp. (KC500061.1) 562/581 (97%)	A, S, Diaporthales <i>Phoma</i> sp.	5	0	0	5
OTU 15	Morphological and molecular	KP006362 (San Juan)	<i>Mirumella candida</i> (F9424532.1) 661/717 (92%)	B, Ag, Agaricales Marasmiaceae	6	0	0	6
OTU 16	Morphological and molecular	KP006363 (San Juan)	<i>Myrothecium verrucaria</i> (AJ302003.1) 588/588 (100%)	A, S, Hypocreales <i>Myrothecium</i> sp.	2	0	0	2
OTU 17	Morphological and molecular	KP006364 (San Juan)	<i>Diaporthe</i> sp. (NR111848.1) 583/530 (91%)	A, S, Diaporthales <i>Diaporthe</i> sp.	1	0	0	1
Taxon 1	Morphological	-	-	A, S, Hypocreales Nectriaceae	94	48	37	179
Taxon 2	Morphological	-	-	A, S, Hypocreales <i>Fusarium</i> sp.	0	0	5	5
Taxon 3	Morphological	-	-	A, S, Hypocreales <i>F. asperum</i>	5	3	2	10
Taxon 4	Morphological	-	-	A, E, Eurotiales <i>Plectroscopus</i> sp.	2	3	1	6

(Mohamed Mahmoud et al. 2017)

# Fungal Root Endophytes help Natural vegetation cope with stress



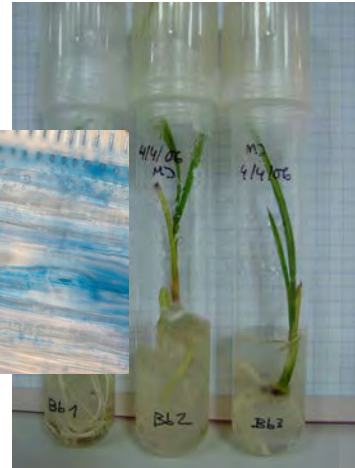
**70% Root samples!!!**



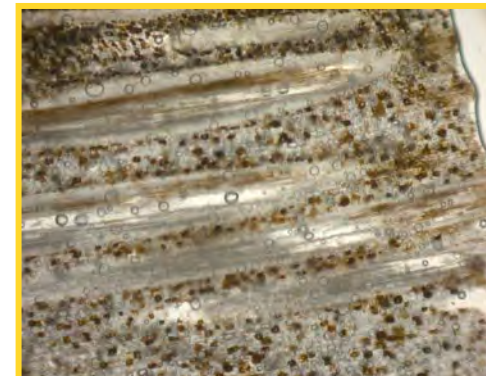
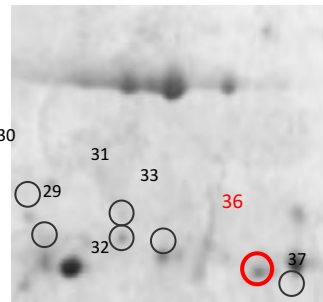
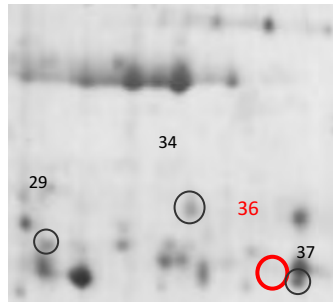
**Drought, Salt and Root Pathogens**

(Macia-Vicente et al., 2008, 2012)

# *B. bassiana* induces Date Palm defenses



Control



*B. bassiana*

phenolics ( tannins)

- R gene coding Proteins
- Antioxidant Proteins
- Hydrolytic Enzymes
- Heat shock Proteins

(Gómez-Vidal, *et al.* 2008, 2009).

