



Phytotoxins and Mycotoxins: Two Different Sides of the Same Coin - the Memory of Prof. Antonio Bottalico

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Message from the Guest Editors

Fungi can produce a wide array of secondary metabolites. Many of them can express their toxicity as phytotoxins in plants. Other metabolites have no known harmful activity toward plants but can be dangerous as mycotoxins if they are consumed by humans or animals. In response to these metabolites, some plants produce enzymes that modify the metabolite's structure. These "masked" or "modified" mycotoxins, are less toxic to plants. When they are ingested by humans or animals, the modifications can be reversed, and the toxins become bioavailable within the intestinal tract and a renewed health concern. The Special Issue, dedicated to the memory of Prof. Antonio Bottalico, solicits scientific contributions on both phytotoxins and mycotoxins to reflect the main pillars of the scientific activity of this pioneering researcher on toxigenic fungi. A second objective of this Special Issue is to highlight that phytotoxins and mycotoxins are two different sides of the same coin and to demonstrate the great abilities of toxigenic fungi to use secondary metabolites to colonize environmental substrates and to preserve themselves.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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