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Abstract:

The focus of my research project is the relationship between subterranean termites and entomopathogenic fungi. Subterranean termites have evolved in a soil environment interacting with many soil pathogens and this led to the development of disease resistance mechanisms that allowed the termites to survive in such an environment. My goal is to study the termite-fungus relationship and to understand how the disease resistance mechanisms can prevent epizootics in a termite colony. The disease resistance mechanisms I am focusing on are behavioral interactions, antifungal chemicals produced by the termite colony and cellular immunity in individual termites. Biological control for subterranean termite has received a lot of attention in the past, but due to the existence of such mechanisms, no field success has been observed. By identifying the role of the disease resistance mechanisms, we can possibly find a way to bypass them and make biological control a feasible option for subterranean termite IPM.

Education:

2004-Current: PhD. Urban entomology. University of Florida, USA.

2003-2004: DEA (Master 2). Behavioral biology. University Paris XIII, Villetaneuse, France

2002-2003: Maitrise (Master 1). Population biology and evolution, University of Bourgogne, Dijon, France

1998-2001: Deug-Licence (Bs Degree). Cellular biology and Physiology, University of Bourgogne, Dijon, France

References

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