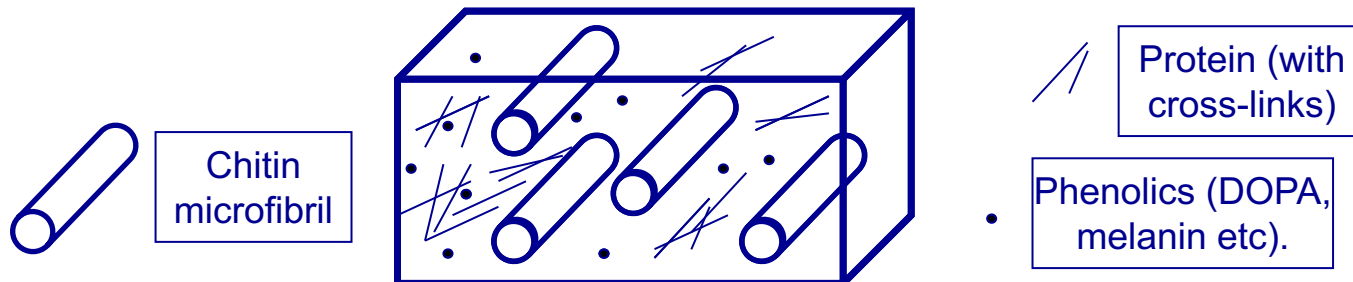
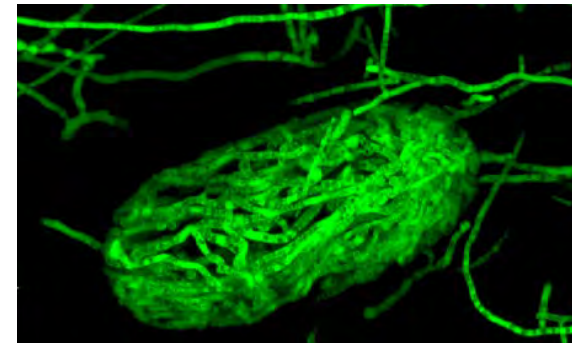
A microscopic image showing a dense network of yellowish, fibrous structures, likely chitin filaments, against a dark background. The filaments are interconnected and form a complex, mesh-like pattern. The text "Chitosan: Biocontrol Fungi enhancer" is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

