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Phytoplasma Diseases of Trees and Shrubs

Guest Editor:

Dr. Carmine Marcone
Department of Pharmacy, University of Salerno, I-84084 Fisciano, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editor

Phytoplasma diseases of trees and shrubs are widespread and of considerable economic and ecological significance. These diseases differ in their geographic distribution, number and size of the various taxonomic groups and subgroups of the associated phytoplasma(s), and insect vector relationships. In several instances, phytoplasma diseases of trees and shrubs escape observation because affected plants show non-specific symptoms only such as yellowing, stunting and/or decline. Also, the phytoplasma titer in diseased plants, especially in those with non-specific symptoms, is often so low that infections can only be detected through highly sensitive nested PCR assays. Latent phytoplasma infections, which are common in some trees and shrubs, can serve as inoculum reservoirs for further spread to susceptible plants.

This Special Issue covers several aspects of the mentioned diseases including (i) molecular and taxonomic identy of the associated phytoplasmas, (ii) phytoplasma-insect vector relationships, (iii) phytoplasma-plant host interactions, (iv) phytoplasma titer and colonization behavior in affected plants, and (vi) disease management and control.

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Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Nico Jehmlich
Department of Molecular Systems Biology, UFZ-Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, 04318 Leipzig, Germany

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Contact Us

Microorganisms Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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