

» **ERASMUS+ TEACHING STAFF SERIES OF SEMINARS** «

Departmental Internationalization Coordinator for Biological Area – Prof. Anna Maria Pappalardo

Corso di Laurea Biologia Ambientale

*Entomopathogenic fungi as biological
control agents of insect pests*

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Entomopathogenic fungi (EPF) have a wide distribution and live in almost all terrestrial ecosystems in the world. They are an important factor in the regulation of insect pests that can cause great levels of mortality, and they are capable of breaking down pest populations during outbreaks in forest and agricultural habitats. Recent studies demonstrate that EPF, often exclusively considered as insect pathogens, playing additional roles in nature viz. plant disease antagonism, endophytism, plant growth promotion and rhizosphere colonization. More than 700 fungal species from 100 orders are estimated as potential bioagents; however, a majority of important insect pathogens belong to the phylum Ascomycota and order Hypocreales, as well as to Entomophthoromycota, order Entomophthorales. The biological control of pests by using EPF is an attractive alternative to the use of chemical pesticides, mainly because these fungi are safer for humans, animals, and the environment.



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21.03.2023 - Aula Giacomini Orto Botanico 10.00-14.00

- Seminar “Entomopathogenic fungi in biological control of insect pests”
- Teaching about application strategies of entomopathogenic fungi

23.03.2023 - Aula Verde Biologia Animale 9.00-13.00

- Seminar “Acaropathogenic fungi in biological control of mite pests”
- Practical courses on collection, identification and isolation of entomopathogenic fungi