**Chitosan: Biocontrol Fungi  
enhancer**

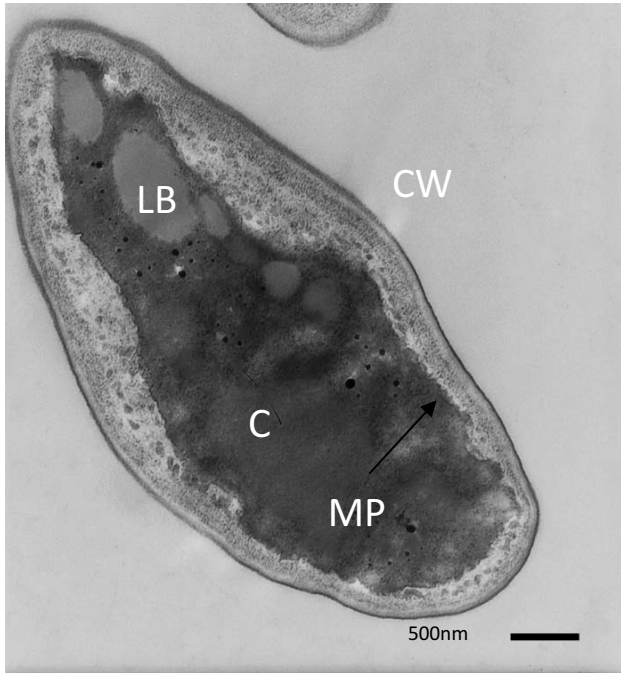


# Chitin in Exoskeletons/Cell Walls

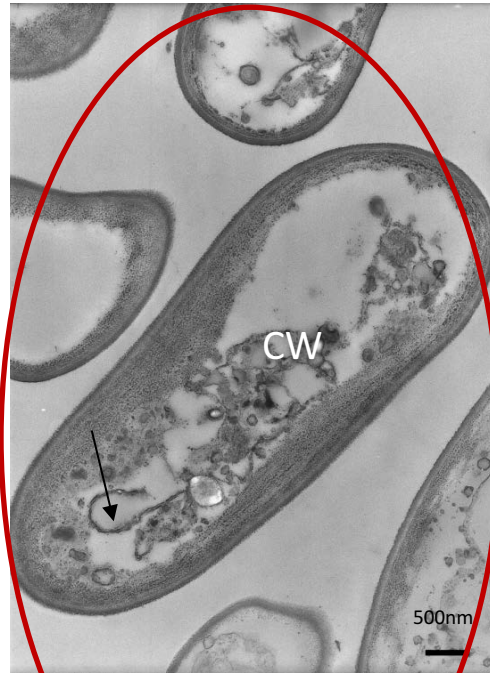
- Chitin main component (flexible/resistant)
- Highly adaptative (Cambric 540 MA)
- Chitin → Chitosan (CDAs)
- Biodegradation (Chitinases/Chitosanases)



# Chitosan destroys the plasma membrane of plant pathogenic fungi



Control (no chitosan)



Chitosan 0.01 mg/ml

CW = cell wall  
celular

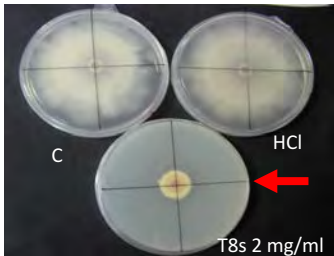
PM = plasma  
membrane

LB = lipid body

C = cytoplasm

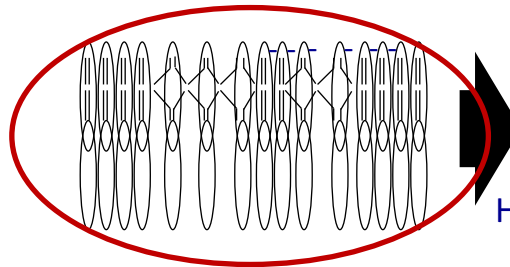
***Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. radicis-lycopersici**

# Low-fluidity Membrane makes *B. bassiana* resistant to chitosan

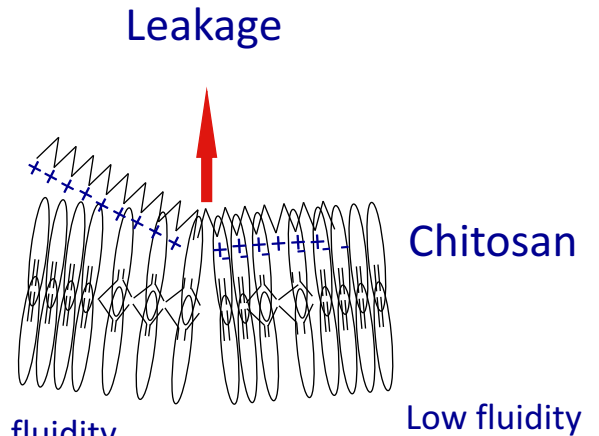


Sensitive Fungi: Plant Pathogens (Forl)

