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Insect Virology

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Viruses that are pathogenic to beneficial insects and other arthropods cause millions of dollars of damage to industries such as sericulture, apiculture and aquaculture every year (eg infecting honeybees and silk worms). On the other hand, viruses that are pathogenic to insect pests can be exploited as attractive biological control agents. Another fascinating feature of these viruses is that some, eg baculoviruses, have been commercially exploited for use as gene expression and delivery vectors in both insect and mammalian cells. All of these factors have led to an explosion in the amount of research into insect viruses in recent years generating impressive quantities of information on the molecular and cellular biology of these viruses. This timely book reviews the exciting new developments in the field of insect virology.

Written by internationally renowned insect virologists, chapters review the current molecular biology of all the major groups of insect pathogenic viruses and suggest future directions for research. The book is divided into three parts: 1) DNA viruses 2) RNA viruses and 3) current hot-topics in insect virology. Virus groups covered include: Ascoviruses, Baculoviruses, Densoviruses, Entomopoxviruses, Hytrosaviruses, Iridoviruses, Nudiviruses, Polydnaviruses, Dicistroviruses, Iflaviruses, Nodaviruses, Tetraviruses and Cypoviruses. The special topics chapters review exciting recent developments in insect virology including RNAi, insect antiviral responses, structural comparison of insect RNA viruses, and viral ecology. The book is essential reading for every insect virologist in both the academic and private sectors. It is also strongly recommended for other virologists, particularly those interested in virus evolution, virus structure, viral vectors, biological control of insects and insect immunity.

Chapter 1. Ascoviruses. Dennis K. Bideshi, Yves Bigot, Brian A. Federici and Tatsinda Spears

Chapter 2. Baculoviruses: Biology, Replication and Exploitation. Robert D. Possee, Caroline M. Griffiths, Richard B.

Hitchman, Adam Chambers, Fernanda Murguia-Meca, John Danquah, Ananya Jeshtadi and Linda A. King

Chapter 3. Densoviruses: A Highly Diverse Group of Arthropod Parvoviruses. Max Bergoin and Peter Tijssen

Chapter 4. Entomopoxviruses. Srini Perera, Zhen Li, Lillian Pavlik and Basil Arif

Chapter 5. Hytrosaviruses: Structure and Genomic Properties. Adly M. M. Abd-Alla, Drion G. Boucias and Max Bergoin

Chapter 6. Iridoviruses. Trevor Williams and Vernon K. Ward

Chapter 7. Nudiviruses: Their Biology and Genetics. Johannes A. Jehle

Chapter 8. Polydnaviruses. Michael R. Strand

Chapter 9. Dicistroviruses. Bryony C. Bonning and Karyn N. Johnson

Chapter 10. Genomics and Biology of Iflaviruses. Monique M. van Oers

Chapter 11. Insect Nodaviruses. P. Arno Venter, Juan Jovel and Anette Schneemann

Chapter 12. Tetraviruses. Rosemary Ann Dorrington and James Roswell Short

Chapter 13. Cypoviruses. Hajime Mori and Peter Metcalf

Chapter 14. Structural Comparison of Insect RNA Viruses. Manidipa Banerjee, Jeffrey A Speir and John E Johnson

Chapter 15. Role of MicroRNAs as Regulators of Host-virus Interactions. Sassan Asgari and Christopher S. Sullivan

Chapter 16. The Antiviral Role of RNA Interference. Michelle L. Flenniken, Mark Kunitomi, Michel Tassetto and Raul Andino

Chapter 17. Anti-viral Responses in Insects: Apoptosis and Humoral Responses. Rollie J. Clem, Holly J.R. Popham and Kent S. Shelby

Chapter 18. The Ecology of Baculoviruses. Jenny S. Cory

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