ENVIRONMENTAL STABILITY OF MICROBIAL INSECTICIDES

PREFACE

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Three important factors influence the field efficacy of microbial insecticides. These are (1) the original activity or virulence of the pathogen, (2) coverage of the target site during application, and (3) persistence on the target site (e.g., crop, forest) following application. Many invertebrate pathologists believe that current or potential microbial insecticides are sufficiently active to suppress or control damaging insect pests. They are, after all, known pathogens! Uniform and consistent coverage of the target site, and important and critical area of research currently under investigation by several groups, will be the subject of a future ESA symposium. The ultimate objective is to insure that the target pest is exposed to a lethal or debilitating dose of the entomopathogen in the shortest possible time. The 3rd important factor was the subject of this symposium, namely, the persistence of entomopathogens following application

The objectives of this symposium were: to collate and report existing data on the environmental persistence of entomopathogens, especially as this might relate to candidate microbial insecticides; to synthesize this knowledge; and, it is hoped, to provide generalization to guide future evaluation of the effects of light, temperature, water chemicals, and substrates on the stability of entomopathogens.

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