Unsaturated FFA

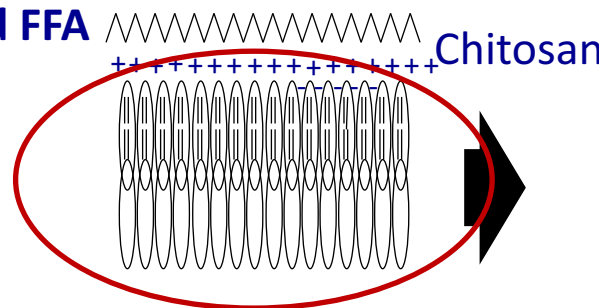


High fluidity

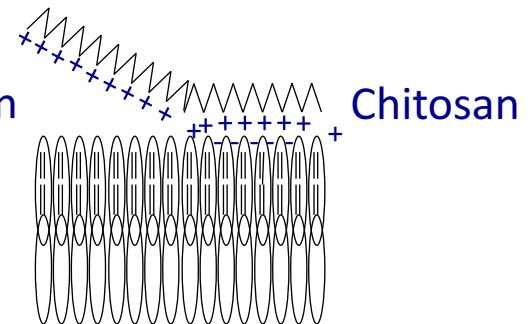


Low fluidity

Saturated FFA

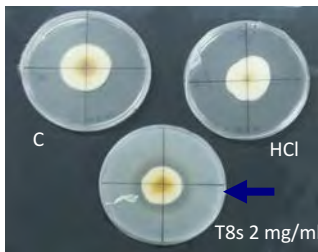


Chitosan



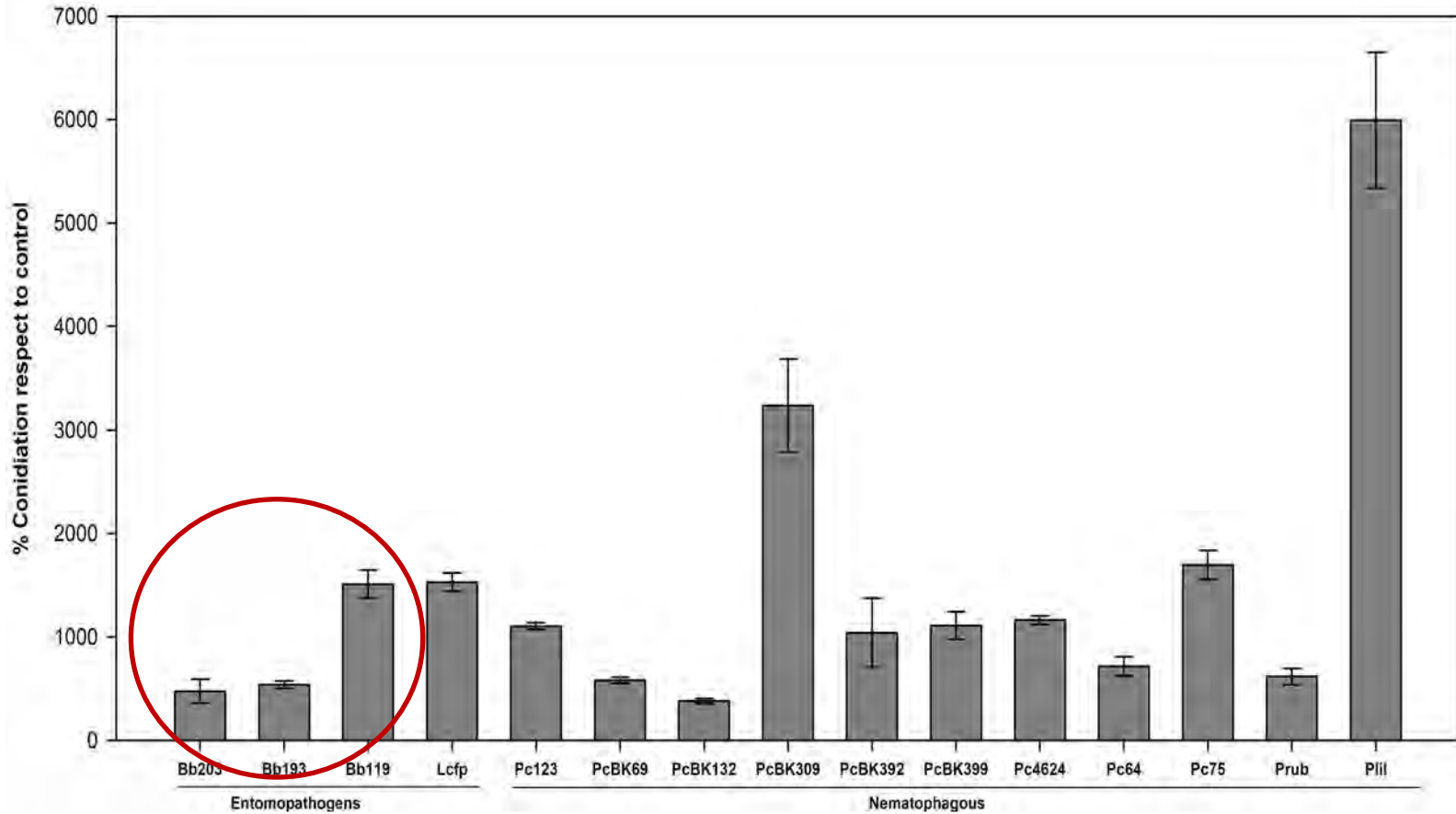
Low fluidity Low fluidity

Resistant Fungi (FPI, Biocontrol Agents):



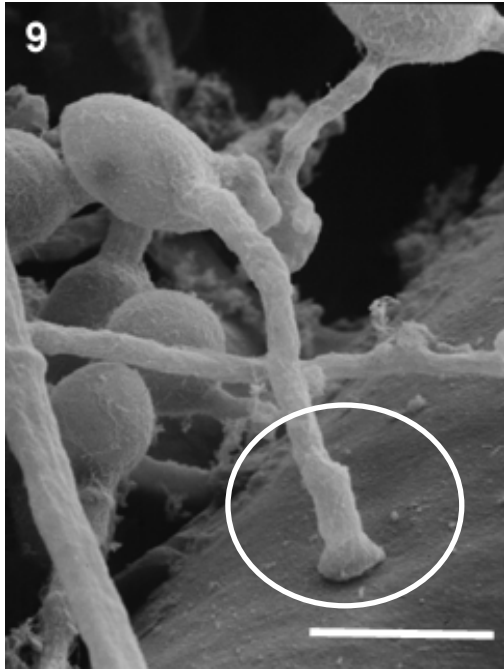
Palma et al., 2010 Molecular Microbiology

