

Foreword

A group of entomopathogenic nematodes is characterized by the length of their dauer juveniles. The first representative in this group was *Steinernema glaseri*. In Europe *S. arenarium* was the first record falling into this group, which is now called the “glaseri-group”. When we planned the workshop we just called it the “long-dauer juvenile phenotype”. This group of nematodes seem to have an affinity to scarabaid larvae and might therefore be used to control major insect pests in Europe like the Cockchafer *Melolontha melolontha* or other grubs. It was therefore interesting to gather information on the control potential of these nematode strains and species, on their distribution in Europe and the mediterranean countries in Northern Africa and the Middle East and to find ways to identify species or separate strains of this group. Several isolates from Europe have now been investigated in a cooperative, supported by the COST Action 850 “Biocontrol Symbiosis”, an activity of Working Group 3 “Biotechnology”. Further information on our COST Action is available on the internet page www.cost850.ch.

The workshop was held in Budapest and Debrecen, Hungary during April 4-6, 2002 and was excellently organized and managed by Andras Fodor to whom I want to express our sincere thanks for his work. We had hoped to publish these results with the support of COST as a book. Unfortunately this is no longer possible due to the paralyses of the COST programme in the year 2003 and the changing rules in 2004. COST is requesting scientists to publish in scientific journals and would support the supply of copies to the COST members. I can only support this approach and hope to find a publisher for these contributions. In the meantime the articles are now available on our internet-page. There have not been reviewed but edited to have them in a more or less equal style. I am glad to present this excellent manuscripts by our COST colleagues and want to thank them for their efforts.

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