# Chitosan stimulates *B. bassiana* sporulation

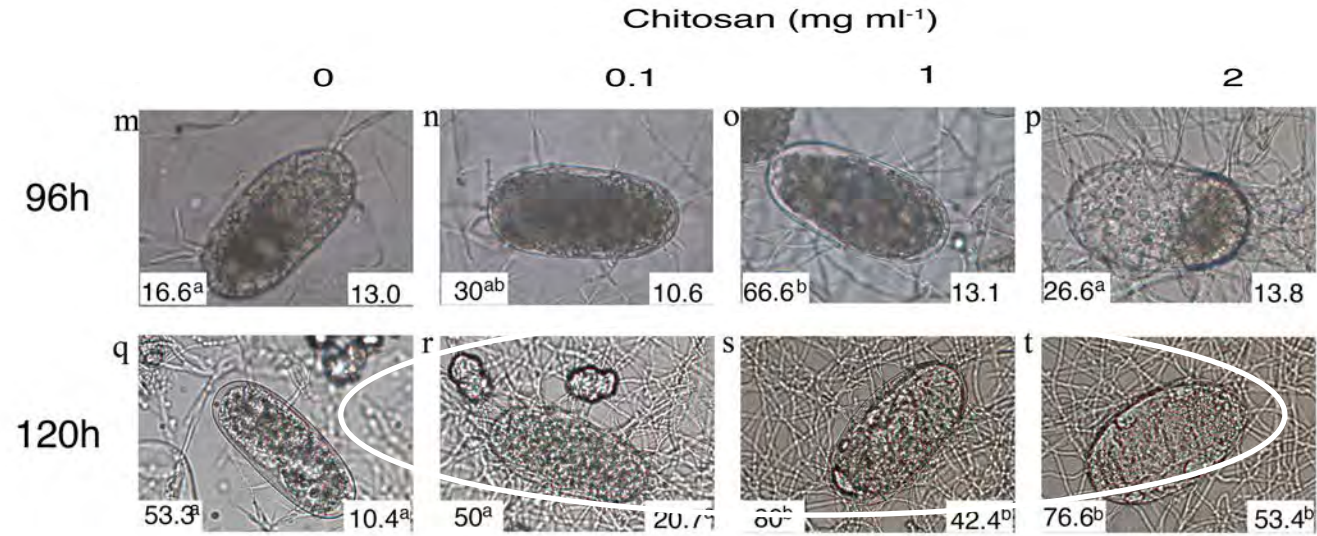


Palma et al. 2010,  
PATENTED

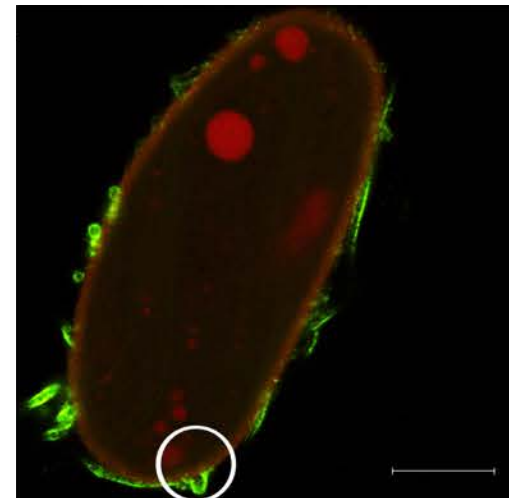
# Chitosan enhances virulence of Fungal Parasites of Invertebrates



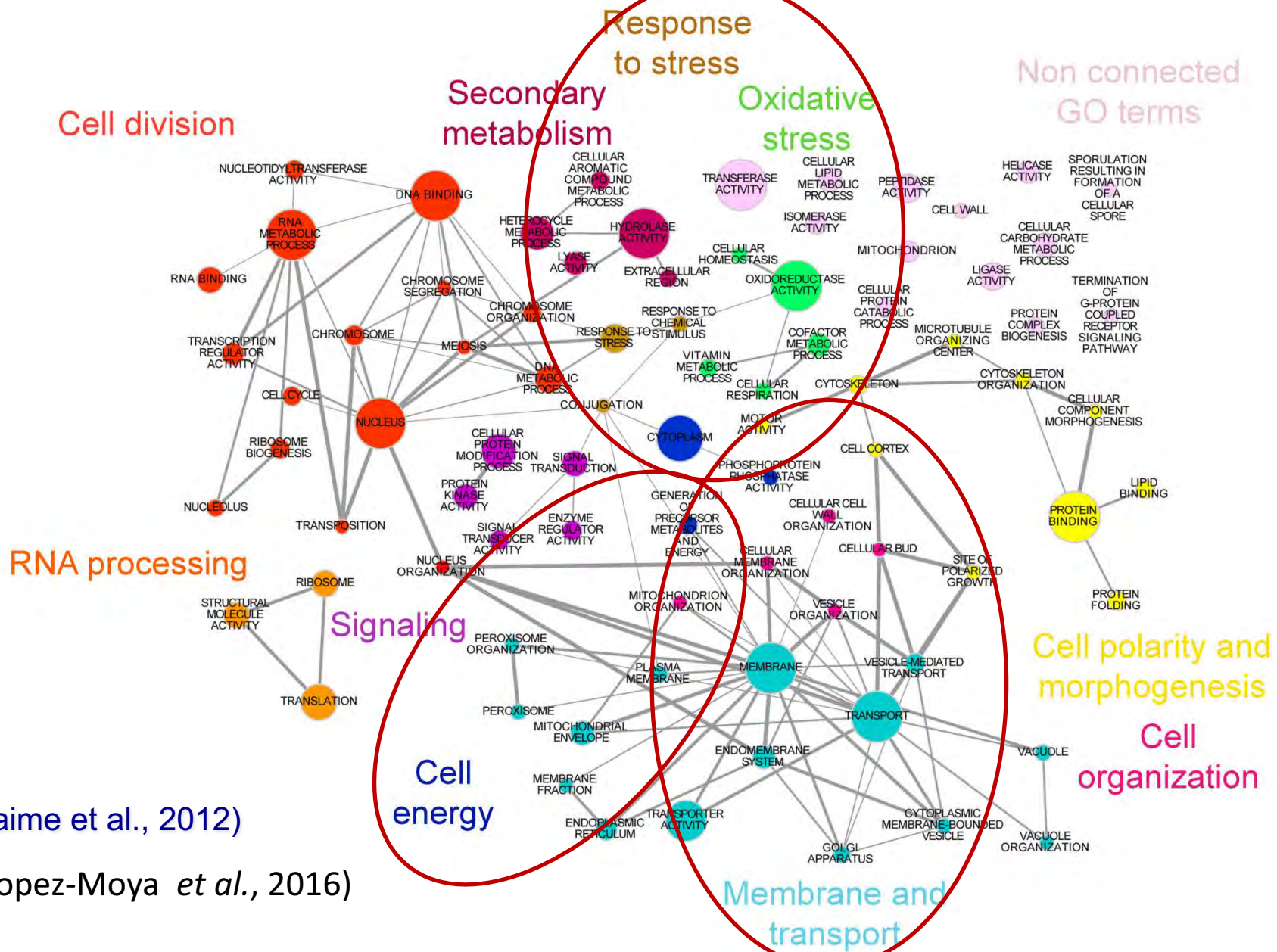
Palma et al., 2010;  
Escudero et al., 2016)  
PATENTED



VcP1/S8 serine protease



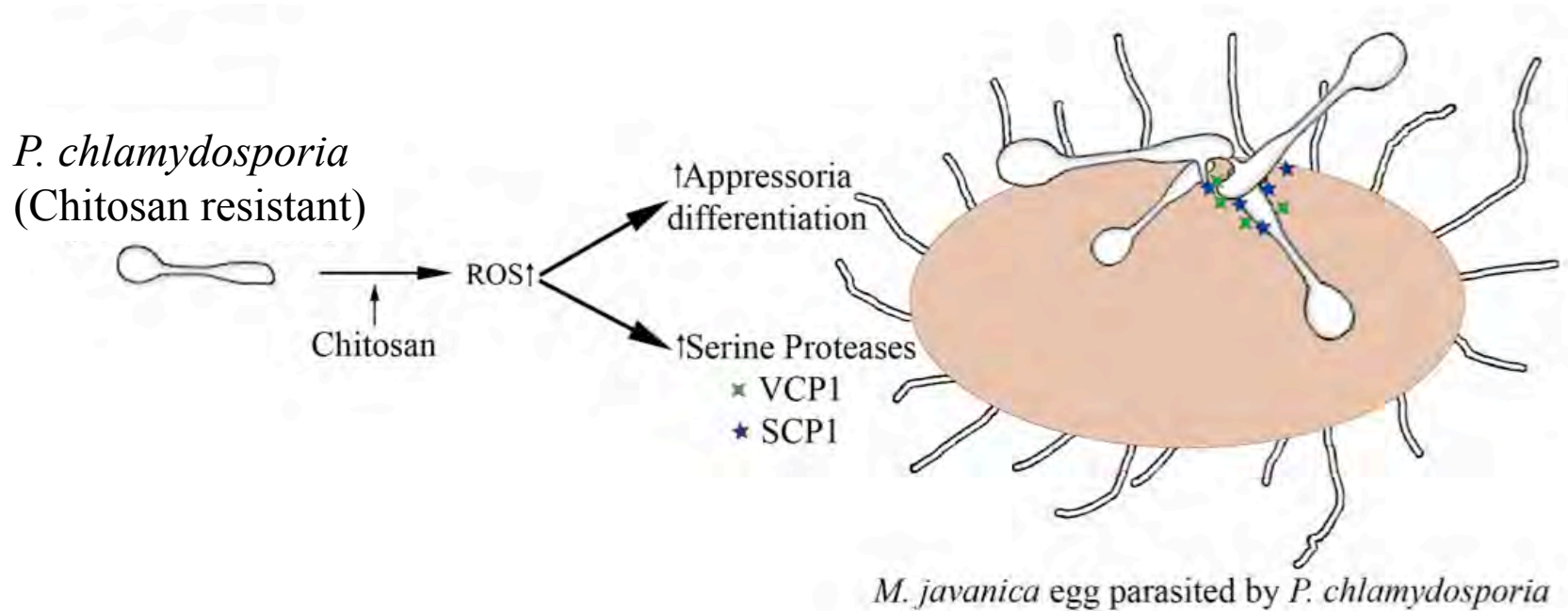
# Chitosan activates stress response genes in fungi



(Jaime et al., 2012)

(Lopez-Moya et al., 2016)

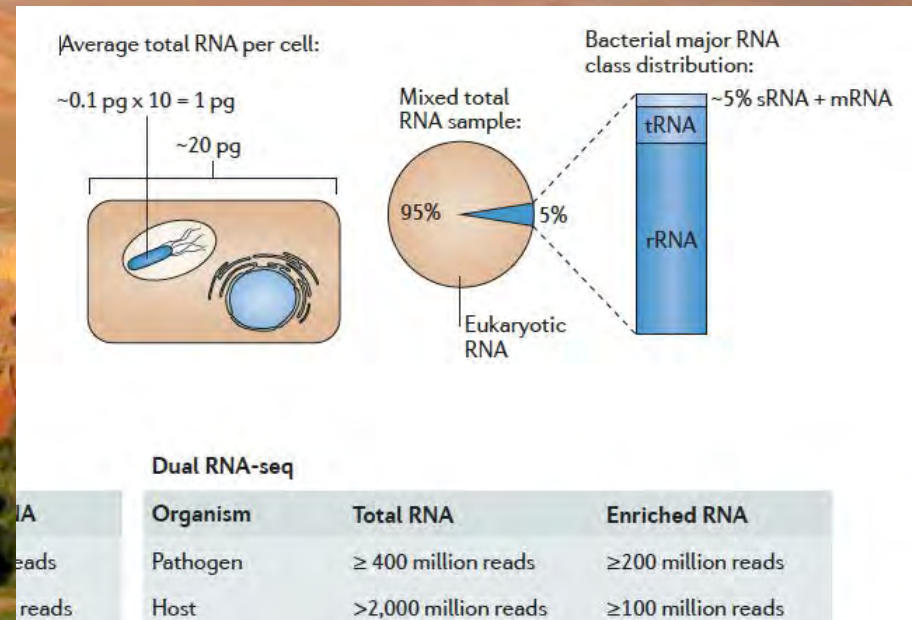
# Model: Chitosan enhances ROS → Promotes Appressoria differentiation and Protease expression in Biocontrol Fungi (Escudero et al. 2016)



# NEW STRATEGY: Palm/Antagonist (eg. *B. bassiana*)/RPW/Chitosan -OMICS (RNAseq/Proteomics/Metabolomics)

ALL GENOMES AVAILABLE

DISCOVERY OF NEW TOOLS  
(Proteins/Metabolites) FOR PALM  
STRESS MANAGEMENT



Lopez-Moya et al., 2016  
Westermann et al., 2012



## Conclusions

1. *B. bassiana* can manage sustainably RPW
2. *B. bassiana* can induce palm defences
3. Chitosan enhances performance of *B. bassiana*
4. -omics can improve Palm stress management

**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!**





THANKS TO THE PLANT PATHOLOGY LAB

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